

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
International Coordination Meeting of the UNCTAD Port Training Programme
For English-Speaking Port Communities
DUBLIN, IRELAND 26-28 JUNE 2007

DUBLIN DECLARATION

We, the representatives of English-speaking port communities from developing countries of Africa and Asia, gathered in Dublin, Ireland, from 26 to 28 June 2007 at the "International Coordination Meeting of the UNCTAD Port Training Programme for English-speaking Port Communities";

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations;

Considering that training and capacity development are essential for all developing countries;

Recognizing human resources development in port communities as a key element to foster economic development; and to build training capacity as a driver of economic development and as a tool to build and sustain networking activities; and

Convinced that regional cooperation in human resources development in port communities is essential to ensure sustainability and increase the impact of training and capacity development efforts;

Welcome this UNCTAD initiative to foster the establishment of professional networks among port communities both at the regional and international levels;

Appreciate and encourage the cooperation initiated by UNCTAD with its development and port partners in the context of the TrainForTrade Port Training Programme;

Commend the Governments and Port Authorities of Benin and Cape Verde for their efforts in enabling their representatives' participation in this meeting and allowing all participants to benefit from their valuable experience in implementing the Port Training Programme;

Stress that training and capacity development activities should be flexible, appropriate to local needs and should be inclusive of all relevant stakeholders;

Emphasize the importance of training and capacity development activities to become an integral part of modern port management with definite allocation of resources;

Strongly urge donor countries and institutions to support the UNCTAD Port Training Programme and pay particular attention to providing expertise and financial support to developing countries which lack adequate port training infrastructure and expertise;

Recommend that the UNCTAD TrainForTrade Port Training Programme be implemented in the English-speaking Port Communities and monitored for its sustainability;

Express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Ireland and Dublin Port Company for their gracious financial, organizational and substantive support to the meeting.

Dublin, 28 June 2007