

Speaking points Stockholm +50 Prep meeting

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Excellencies, all protocol observed

50 years ago, the Stockholm Conference highlighted the threats to our environment and broader human development. It called for global cooperation on environmental protection and change in consumption and production patterns.

That same year, UNCTAD's Third Ministerial Conference brought into focus the interface between the environment, trade and development and its special significance for developing countries.

Today, these problems have deteriorated sharply while the pandemic has increased the gap between poor and rich, small and large business, men and women and eroded trust in institutions.

The recovery must be much more than green. It must put countries on a path to a better economy, to better health and wellbeing, to inclusion and UNCTAD is working in partnership with UNEP and other entities to find practical and innovative solutions to achieve SDG1 to 9 while protecting or regenerating SDGs12 to 16. Let me mention a few.

- 1.) Through its BioTrade initiative, UNCTAD assists developing countries to commercialize and export products or services sustainably sourced from biodiversity. Our BioTrade Principles and Criteria have been adopted by governments, business, and NGOs in nearly 100 countries.
- 2.) Second, we've been working with UNEP, FAO and other agencies on fisheries and the Blue economy, including on eliminating fishery subsidies; illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and promoting blue trade – trade in ocean-based products. This effort converged in the Oceans Forum, a platform for global dialogue on trade-related aspects of SDG 14. We invite you to participate in the 4th edition of the Oceans Forum, to be held from 6 to 8 April 2022.
- 3.) Finally, UNCTAD continues to monitor the use of trade restrictions for environmental purposes, and their impact on developing countries. Just recently, we published a paper on the likely impact of Carbon-Border Adjustment Measures on developing country exports.

You can count on UNCTAD to continue to expand this work and more as mandated by UNCTAD XV in Bridgetown, Barbados, last year.

Thank you