

**STATEMENT BY UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

MADE 16 JUNE 2004

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

Eleventh Session

**São Paulo, Brazil
13-18 June 2004**

UNITED KINGDOM

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. MIKE O'BRIEN, MP,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

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I would like to thank the Government and the people of Brazil for their hospitality in hosting this Conference.'

The welcome received from the people of Brazil will ensure that our Conference will be successful.

UNCTAD is part of the family of institutions which provide the architecture for international trade and development.

Meetings like this provide building blocks to help create the political movement needed to drive forward the development agenda.

To-day, UNCTAD is particularly important because we are attempting to agree frameworks over the next few weeks to reinvigorate the Doha Development Agenda.

The conference gives Ministers a chance to meet and talk through the issues.

Beyond that, the conference text rightly stresses UNCTAD's partnership, not only with the other institutions in the UN family, but also with the WTO, WIPO, the World Bank and the IMF

UNCTAD needs to operate within its own mandate. Avoiding doing what other institutions are doing.

While we want to see institutions working together to address the complex issues raised by increasingly rapid globalisation, we need

institutions focused firmly on their core mandate - where their specific strengths lie.

So what ought UNCTAD to focus on? There are, in our view, three concrete answers -

- **First the UNCTAD Secretariat needs to deliver high quality technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries. We back this belief with hard cash.**
- **In 2003, we were the largest bilateral donor of funding on top of our regular subscription.**
- **Last year we began funding UNCTAD's largest ever programme - the five year project to work with India on its strategies and preparedness for globalisation and trade.**
- **The second thing UNCTAD ought to focus on is the policy analysis which the UNCTAD Secretariat provides to developing countries.**
- **In particular helping smaller developing countries to formulate their own positions in trade negotiations - and not just those in the WTO.**
- **Indeed there is scope to expand this role into important, but as yet underdeveloped areas looking at the impact of trade on women's lives as key development issue**
- **This is key to ensuring the needs and skills of half the world's population are taken properly into account.**

- The UNCTAD Secretariat is known for its independence and diverse views. of course I mean by that we don't always agree with them!
- But the worldwide debate on exactly how - and at what speed - to pursue the process of global integration would be all the poorer without this diversity.
- The third area for UNCTAD to focus on is its importance as the arena for frank debate on international trade and globalization. Its strength is that it is not a negotiating forum. Discussion can be the more thoughtful.

But we want UNCTAD to do even better -

- To provide consistently high quality technical assistance and capacity building
- To provide consistently superior policy advice, though I cannot promise that we will always agree with it.
- To consistently use the forum which UNCTAD provides to hold debates which really take problems forward and so merit the time and effort we as Members put into them.

In this way UNCTAD can maximise the contribution it can make to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including through the DDA.

But to do better requires self-discipline.

To do better implies being clear on UNCTAD's core mandate, focussing hard on clear priorities and maintaining high and consistent standards across all UNCTAD does.

In the UK we remain committed to working with the UNCTAD Secretariat and all UNCTAD Members to get improvement.

Finally, I should close by thanking Rubens Ricupero for all his efforts as UNCTAD's Secretary General and wish him well for the future. His intellect and commitment in handling the issues which have come

before him as Secretary-General and his support for trade liberalization have won him wide respect. It is fitting he should conclude his period of office with a successful UNCTAD Ministerial in his native country.

Thank you.