

Trade in Crisis: Headwinds or Maelstrom?

A conversation with global leaders hosted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Monday 19 February, Room XIX, Palais des Nations, 3pm-5pm, followed by a cocktail

It is clear that the multilateral trading system is in crisis, as indicated by the results - or lack thereof - of the last WTO Ministerial conference. While some major players are opting for economic nationalism, and while the trade negotiation track is stalling, how can we ensure that the achievement of the ambitious goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not held back?

In this context, business as usual is not an option. In today's global, interconnected, deregulated, and fast changing environment, the consequences of the *status quo* would be detrimental, in particular for the most vulnerable countries. In order for trade not to be lost as an enabler for development, the international trade community needs to work together to urgently address issues such as fisheries subsidies (SDG 14) or food security (SDG 2).

What role can the United Nations and its Member States play in finding consensus on trade and development issues? Where does the international trade community go from here, at this uncertain time for multilateralism?

In line with its mandate to create a better and more effective system of international economic cooperation, UNCTAD can provide a platform for collective action.

The Geneva dialogue will bring together global thought leaders to tackle these questions in an open, frank and taboo-free discussion.

Convened by:

- Dr. **Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Baroness **Valerie Amos CH**, Director, SOAS University of London
- Ms. **Anabel Gonzalez**, former Senior Director, Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness World Bank Group
- Mr **Pascal Lamy**, President Emeritus, Jacques Delors Institute, and former Director General, World Trade Organization (*tbc*)
- Moderator: Mr. **Jeff Koinange**, journalist, broadcaster and television news anchor