This paper analyzes the impact of international trade and the openness to trade in the growth of developing countries under the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Reduction of poverty is the first target in the MDG, and according to the international trade theory developing countries can take advantage of it and initiate a convergence process.

My primary sources have been the World Bank database, the Millennium Development Goals Reports of the United Nations, reports on trade profiles and international trade statistics from the World Trade Organization, and the UNCTAD database.

The methodology of this paper is to analyze the presence of developing countries in the international trade community and how it drives economic growth and the subsequent reduction of poverty. To this extent, using Excel statistical tools I develop an econometric model that analyzes how international trade and trade openness determine GDP per capita growth over the MDG period (2001-2015). The results indicate the positive impact of international trade in development. Finally, I recommend governments of developing countries to focus on trade liberalization and policies to attract FDI.