

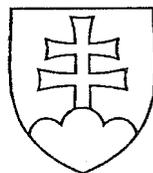
STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA

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

Eleventh Session

**São Paulo, Brazil
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SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**11th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
CTAD**

STATEMENT

by

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and Head of Delegation of the Slovak Republic**

General Debate

São Paulo, 17 June 2004

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate the Foreign Affairs Minister of Brazil, Ambassador Celso Amorim, on his unanimous election to the presidency of this 11th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. On behalf of the Slovak Government I would like to thank the Brazil Government and the people of Brazil for hosting this Session and thus providing excellent conditions for our deliberations. Our appreciations go also to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Rubens Ricupero, and all UNCTAD staff for the preparatory work preceding this Conference.

Development strategies in a globalizing world economy

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia, as a new member of the European Union, fully endorses the statement of the European Union delivered by the Minister of State for Development Cooperation and Human Rights of Ireland, Mr. Tom Kitt. Allow me now to share with you some additional comments on issues under discussion from the perspective of our country.

The theme of the Conference is very timely and provides a unique opportunity to exchange our views on how to put the process of globalisation into service of development. Globalisation does not mean only new technologies, new and faster information and communication links or liberalisation of financial and commodity markets. Globalisation also represents increased interdependence of all countries, the need to deal with global problems that affect the entire humankind, increased role of international institutions and new challenges for nations.

We gathered here to tackle the challenge of development and the equality of opportunities for all. The main question of today is how to assure the adequate distribution of benefits from globalisation to all countries - industrialised countries, transition economies, developing countries, in particular to the least developed, poor and vulnerable or commodity dependent countries. There must be an adequate response to these questions from both developed and developing countries based on common understanding on how to generate resources for development and ensure stable political environment for pursuing effective and long-term development strategies.

A very important role is also played by a coherence in work of international organisations and here UNCTAD should continue to fully use its influence in areas where it has a comparative advantage and proven experience, while avoiding duplication.

Building productive capacity and international competitiveness

Improved governance, institutions and capacity building, stable political environment and rule of law are the key preconditions that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy.

One of the main tools of such integration and economic growth is foreign direct investment, which could provide an impetus to a stable and long-term economic development also in developing countries. Slovakia considers FDI as one of the main pillars of economic reform and source of economic growth. And for this reason we are convinced that also for developing countries FDI should play a very important role in their economic growth as well as in poverty reduction.

Assuring development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations

Mr. Chairman,

One of the main objectives of this Conference is to help developing countries to benefit from globalization and trade liberalisation. We are convinced that UNCTAD XI should contribute to strengthening the confidence in an open, equitable, rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system under the WTO and give further momentum to the successful conclusion of the Doha round, while not attempting to reinterpret or re-negotiate the already agreed mandate from Cancún.

This Conference has to ensure that globalisation results in real benefits for developing countries and especially for LDCs. For this reason we fully support the idea that developed countries should provide improved market access for developing countries and furthermore duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs. Although foreign trade liberalisation and improved access to developed countries' markets are important factors of economic development, other elements such as improvement of competitiveness, strengthening of the capability of developing countries to benefit from market openings and further enhancement of South-South trade should also be given due attention.

It is Slovakia's view that it is important to assure that developing countries and in particular LDC will be benefiting from the successful outcome

of the current round of negotiations within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda and therefore we fully endorse the view that the issue of special and differential treatment and other development questions shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations. Latest political signals from the European Union and other major countries demonstrate a new level of political will to make progress on the Doha Development Agenda. These signals are encouraging for the revitalization of work under the DDA and show willingness to find a compromise solution on the framework of modalities by the end of July.

Partnership for development

The issue of well-targeted and effective technical assistance and capacity building should remain a priority for the whole international community. One of the important sources for development support is the Official Development Assistance (ODA) where developed countries are donors. In this regard it is my pleasure to inform you that Slovakia has already created a comprehensive mechanism, strategy and system for the provision of its development assistance.

The already established co-operation between UNCTAD and WTO should be further enhanced. UNCTAD should advise countries on various aspects of the WTO agenda on a complementary basis. A special focus should be on support to developing countries in their integration into the global economy and future WTO negotiations. The services of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on practical aspects of international trade and export/import requirements should also be fully used by developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude I would like to express the conviction that the text submitted for adoption will fully reflect the needs and interests of all UNCTAD member States and provide a good basis for a strengthened co-operation in the future.

Thank you for your attention.