

## In praise of UNCTAD

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A [great editorial in the Guardian](#) today echoing sentiments expressed here and at TJN last week:

*What do you do with an organisation that has correctly predicted the world's financial crashes; that has led debates over how to make poor countries richer; and that provides a voice to developing nations? Well, if you're David Cameron or Barack Obama, you try to silence it. Its warnings over the danger of letting markets run amok have made the [United Nations](#) Conference on Trade and Development, or [Unctad](#), a persistent irritant to America and Britain.*

Now, ahead of its conference this month, the agency is [under threat](#) from rich countries who want it to keep out of the big issues about how the world's economy is run, and to stick to touchy-feely stuff instead. This would be a [huge mistake](#). Compared to those behemoths, the [IMF](#) and [World Bank](#), the smaller Geneva-based agency is on the right side of the argument. Those who want a fairer, more sustainable world economy should want Unctad not to pipe down, but to speak up.

Absolutely.