



2010 PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

10-11 May 2010 - Palais des Nations, Geneva
Room XVIII, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Responding to Global Crises: New Development Paths



- **OPENING ROUND TABLE:**

- **Responding to Global Crises: New Development Paths**

The round table will take a broad look at the overall theme of the Symposium. Last year's UNCTAD Public Symposium examined the causes and impacts of the global economic crisis, national and international policy responses, and proposals for the way forward in terms of reforming the international financial architecture and global economic governance to support development. One year later, these issues remain cutting edge. The 2010 UNCTAD Public Symposium will revisit these questions in light of recent political developments, new threats and challenges, and the need to identify alternative development strategies (some new, some not so new) that can better support key objectives – such as building productive capacities, domestic resource mobilization, better external resource flows, full and gainful employment, food security and environmental sustainability in developing countries. The opening plenary will critically look at the idea of a return to “business as usual” and examine the change of course which is urgently required, not only to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development objectives, but to avert economic, social and environmental catastrophes in the years to come.

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- **PLENARY SESSION:**
Rethinking Global Economic Governance: Towards Trade and Financial Reforms to Support Development

Building on the discussions of the opening round table, this plenary will examine how key lessons from the crises should guide global governance reforms in the areas of trade and finance. The session will include analysis of some of the main proposals for financial architecture reform, both in the short term (including supporting countercyclical policies in cash-strapped countries, avoiding a new debt crisis) and longer term (such as a fair international debt resolution system, a better aid architecture, international taxation and new global and regional reserve systems, exchange rate management, or commodity price stabilization). Key questions on trade would include how the international trading system is facing up to the potential risk of rising protectionist pressures, and what changes are needed to make the international trading system genuinely supportive of development. Issues of representativeness and accountability of ongoing reform initiatives will be a key question for discussion.

- **PLENARY SESSION:**
Alternative Development Strategies: Towards More Inclusive and Sustainable Development Paths

The objective of this plenary is to examine how national development strategies need to be refashioned, drawing on experiences of what works and what does not. The discussion will integrate key development challenges (related to building productive capacities, fostering more employment-intensive growth, extending social protection, ensuring food and energy security and reducing inequality and deprivation) with calls for more environmentally sustainable development paths (“green growth”). The session will cover the whole gamut of policy choices, including macroeconomic management, the degree of outward orientation of the economy (including regional initiatives), investment and financing strategies, and human capital development. The need for new forms of international development partnerships to support more inclusive national strategies will be discussed, drawing on relevant points discussed in the previous plenary. A key issue is strengthening the capacity of the State and other development actors in developing countries to meet emerging challenges.

- **CLOSING SESSION:**

Special Address by Ms. Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Global Initiative, and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- **OUTCOME:**

The findings may be submitted as an informal input to the September 2010 MDG Review Summit at the General Assembly of the United Nations, to the executive session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board in June, to the annual session of the Trade and Development Board in September, and to civil society related-events.

Further information:

Website: www.unctad.org/publicsymposium
E-mail: publicsymposium@unctad.org

