

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD



Second Report of the Panel
of Eminent Persons

ADDRESSING KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IDEAS FOR ACTIONS

AND

Reflections by Supachai Panitchpakdi,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

UNCTAD TODAY AND TOMORROW



UNITED NATIONS

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UNCTAD Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons

SECOND REPORT

*Addressing key economic issues to advance sustainable
development: Ideas for actions*



UNITED NATIONS

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Preface by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD



Since my arrival as Secretary-General in September 2005, I have been consistently and persistently pursuing an agenda of revitalizing UNCTAD as an institution through administrative and management reform, and as a force for the betterment of the development prospects of developing countries through ahead-of-the-curve thinking and action. For this purpose, 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 came up with very valuable recommendations, most of which were endorsed and put into action by member States, together with the secretariat, as manifested in the outcome of UNCTAD XII. In the wake of the crisis I have reconvened the Panel with new members to help us set a new vision on how to pursue development-centered globalization in the post-crisis era. I am pleased to share this new report of the Panel with member States.

The report offers a number of ideas for actions to address key economic issues to advance sustainable development and the interests of developing countries in ten critical development areas. It is my sincere hope that member States will carefully consider these ideas, which are also being reviewed in the secretariat.

I would like to express my gratitude to the two co-Chairs 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'S. Panitchpakdi'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'S'.

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Letter of transmission from the two co-chairs of the Panel of Eminent Persons

Dear Dr. Supachai,

We hereby transmit to you the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons entitled *“Addressing key economic issues to advance sustainable development: Ideas for actions”*. The Panel has thus accomplished the goals set out by you.

Our report is succinct, forward-looking, and focuses on a few key ideas for international initiatives as they fall within UNCTAD’s realm. We focus on aspects where we believe there is value added to today’s myriad of development reflections. We do not intend to be exhaustive and comprehensive on development issues. Our ideas are for you to consider and it is up to you to share them with member States. Member States may wish to take up these ideas, either through UNCTAD or for consideration by the broader development community.

Our recommendations are meant to support the development role and impact of UNCTAD, and to provide fresh thinking with a view towards increasing the relevance and effectiveness of this valuable organization. Whereas our first report, entitled *“Enhancing the Development Role and Impact of UNCTAD”*, focused on institutional issues, in this second report we address the key challenges faced by developing countries, and the development community at large, in the wake of the global economic crisis and the new phase of globalization.

We are pleased to make our contribution to UNCTAD’s development endeavor. Keeping in mind the broad orientation and mandate of UNCTAD, in particular the outcomes of UNCTAD XIII, we continue the efforts of the first Panel and follow up on its recommendations. We note with great satisfaction that a large part of the recommendations of the report of the first Panel have been effectively implemented under your leadership.

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