



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- The globalizers have seen large increases in trade volumes and significant declines in tariffs over the past 20 years.
- The growth rates of the globalizers have accelerated from the 1970s through the 1990s, even as growth in the rich countries and the rest of the developing world has slowed.
- The post-1980 globalizers are catching up to the rich countries, while the rest of the developing world is falling farther behind.

Not everyone in the world has shared in this trade success story, however. Some countries, mostly in Africa, have struggled to reap the benefits of the world economy, and in some cases their poverty levels are rising.

More than 600 million people live in the world's 49 least developed countries—one tenth of humanity. These countries have average per capita incomes of only a few hundred dollars and an average life expectancy of only 52 years. Their share of world trade has declined in the past 20 years and now stands at only 0.5%.

**MISSION: TO SPREAD
THE BENEFITS**

The world's poorest citizens are falling further behind the rest of the globe on life expectancy, children's health, primary school enrolment and economic growth. The deprivation of many of these citizens is compounded by war.

The "Doha Development Agenda"—the World Trade Organization's recently launched global trade negotiations—aims to help spread the benefits of the global economy to every corner of the globe.

Trade, of course, can't do it on its own. The key to development is an integrated approach that involves international financial institutions, governmental and non-governmental aid organizations, the United Nations, regional organizations, and plenty of willpower from developing countries.

True, sustainable development needs fertile soil—economic stability, good governance, the rule of law and a cooperative approach. Trade can't bring all that but it can still play an important role in generating economic activity and building healthy economies.

Trade is already important to the world's least developed countries, bringing in twice as much income as foreign aid and ten times as much income as foreign direct investment. Study after study has indicated that as a country's per capita GDP grows, so does the income of its citizens. More trade means more vital income for development.

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