

WTO's contribution to sustainable development governance: balancing opportunities and threats

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Reforming the Multilateral Trading System: a developing Country Perspective

Munir Akram

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York and President of ECOSOC

Briefly tracing back the history of reforms in erstwhile GATT and its transformation into WTO, the presentation would analyze contemporary global trends, particularly the need for reform of international institutions in a globalized economy. The need for coherence and coordination at the policy and operational levels has been crystallized during the preparatory process for UN Reform at the 2005 Summit. The recommendations made for WTO Reform by the Sutherland Report will be juxtaposed against the discussions and decisions at the 2005 Summit and some suggestions offered at how the WTO could be reformed to contribute to the creation of a fair, equitable and development-orientated multilateral trading system.



Munir Akram

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York and President of UN Economic and Social Council

Ambassador Munir Akram holds Masters of Arts and Bachelor of Law degrees from Karachi University. He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1967. In a distinguished diplomatic career spanning over 38 years, he has held a number of important positions including Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (1995-2002); additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan (1992-1995); Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Community, Belgium and Luxembourg (1988-1992); Director-General (United Nations, Economic Cooperation and Policy Planning), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1985-1988); Minister/Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo (1982-1985).

Ambassador Akram has represented Pakistan in numerous international conferences and United Nation bodies, including the Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Conference on Disarmament, UN Conference on Trade and Development, The World Trade Organization. He has held several important positions in various Intergovernmental Organizations including; Member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament; Chairman of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body; Chairman of the Group of 77 in Geneva (1997); President of the Conference on Disarmament (June 1996) and twice President of the Security Council (May 2003 and May 2004). He is a prolific writer and has lectured widely on various strategic, political and economic issues.