

Speech

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Excellencies,  
(Secretary General Ban Ki Moon),  
Secretary General Supachai,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to participate in the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference in Accra. Germany supports the statement of the EU Presidency. I first want to thank UNCTAD Secretary General Dr. Supachai and the Ambassador of Bulgaria Petko Draganow for their efforts:

To find solutions for the difficult questions regarding UNCTAD's mandate, the assessment of globalisation and the strengthening of UNCTAD's role on delivering on development.

UNCTAD offers an important and most suitable forum for a substantive dialogue on current international trade and development issues. I believe that such an extensive dialogue between industrial and developing countries is vital if we are to master the challenges of an ever more globalised world.

This dialogue is between partners – and I use the word deliberately – on the issues which concern us all: globalisation, trade, investment, development and poverty reduction.

II.

The international community has set itself an ambitious but vital development agenda: let me just mention the Millennium Declaration with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We need to move ahead in implementing the agenda set by the Millennium Declaration.

My government therefore welcomes the fact that, together with the President of the General Assembly, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will convene a High Level Meeting on the MDGs at the beginning of the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

In September [2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>], we will come together again in Accra to evaluate the progress achieved on the Paris Declaration.

And at the end of this year [29<sup>th</sup> Nov. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.] we will travel to Doha to discuss the further implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.

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III.

We all need a strong and efficient UNCTAD as a forum at which we can ask the necessary questions:

How to establish a more level playing field for all actors in the field of international trade and development?

How to promote equitable and sustainable globalisation?

To do this, a better understanding of the needs and interests of all partners is important. The work of UNCTAD makes a highly significant contribution here. UNCTAD has an important role in strengthening the developing countries' negotiating capacity. This is a prerequisite for their full participation in the ongoing trade negotiations and the multilateral trading system in general.

IV.

I believe it is absolutely essential to make substantial progress in the coming weeks if we are to see a successful conclusion of the Doha Round this year. Germany therefore calls on all WTO partners to work together to achieve this and to engage in a spirit of compromise. We expect flexibility and contributions from all WTO partners in line with their level of development, in particular from emerging economies. I would like to encourage all WTO members to do their utmost to reach an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Round this year. We must not jeopardise this opportunity for greater market access and for an overall stimulus to world trade which will allow welfare gains for developing countries in particular.

V.

Germany and other EU members are particularly concerned about the risk of further marginalisation of LDCs, in particular in Africa. A major focus of UNCTAD's work must be the profound challenges facing LDCs in increasing their exports, attracting crucial foreign investment and building the public institutions essential for competitiveness and innovation.

This is a common task for all WTO partners, who will have to display flexibility and a spirit of compromise.

UNCTAD should continue to advise developing countries on how to overcome supply side constraints in order to use market access opportunities more effectively. UNCTAD should also continue to play its role as a forum for dialogue and consensus-building between industrial and developing countries.

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As you know, Germany attaches great importance to UNCTAD's work on investment policy. And also to UNCTAD leading the international policy dialogue on investment. In addition to investment policy, competition issues are becoming increasingly important. Germany and the EU regard UNCTAD as an important forum for discussing competition issues at the multilateral level. We welcome the constructive role UNCTAD is playing in this area.

Africa was the focus of the German Presidencies of the G8 and the EU last year. Cooperation with African governments on our common objective of sustainable development is at the top of the German Chancellor's agenda. We held an African Investment Day in Frankfurt, and African Road Shows have taken place at various locations in Germany in order to attract German investors to Africa.

#### VI.

Globalisation is forcing all players to work more closely together than in the past. UNCTAD must continue its important role in helping us to do so by learning from each other. The eradication of poverty is our common objective! A better integration of the developing countries into the world economy is one important element to help us reach this aim.

This means not only participation in WTO negotiations, but also – and above all – a real increase in developing countries' share of world trade. We hope a successful conclusion of the Doha trade negotiations during this year will contribute to this.

Thank you very much for your attention.