



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Thailand



Statement by H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi
Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the General Debate of the
16th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Room III, United Nations Office, Geneva
21 October 2025

Madam President,
Excellencies,

1. Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the **Government of Switzerland** for hosting this 16th Session of UNCTAD. I also commend the **Chair of the Preparatory Committee**, whom Thailand is honoured to support as a **“Friend of the Chair”**.

2. I take this opportunity to congratulate UNCTAD on its **60th anniversary** last year under the very able leadership of Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan. I recall my own former days in Geneva when UNCTAD was led by a Thai Secretary-General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, and I am pleased to see this organization still playing a key role in fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

3. But before I proceed, let me reaffirm Thailand’s unwavering commitment to **multilateralism**, with the United Nations at its core.

Madam President,

4. More than six decades ago, the international community gathered here in Geneva, this esteemed global hub for diplomacy, and home to UNCTAD, with the firm conviction that trade could make a difference to the world. We were convinced that trade could play a pivotal role in connecting nations and peoples, and enhance their economic opportunities.

5. The notion “*prosperity for all*” captured the aspirations and objectives of that first session of UNCTAD, and its realisation became the *raison d’être* of this global body.

6. Today, however, as the Conference meets for the sixteenth time, **abrupt changes in tariffs and trade barriers** have resulted in great uncertainties. Such changes have severely undermined economic growth -- with **developing countries bearing the full brunt of these disruptions**.

Madam President,

7. Restoring **stability** and **predictability** is vital for the global economy. Building on the **Bridgetown Covenant**, which forms the basis for the work of UNCTAD XVI, we must hasten the pace of the four transformations: **first**, more diversified economies; **second**, more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies; **third**, more abundant and stable finance for development; and **fourth**, more multilateralism in a multipolar world.

8. We have, in our hands, the opportunity to shape the future of development.

9. The **Sevilla (เสวียา) Commitment** provides a ray of hope in bridging the **4 trillion US dollar financing gap**. Indeed, the need for **systematic** and **inclusive reform** has never been more pressing.

10. In this regard, the Thai delegation is of the viewpoint that areas which developing countries should prioritise are **strengthening business resilience and competitiveness** as well as **institutional quality**. We must invest in **human capital development**; join hands in **reforming the international financial architecture**; and make every effort to forge **robust partnerships**.

11. For Thailand, our people-centered **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy** and **Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy model** continue to guide our national development. The Royal Thai Government is simultaneously laying a long-term foundation for restructuring the economy towards greater *value*

and *quality*. Pursuing **high quality free trade agreements** and membership in the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to align with high international standards is a case in point.

12. In addition, Thailand fully recognises that **illicit financial flows and transnational crimes** — particularly **online scams** — drain our limited resources, weaken institutions, and threaten economic growth and sustainable development. Accordingly, Thailand calls for urgent, coordinated regional and international action. We will work closely with our neighbouring countries, in the spirit of **good neighbourliness**, to safeguard our economies and promote development for all.

Madam President,

13. Global challenges can only be addressed through effective multilateralism, and UNCTAD certainly has a pivotal role to play. Its evidence-based analyses continue to provide developing countries with valuable policy guidance. With only five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, UNCTAD must be **responsive, rapid, results-driven, and relevant** in supporting Member States to shape a better future.

14. Thailand appreciates UNCTAD's continued support and collaboration, including through the ongoing project on “**Sustainable coffee export strategies and traceability for a green, sustainable and inclusive economy in Asia**”. We also value UNCTAD's partnership with the **International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)** in Bangkok.

Madam President,

15. In closing, let me wish this 16th Session of UNCTAD every success in delivering tangible outcomes that will chart the course for its work over the next four years and beyond.

16. Thank you.
