

# TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2006

**Global partnership  
and national policies  
for development**



UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
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# TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2006

Report by the secretariat of the  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



**UNITED NATIONS**  
New York and Geneva, 2006

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## FOREWORD

According to this year's *Trade and Development Report*, if the current momentum in the world economy is sustained, we can expect decisive progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, the *Report* shows that there has been growing demand around the world for developing-country exports – including those that are of crucial importance for their economic fortunes.

These positive trends add to a number of other factors that are supportive of development and poverty reduction. For example, the developed countries have taken some initial steps to honour the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002. Considerable progress has been achieved in alleviating the debt burden of the poorest countries. Aid flows are on the rise.

These gains, and donor commitments for future support, represent major improvements in the external environment. Granting improved market access for their exports would further improve those conditions, and is absolutely essential. That is why the recent suspension of the Doha negotiations was so dismaying. Some participants have even contemplated settling for something less than a true development round, or for no round at all. That must not be allowed to happen. But if the negotiations are to succeed in generating the opportunities that are so sorely needed, negotiators must show greater determination and political courage than they have to date.

At the same time, let us also remember that the global partnership for development is based on the conviction that responsibility for development lies primarily with the developing countries themselves. It is therefore essential for them to find ways to translate improvements in the external environment into sustained growth and development at home.

This is not an easy task, to say the least. This *Report* offers new ideas for designing macroeconomic, sectoral and trade policies that can help developing countries to succeed in today's global economic environment. Particular attention is given to policies that support local ownership, the creative forces of markets and the entrepreneurial dimension of investment.

Finally, the *Report* argues that a global partnership for development will be incomplete without an effective system of global economic governance – one that takes into account the specific needs of developing countries, and ensures the right balance between sovereignty in national economic policy-making on the one hand, and multilateral disciplines and collective governance on the other.

This year's *Trade and Development Report* aims to contribute to the debate on how best to make the global partnership for development bring real opportunity and positive change into the lives of people everywhere. I recommend its analysis and suggestions to all stakeholders and to a wide global audience.



Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary-General of the United Nations



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