

STATEMENT BY GERMANY

MADE 15 JUNE 2004

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

Eleventh Session

**São Paulo, Brazil
13-18 June 2004**

Embargoed until delivery

Speech

by Alfred Tacke,
State Secretary in the Federal Ministry
of Economics and Labour, Germany

UNCTAD XI

General Debate

15 June 2004

in São Paulo, Brazil

Check against delivery

Dear Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I.

I am very glad to participate in the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference just after the World Economic Summit which I attended with Chancellor Gerhard Schroder.

An increased dialogue between industrial and developing countries is vital to master the challenges of an evermore globalised world. UNCTAD XI constitutes an important and most suitable forum for this dialogue.

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.

Under Secretary General Ricupero, UNCTAD has described potential solutions in recent years in these fields. Secretary General, I thank you for your work as an honest broker over the past several years and also for your identification of possible solutions. You also have given the developing countries a strong voice in the international discourse.

I also like to thank Ambassador Sha. Under his competent guidance, we have found solutions for most of the difficult questions of trade policy and for the assessment of globalisation during the negotiating process in Geneva.

II.

The international community has set itself ambitious but vital goals in the Millenium Declaration and with the Millenium Development Goals it contains. We need to move ahead in implementing the agenda set with the Millenium Declaration. A successful

conclusion of the Doha development round will be a major step in that direction.

We all need UNCTAD as a complement to WTO to ask necessary questions and clarify our political thinking on how to establish a more levelled playing field for all actors in the international trade arena. To do this, a better understanding of needs of developing partners is important.

UNCTAD also has an important role in strengthening the developing countries' negotiating capacity as a prerequisite of their full participation in the ongoing trade negotiations and the multilateral trading system in general.

III.

From my point of view it is absolutely essential for the Doha process to make substantial progress until the summer break at the end of

July. This is a common task of all WTO partners who will have to engage with flexibility and in the spirit of compromise.

The recent initiative by the EU on key issues like the negotiations on agriculture, the future treatment of the Singapore issues, and the special and differential treatment for the weakest and most vulnerable developing countries with respect to new market access commitments has given an important impulse to the Doha Development Round.

If this initiative - which Germany has strongly supported within the EU - receives a positive and equivalent response by our WTO partners I am confident that a balanced package can be agreed upon.

IV.

Germany has made a contribution to UNCTAD XI by holding - in co-operation with the

Secretariat of UNCTAD - an International Policy Dialogue entitled "Export Competitiveness - Improving the Export Ability of Developing Countries" in February in Bonn, the German location of the United Nations. The Secretary General of UNCTAD, the Chairman of the PrepCom and State Secretary Levy from the Ministry of Finance of Brazil attended the Conference.

Topics discussed included questions of market access, aspects of export competitiveness at enterprise level in developing countries, and possible contributions of governments of developing countries to enable enterprises to make better use of trade opportunities.

The conference i. a. stressed the importance of North-South trade as well as South-South-trade, which is clearly reflected in the UNCTAD XI conference document.

At the German preparatory conference it was also underlined that the private sector bears an important responsibility for development.

Yesterday, we organised at UNCTAD XI the "German day", the German conference on "Partnerships for Development. The Role of German Business" in co-operation with the Secretariat of UNCTAD.

This is important for the German Government: the responsibility of the private sector, of transnational corporations, for development. For this reason, we have in Germany created a specific German model of co-operation of those who assume responsibility in business and development: the so-called Public Private Partnerships.

We wish that UNCTAD co-operates not only with other international organisations

belonging to the UN system, with the WTO and with NGOs. This goes without saying. We also

hope for a closer co-operation and p appreciate that the UNCTAD XI Conference document has encouraged the Secretariat to do so.

V.

Globalisation forces all players engaged in trade and development to work more closely together than in the past. UNCTAD must continue its important role in helping us to do so by learning form each other.

After all, we have a common interest in the reduction of poverty and in the integration of the developing countries into the world economy.

This means not only accession to and participation in WTO negotiations, but also -

and above all - a real increase in their share of world trade thanks to a successful conclusion of the Doha trade negotiations.

Thank you very much for your attention.