

- Telecommunications advances are integrating international and domestic capital markets: isolation is no longer possible or desirable.
- Commodity prices have become de-linked from world economic growth.
- The vast diversity of the developing countries and, thus, their relative needs, are becoming more and more evident.
- Different growth performances illustrate the importance of appropriate choices in development strategies and policies.
- The positive role of the private sector in creating wealth and encouraging efficiency is now recognized.
- Major demographic shifts are creating new and different development pressures.
- Recognition of the role and participation of women in economic growth is increasingly seen as an issue of development effectiveness.
- The extent, complexity and implications of global interdependence are becoming more and more clear.

UNCTAD has the capability of helping us to address these changes. With its mandate, its universal character, and scope for activity, UNCTAD must be a forge for new ideas, a source for new strategies, realistic approaches and viable solutions. It must be a forum that usefully informs national and international policy development, and stimulates and supports international cooperation and development. It must do so by identifying and evaluating long term structural changes and trends. Through careful analysis and constructive exchanges of views, UNCTAD can also contribute to the consensus-building process that makes successful, productive negotiation possible. Ultimately, this is what produces concrete results for growth and development.

Mr. President,

I close with a plea that UNCTAD give substance to the concept of partnership and cooperation between developed and developing countries. The outcome of our discussion here must serve to help bring about real solutions to real problems.