



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Armenia



Honorable President,
Madame Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by expressing Armenia's sincere gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for hosting the 16th session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

We also express our appreciation to the Secretary General Rebeka Grynspan for her tireless efforts and wise leadership of this Organization in times of uncertainties and liquidity and multilateralism crises and to the UNCTAD secretariat for the excellent organization of this session.

President,

Five years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the theme of UNCTAD-XVI is a sobering reminder of our collective responsibility for an accelerated action in order to deliver on the promise of leaving no one behind. Nearly 810 million people remain trapped in extreme poverty, global hunger is rising again, and debt servicing in developing countries reached an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion in 2024. At the same time, climate impacts are intensifying and biodiversity loss continues at an alarming pace. These realities underscore the urgency of decisive action and collective solutions rooted in solidarity, equity and renewed multilateralism.

There is an urgent need for a reinvigorated multilateral system that is more effective, inclusive and capable of meeting the challenges of our time. In this context, the Secretary-General's UN80 initiative should aim to strengthen coherence across the UN Development System and the wider agenda, enabling accelerated action that complements our national and collective efforts. They must also safeguard the provision of vital development assistance, which remains indispensable for countries in special situations and for ensuring that no one is left behind.

The financing gap remains a significant barrier for most countries in achieving sustainable development. Building on the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, it is essential to accelerate reforms of the international financial architecture to expand affordable and long-term financing, address debt vulnerabilities, and strengthen inclusive international tax cooperation. We believe that the commitments made in FfD4 provide a comprehensive framework, but their impact will depend on timely and coherent implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

President,

As a landlocked developing and a middle-income country, Armenia has consistently underscored the importance of strengthened international cooperation to support countries in special situations.

In particular, LLDCs continue to face particularly severe challenges in participating in international trade. A lack of access to the sea, remoteness from major markets, inadequate transit infrastructure, and cumbersome customs and border processing procedures result in high transport and trade costs. As a result, LLDCs participation in global trade remains disproportionately low. Under these circumstances most LLDCs have not been able to raise enough revenue from trade for development finance.

On the other hand, the development prospects of middle-income countries remain constrained due to persistent vulnerabilities and systemic gaps in development cooperation architecture.

Addressing these challenges demands focused and coordinated action from the international community. It is more than ever important to streamline international assistance and empower the UN Development system to promote transformative changes on the ground through targeted and efficient programmes. In this context it is important to reduce the earmarked funding and implement long-term development projects based on the real needs on the ground to overcome the structural constraints of the countries in special situations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regional cooperation is key to overcoming geographical constraints and establishing prosperous collaboration through fostering cross-border value chains. “The Crossroads of Peace” project, initiated by the Government of Armenia is one such initiative that aims at transforming the economies of the South Caucasus Region into more prosperous and resilient one. Having the alignment of economic interests with long-awaited peace and stability at the heart of its concept, it offers an ample platform to shape a way to establishing pragmatic trade arrangements built on common interests in various fields of development, such as trade, transport, energy and tourism.

We are confident that the full opening of transport communications in our region and with neighboring countries will unlock new opportunities for economic growth, dialogue and people-to-people contacts, thereby contributing to broader stability and prosperity. The implementation of the “Crossroads of Peace” initiative, together with its integral “TRIPP connectivity project”, will play a central role in advancing these objectives.

President,

A year from now, in October 2026, Armenia will host the 17th session of the Conference of parties of the Convention on biodiversity.

We would like to express our appreciation and support to the work done by UNCTAD through its Trade and Biodiversity programme and acknowledge its contribution to the global efforts in preserving the rich biodiversity of our planet.

As the incoming Presidency of Biodiversity COP17, Armenia advocates integrating climate resilience and environmental protection across all policy frameworks, while recognizing that the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification underscore the value of fostering complementarity among the Rio Conventions and encouraging constructive exchanges between their Conferences of the Parties.

Looking ahead to COP17 in 2026, Armenia’s Presidency will place the Global Review of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the centre —making it inclusive, transparent and action-oriented— so that it guides timely course corrections and strengthens synergies with climate action before 2030. We will also prioritize closing the biodiversity financing gap by mobilizing new and predictable resources and ensuring direct access for developing countries, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Armenia stands ready to work with all partners to make COP17 a milestone in turning ambition into implementation.

President,

I would like to conclude my statement by reiterating Armenia’s commitment to stronger partnerships and solidarity among UNCTAD member States to unlock our shared potential and ensure an equal and equitable place within the global trade and development architecture.