

Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons

**ENHANCING THE
DEVELOPMENT ROLE AND
IMPACT OF UNCTAD**



United Nations
Geneva, June 2006

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Preface by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD



In October 2005, I established the Panel of Eminent Persons to advise me, in the personal capacity of its members, on how to enhance the development role and impact of UNCTAD. The Panel looked at what strategies UNCTAD could follow in order to fulfil its development mission and mandates as contained in the Bangkok Plan of Action and the São Paulo Consensus.

I am pleased to share the report of the Panel with member States. I welcome this valuable contribution to the process of revitalizing UNCTAD. I am convinced it will be of great benefit to the organization. The report is thoughtful and innovative. It also offers a number of pragmatic proposals aimed at strengthening the functioning of UNCTAD. It is my sincere hope that member States will carefully consider the report, which is also being reviewed in the secretariat. I will work closely with our member States

with a view to enhancing the development role and impact of UNCTAD.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Chair and the members of the Panel for the wisdom and dedication they brought to this task. Through their work, they have made an invaluable contribution to the future of UNCTAD and to the development cause more generally. My appreciation also extends to the senior aides of the Eminent Persons and the secretariat staff who provided substantive backstopping to their work.

I look forward to continuing the relationship with the Panel for the benefit of UNCTAD and the development cause.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "S. Panitchpakdi".

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Letter of transmission from the Chair of the Panel

Dear Dr. Supachai,

I hereby transmit to you the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, entitled "Enhancing the Development Role and Impact of UNCTAD". The Panel has hereby accomplished the goals set out in its terms of reference.

During the last six months, the Panel met formally three times. It held informal exchanges inbetween those meetings, and the Eminent Persons provided their respective written inputs to the report.

The Panel also conducted extensive exchanges of views with a large number of ambassadors and regional coordinators in Geneva. Our work further benefited from a paper prepared by H.E. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the South Centre Board. All of these inputs are acknowledged with great appreciation.

None of our work would have been possible without the extensive support we received. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom made generous financial contributions. The Office of the President of Finland, the Instituto Fernando Henrique Cardoso and the Boao Forum for Asia made in-kind contributions. The Permanent Missions of Austria, the Netherlands and Pakistan in Geneva hosted

consultations between Panel members and Geneva ambassadors and regional coordinators.

I should also like to thank you, Dr. Supachai, on my own behalf and on behalf of the other members of the Panel, for having entrusted us with this important task. Our work benefited from your strategic thinking about UNCTAD, and we are all impressed by the strengths of your commitment to the cause of development.

I also wish to register our appreciation to all those who contributed over the past six months to our process of reflection and review, particularly our respective aides. Our appreciation also extends to the Coordinator of the Panel, Mr. James Zhan, and to Mr. Jörg Weber for their substantive backstopping and administrative support.

The Panel is happy to make this contribution to enhancing UNCTAD's development role and impact. We will follow further developments with great interest and would be happy to make additional contributions to UNCTAD's future work if requested to do so.



Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Chair, Panel of Eminent Persons

Members of the Panel of Eminent Persons



FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO
(Chair of the Panel)

- Former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
- Chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations
- Member of the United Nations Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor



DR. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

- Former Prime Minister of Norway
- Former Director-General of the World Health Organization
- Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development
- Member of the United Nations Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor



JAGDISH BHAGWATI

- University Professor of Economics and Law at Columbia University
- Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on the NEPAD Process
- Former Special Adviser to the United Nations on Globalization



JOAQUIM ALBERTO CHISSANO

- Former President of the Republic of Mozambique
 - Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the 2005 World Summit
 - Current Chairman of the Africa Forum of Former African Heads of State and Government
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TARJA HALONEN

- President of the Republic of Finland
- Co-Chair of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization
- Co-Chair of the United Nations Millennium Summit



YONGTU LONG

- Secretary-General of the Boao Forum for Asia
- Former Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, China
- Former Chief Representative for Trade Negotiations, China



BENJAMIN MKAPA

- Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Co-Chair of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization
- Member of the United Nations Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor

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