CONCLUSIONS

- Slow economic growth, unequal distribution and removal of safety nets are creating anger. Internationalization is falsely accused, and false prescriptions have a high cost. We have learned lessons. Top to bottom globalization is bad. Too many can be left behind. We cannot afford to turn our backs on each other.
- Trade is growing more slowly than GDP for the first time since World War II. Commodity prices bottoming out is causing problems in meeting Sustainable Development Goals commitments.
- Technology is cementing markets, bypassing regulations and connecting to consumers directly. But the robotics revolution is causing a labour shortage. New sustainable avenues are needed to leap out of poverty.
- To capitalize on the potential of e-commerce, we must identify enablers for inclusion in trade: greater availability of mobile phones, cyber-governance and basic access to broadband.
- Trade promotion agencies must work coherently with investment agencies. Without structural transformation, we cannot break out of the traditional basket of products. There is no synergies shortcut between policies on investment and on trade promotion.
- The greatest frontier is a regional frontier. No country becomes globally competitive without becoming regionally competitive.

QUOTES

- Turbulence in global trade causes distress in countries. In the South, at first we were suspicious and talked about new imperialism. But we all joined in a leap of faith. Today, we find the other side is leaping the wrong way.
- Slow economic growth, unequal distribution of trade benefits and removal of safety nets generated the anti-globalization trends of today.
- Recovery from the global crisis of 2008-09 has been unequal. For many developing countries, especially in Africa, the commodity price drop is challenging the planned development investment for these countries.
- International trade is falsely accused as the culprit of safety net deterioration, unequal wealth and slow trade in developed countries. Anti-globalization is attacking international trade, so part of the solution is being attacked as a source of the problem.
- The leader of the world is traditionally the leader of free trade. The symbolic significance of the US withdrawing from this role and China’s stepping into it is of historic significance that is yet to be comprehended.
- Technology and the digital economy is making industry advance at a higher speed than that of regulators. The robotics revolution changed the labour intensity formula for the African development strategy, which was positioned to be the next China.
• If you are not engaged in e-commerce, you are going nowhere.
• Today the average European has 30 times more broadband data transmission coverage than the average African. Infrastructural restrictions are impeding the development potential in Africa.
• This is a historical opportunity for international trade stakeholders to exchange experiences, increase access to broadband and mobile communications networks and infrastructure, and gain benefits by accessing digital transformation.
• If you are only facilitating trade without helping to sell abroad, you are only facilitating imports. Trade promotion work needs to be coherent investment promotion work to build productive capacity and increase exports.