

**STATEMENT BY CANADA**

MADE 15 JUNE 2004

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Eleventh Session**

**São Paulo, Brazil  
13-18 June 2004**

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Statement by Mr. Mark Gawn, Canada*

**Honourable Ministers and delegates. It is my pleasure to represent  
Canada at this important 11<sup>th</sup> session of UNCTAD.**

**The Canadian delegation is well aware of the immense effort that the  
Government of this magnificent country has put towards ensuring that  
this Conference is a success.**

**We congratulate UNCTAD, under the visionary leadership of Secretary  
General Rubens Ricupero, and the Government of Brazil on the scope  
and quality of the Programme of events associated with this Conference.**

**For 40 years, the UN Conference on Trade and Development has been  
the United Nations focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and  
development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology,  
investment and sustainable development.**

For 40 years UNCTAD was the lonely standard bearer for this critical linkage of trade and development. Only in very recent years have other multilateral organizations taken up this banner.

And it was only three years ago that the World Trade Organization, through the Doha Development Agenda, made development a central pillar of the current round of negotiations.

There is still a lot of work to do to integrate trade into development, and development into trade. And this is why this 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Trade and Development is of critical importance.

This 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD provides an ideal opportunity to build on the Bangkok Plan of Action, while taking stock of what has transpired in the intervening four years to meet the complex challenges of trade and development. The choice of "coherence" as the theme of our Conference is timely given this increased interest and activity in this important area.

This Conference provides the opportunity to take a step back and assess UNCTAD's comparative advantage and strategically position UNCTAD within what has now become a more crowded field. UNCTAD has an

**important role to play in addressing the growing challenge of coherence amongst the many players.**

**Over the past 40 years, UNCTAD has developed a considerable expertise in research, data collection, policy analysis, technical assistance and consensus building. In addition to these core activities, UNCTAD has a role to play in helping the international community at large to identify new issues and areas of increasing interest in this period of increasing globalization.**

**Canada is pleased to see that UNCTAD XI is exploring links between trade and such important themes as gender equality, private sector development, information technologies and creative industries.**

**Canada views gender equality as an integral part of the solution, an important development goal in its own right, closely linked with the achievement of poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth.**

**To achieve these goals, we must ensure that the differential impact of trade and the rules for trade on women and men is taken into account, and that women benefit fully from globalization. This is why Canada has**

**provided funding for the High-Level Interactive roundtable on Gender and Trade.**

**The timing of this Conference is propitious as it provides the world community with the opportunity to express political support for intensifying the integration of developing countries into the world economy at a critical time in the Doha Round negotiations. This is why Canada recently extended the time frame of our general preferential tariff which provides duty free entry to the Canadian market for Least Developed Countries.**

**Now is the time to reassert that globalization and trade can and should fuel economic growth and development, improving the lives of all people around the world. This is our opportunity to underscore the importance of achieving internationally agreed development goals and to reaffirm our commitment towards an open, equitable, rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system.**

**We believe all countries should be able to expand and diversify exports, compete on a level playing field, and access goods and services at fair**

**prices. Only under such conditions will countries be able to achieve long-term, sustainable development and poverty reduction.**

**Canada is committed to an ambitious outcome for the Doha**

**Development Round because we are convinced that such an outcome**

**will provide the maximum potential for development and poverty**

**reduction. The WTO agreement on access to medicines represents and**

**early and important development outcome. In this regard, I am pleased**

**to be able to report that Canada has passed legislation to help make**

**generic drugs available to poorer countries at affordable prices.**

**Achieving an ambitious outcome is the responsibility of all parties**

**involved in trade negotiations.**

**A more coherent effort by the international community, including work**

**at UNCTAD, can assist developing countries in helping them identify**

**their particular interests and thus, more actively participate in the**

**negotiations to reap the benefits from trade.**

**Canada is committed to assisting developing countries to build their**

**capacity to develop coherent trade and development policies, effectively**

**participate in trade negotiations and most importantly to benefit from the**

multilateral trading system. To this end, I am pleased that Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, has funded the pilot phase of UNCTAD's virtual training institute being launched at the Conference's partnership day.

Participation and integration in the global economy is a key to long-term success. Countries that have made trade liberalization an important element of a comprehensive development strategy have tended to be successful in making economic progress. But the road to growth and poverty reduction is not always smooth, nor without obstacles. Opening up markets alone does not automatically lead to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

We have a joint responsibility to understand the concerns and unique vulnerabilities of the many developing countries still facing numerous challenges in their integration. More work needs to be done to identify the source of their concerns, and to find the most appropriate options for addressing them -- especially since not all solutions will lie solely in the trade arena.

**We need to be willing to accommodate the differences between countries, recognizing the vulnerability of some of the weaker trading partners. We must all show flexibility and creativity in finding solutions tailored to individual country situations but also for the world as a whole. We must do this in a way that strikes the right balance, one which upholds the integrity of a rules-based trading system that ultimately benefits us all.**

**UNCTAD has an important policy and analytical role to play. A role that complements the negotiating process -- to enhance greater understanding and cooperation. Canada views this Conference as an important stepping-stone towards this end.**

**In closing, on behalf of Canada I want to wish success to the XI conference of UNCTAD. This conference reaffirms UNCTAD's important role in helping all of us to understand better the nexus between trade and development and to shed further light on the quest by the community of nations to use trade as a tool for development.**

**Thank you.**

**CHECK UPON DELIVERY**