



Daily Bulletin

Conference updates, daily



This week, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is holding its 14th quadriennial conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Until Friday, July 22, this **UNCTAD 14 Conference** will set the UN agency's mandate and work priorities, and development stakeholders from all backgrounds will dialogue on global responses to the key issues affecting the global economy. With this bulletin, CUTS is keeping you posted on the proceedings.

[#UNCTAD14](#)



Main Track

Opening Ceremony



H.E. MUKHISA KITUYI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, recalled that Kenya had hosted the 4th UNCTAD Conference forty years ago. The fact that Kenya is the only developing country to host UNCTAD Conference twice is a message sent to the world. He emphasised that the many decisions taken by the global community in 2015 have left UNCTAD Member States with the responsibility to keep the promises by moving from decisions to actions. He recalled that multilateralism has been challenged in recent times, and hoped that this week's conference would be an opportunity for Member States to devise an agenda forward "that leaves no one behind."

H.E. BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, noted that UNCTAD 14 is the first major United Nations event since last year's landmark adoptions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In particular, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will guide global collective action for sustainable development over the next 15 years. It is, therefore, fitting that the theme of UNCTAD 14 is "from decisions to actions". He stressed that the successful actions that will be needed – especially in the areas of trade, investment, technology and finance – will require tapping the full potential of all actors, promote innovation and correct unsustainable trends.

He added that much has changed since Kenya last hosted an UNCTAD conference 40 years ago, but many of the challenges raised at that time remain on the international agenda. For instance, the vulnerability of developing countries to volatile commodity markets remains a major development issue, particularly today as global trade slows down and commodity prices decline. But beyond trade, a bigger and more complex set of questions challenges the international community, prime among them being climate change. The many challenges facing today's global economy have sharpened the deep divides between those who have benefited from globalisation, and those who continue to feel left behind and are increasingly unhappy.

He emphasised that realising the SDGs' vision "for people, planet, prosperity and peace" will require addressing the shocks and stresses in the global economic and financial system through appropriate regulatory frameworks governing trade, investment, technology, climate change, as well as incentive structures in financial markets. UNCTAD, with its integrated approach to trade and development, has a vital role to play in implementing this agenda and this is why Member States in Addis Ababa last year committed to strengthen its role for the integrated treatment of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, the Vice-President Mr Ssekandi joined the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in calling upon Member States to move from decisions to actions. Proper implementation of the many measures recently taken is key for achieving sustainable development, he said. In this regard, he particularly emphasised the need to address the concerns of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recalling that over the last 40 years only four have been able to graduate from LDC status. Achieving the SDGs will require structural transformation of the economy in many countries, he added.

H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, PRESIDENT OF KENYA

In his opening statement, the President of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta welcomed all delegates to Nairobi and thanked the UNCTAD Secretariat for its outstanding work in preparing for the conference. He recalled that UNCTAD 14 comes just a few months after Kenya hosted the 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and he looked forward for UNCTAD 14 to build on the trade and development advances made at that time.

He emphasised that UNCTAD 14 is the first major conference after the adoption of the SDGs, besides other important decisions taken last year. In 2015, the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development underscored important policy commitments in areas that also stand out in the SDGs such as infrastructure, energy, transport, water and sanitation, etc. Also, the world concluded the Paris COP21 agreement which will strengthen climate change action and adaptation, and devised a climate finance mechanism for developing countries. In December, the WTO Nairobi package agreed to adopt six Ministerial Decisions which are in many ways historic.

He said that the Sustainable Development Goals adopted last year have significantly raised the bar for countries' efforts to eradicate poverty; the goals set are achievable and UNCTAD 14 is an opportunity for turning those decisions into actions. In this regard, he acknowledged that divergent positions still exist among Member States on the outcome document, and constructive engagement and willingness to compromise will be key in achieving a positive final outcome that will guide UNCTAD's work for the next four years.



Main Track

World Leaders Summit, Roundtables, High-Level Events etc.

FIRST PLENARY

Following the opening ceremony, the first plenary session was dedicated to the election of the bureau and officers of the Conference. Before handing over the presidency, H.E. Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, President of UNCTAD XIII, said that Nairobi will mark a new beginning for UNCTAD; from a body of ideas to a body of ideas and actions, adding muscles to the intellect.

Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya was

since its first conference, notably stronger South-South cooperation. Today, Member States are at a crossroads, at the same time surrounded by great opportunities but also threatened by great challenges.

She was followed by Joachim Reiter, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, who emphasised that UNCTAD 14 will discuss important questions faced by the global economy, as the world is looking for concrete actions for the realisation of the SDGs. Finally, a speech was given on behalf of Governor of Nairobi City Council.

During the ensuing election of the Bureau of the Conference, Ambassador Alfredo Suescum of Panama was elected as Chair of the Committee of the Whole and 32 vice-presidents were elected, equitably divided across regions. Mr. David Asher of Canada was elected as Rapporteur. Finally, the entire provisional agenda approved by the 22nd Trade and Development Board was adopted.



Civil Society Forum

Civil Society Voices on Achieving Sustainable Economic Development

CSO FORUM STRATEGY SESSION

The session was organised for the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that are participating in the UNCTAD 14 Conference to come up with a comprehensive strategy for lobbying and engaging in negotiations and discussions with various governments, donors, and UNCTAD representatives.

The session presented an opportunity for representatives of participating CSOs to provide suggestions on the agenda or key message that should be included in the CSO Declaration. It was also used to nominate CSO representatives to various High Level Panels and Ministerial Roundtables.

The participants in the session agreed that CSOs will collaborate in lobbying activities. Coordination of lobbying activities will be done using a WhatsApp group that will be established by Monday, the 18th of July, 2016. The emails provided by participants during registration will also be used to share key lobbying messages. Additionally, there will be daily strategy meetings at the CSO Forum Tent at 1400 hour. The CSOs will have a media conference on Thursday, the 21st of July, 2016, to articulate their agenda.

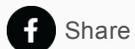
The participants acknowledged that CSOs have different agenda that they would want to be articulated during plenary and roundtable sessions. Thus, it was important to summarise the various agenda into a single CSO Declaration that will be presented in the High Level Panels and Ministerial Roundtables by selected representatives. The key messages that are to be included in the summarised CSO Declaration include the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals; enhancing the agenda for inclusive trade and economic development; and a strong framework for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the outcome of UNCTAD 14 for effective achievement of results.

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