

UNCTAD TOOLBOX

DELIVERING RESULTS



UNITED NATIONS



UNCTAD TOOLBOX

Since its foundation more than 50 years ago, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD – has been a key partner supporting countries in meeting their development objectives. UNCTAD has helped countries in the pursuit of shared prosperity by backing policymaking with sound research and analysis, providing a forum for open and constructive dialogue on development issues, and providing technical support to make a difference on the ground.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals aim to ensure dignity for all, prosperity for all and a sustainable planet for all. Sustainable development is at the heart of the work of UNCTAD. UNCTAD provides high-quality and evidence-based analysis that feeds national, regional and international policies with the aim of generating inclusive sustainable development. Based on such analysis, UNCTAD technical assistance builds the capacities needed in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for equitable integration into the interconnected, global economy and to improve the well-being of their populations. It does so in a non-standardized, flexible and customizable way. UNCTAD technical cooperation is tailored to the needs of its beneficiaries; involves donors, partners and other stakeholders; and aims to achieve concrete, measurable results, to be disseminated and shared with stakeholders, in particular countries with similar needs.

The technical cooperation products presented in the *UNCTAD Toolbox* also aim to multiply the intended effects by adopting integrated approaches and coordinating technical cooperation operations both internally and with other stakeholders.

The *UNCTAD Toolbox* contains information on our technical cooperation products that can assist countries in putting in place the policies, regulations and institutional frameworks and in mobilizing the resources needed to fulfil the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNCTAD stands ready to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition achieve the world we want by 2030.

UNCTAD delivers results. We count on our partners to help bring about the ambitious transformations that, together, we can deliver.

To learn more about UNCTAD, visit unctad.org

Dignity for all, prosperity for all and a sustainable planet for all

PRODUCTS IN THE *UNCTAD TOOLBOX*

Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development

- Investment Policy Reviews **8 17**
- Services Policy Reviews **8 9**
- Trade Policy Framework Reviews **17**
- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews **9**
- E-commerce and the Digital Economy **8 9 17**
- Investment Guides **9 17**
- Non-tariff Measures **8 17**
- Trade Negotiations **10**
- Sustainable Trade and the Environment **8 17**
- Investment Promotion and Facilitation **9 17**

Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

- Support to Graduation from Least Developed Country Status **8**
- DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System **17**
- UNCTAD Contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework **9 17**
- Market Access, Rules of Origin and Geographical Indications for the Least Developed Countries **8 10 17**
- Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence **8 9**
- Sustainable and Resilient Transport **8 9**

Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

- Competition and Consumer Protection Policies and Frameworks **8 10**
- Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Laws and Policies **8 10**
- Business Facilitation **8 16**
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- ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data **9**
- Statistics **17**
- Corporate Accounting and Reporting **12 17**
- Investment and Public Health **3 9**
- International Investment Agreements **17**

Empowering people, investing in their future

- Trade, Gender and Development **5 8**
- Entrepreneurship Development **4 8**
- Train for Trade **8 9**

PARTNERING WITH UNCTAD

Governments, international institutions – including international and regional development finance institutions – and other public and private entities wishing to become a partner of UNCTAD and provide funding for its technical cooperation activities are welcome to contact the Technical Cooperation Section of UNCTAD. The Technical Cooperation Section can provide further information on technical cooperation work and funding needs and can organize meetings, and/or correspond in writing as necessary, in order to define the scope and areas of an eventual agreement with a partner.

Contact details

Technical Cooperation Section
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: 41 22 917 5594
Fax: 41 22 917 0043
Email: tc@unctad.org
Website: unctad.org

The annual reports on UNCTAD technical cooperation work, as well as up-to-date information on publications, technical cooperation projects and meetings, can be found on the UNCTAD website at unctad.org.

HOW TO REQUEST TECHNICAL COOPERATION

A State member of UNCTAD or a regional institution wishing to obtain technical cooperation from the UNCTAD secretariat should submit a formal request. Formal requests refer to official letters, or emails in exceptional cases, from relevant authorities in beneficiary countries or regions, addressed to the UNCTAD secretariat and requesting UNCTAD technical cooperation.

Key elements in a formal request

A formal request for UNCTAD technical cooperation should usually include the following key information:

- Requesting country
- Requesting authority and contact details
- Request date
- Main areas where UNCTAD technical cooperation is requested or main *UNCTAD Toolbox* product(s) requested
- Reasons for which UNCTAD technical cooperation is requested
- How UNCTAD technical cooperation can contribute to the national development strategy
- Source of funding

Member States and regional organizations are requested to provide complete information with respect to the above-mentioned elements. If necessary, the Technical Cooperation Section can provide further information on the technical cooperation work of UNCTAD, including its technical cooperation products, and can organize meetings to provide advice on the preparation of formal requests.

Clearance and uploading of a formal request

Upon receipt of a request, the UNCTAD secretariat will verify whether all the key information has been provided; designate the responsible division(s); ensure that the scope of UNCTAD technical cooperation is clearly defined; and clarify the budget information and funding status. In consultation with the requesting country or organization, the UNCTAD secretariat may consider organizing additional meetings and/or sending a fact-finding mission, if funding is available, in order to better define its technical cooperation activities.

Upon clearance by the UNCTAD secretariat, the request will be uploaded to the online request database on the UNCTAD website, at unctad.org under projects. If there are requests for which funds are not fully secured, UNCTAD will seek to support beneficiary countries in their efforts to mobilize the funds necessary for implementation of the project.

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TRANSFORMING ECONOMIES, FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires building productive capacity and transforming economies by shifting resources to more productive and sustainable sectors and enhancing their competitiveness. Investment, trade and technology are important channels for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation. Trade and trade-related investment, combined with technology upgrading, could enable countries to improve productivity, develop productive capacities and climb regional and global value chains. UNCTAD technical cooperation helps developing countries attract foreign direct investment (FDI) towards sectors that could lead to structural transformation and better integration into regional and global value chains, and foster the nexus between trade, productive capacity and employment, while integrating sustainable development objectives at all levels. It also supports countries in formulating services-driven development strategies, developing national green sectors and electronic commerce (e-commerce) and leveraging science, technology and innovation for productive capacity-building.



INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEWS

LEVERAGING INVESTMENT POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

FDI is a major catalyst for development and can boost growth, offer new employment opportunities and enhance trade in goods and services. FDI is also an integral part of an open and effective economy. With its potential linkages with the domestic economy – such as technology transfer, human capital formation and creation of new industries – it can also stimulate the greater integration of developing countries into the global economy.

The benefits of FDI do not automatically materialize, nor are they spread evenly across countries. To fully reap them, FDI inflows should be promoted through conducive national policies geared at transforming and diversifying a country's economy and supported by an effective international investment architecture.

To support developing countries in attracting FDI, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies – Investment Policy Reviews – of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment. The Reviews, specific to each country, are published as advisory reports containing concrete policy advice. UNCTAD then provides technical assistance activities to support beneficiary countries in implementing the Reviews' recommendations and improving the prospects for sustainable development.



WHAT MAKES INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEWS EFFECTIVE?

Investment Policy Reviews are carried out in different phases. The approach promotes national ownership and encourages countries to learn from others. Best practices are exchanged, as well as stories of failures.

A Review begins at the request of a Government. The national counterpart, either a ministry or an agency, is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

Each Review takes a country-specific approach to attracting and benefiting from FDI. The publication of the Investment Policy Review report is part of a process that promotes the implementation of recommendations.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Review countries across different regions experienced significant increases in FDI inflows and displayed less volatile FDI inflows, for example the least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa.
- Country commitment to the Reviews is evident, with endorsement of policy recommendations and their implementation as displayed by follow-up assessments. Several implementation reports among the 14 completed to date have shown a good to strong implementation record, increased interest by existing investors and strengthened capacity to market investment opportunities.
- Interest in the programme is illustrated by the many countries – of 48 with Reviews – requesting follow-up technical assistance and the 27 new countries that have requested to benefit from the Reviews.
- Over 350 policy recommendations have been implemented to date.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Starting date: 1999

Reviews per year: 3 to 4

Reviews to date:
48, including 20 LDCs and
28 countries in Africa

Upcoming reviews: Angola,
Cabo Verde, Chad and Lebanon

Website: unctad.org/ipr



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 8 and 17

Indirectly: 1, 2, 10 and 16

Brief highlights

- *The Investment Policy Review of Mauritius recommended several reforms to upgrade and intensify the country's diversification drive. Over 95 per cent of the recommendations were implemented, with dramatic impacts on FDI levels, economic diversification and poverty reduction.*
- *Out of 32 countries for which a Review was published more than three years previously, 29 experienced an increase in FDI inflows in subsequent years, and for 19 of these countries, such increases were dramatic, with FDI inflows having more than doubled.*

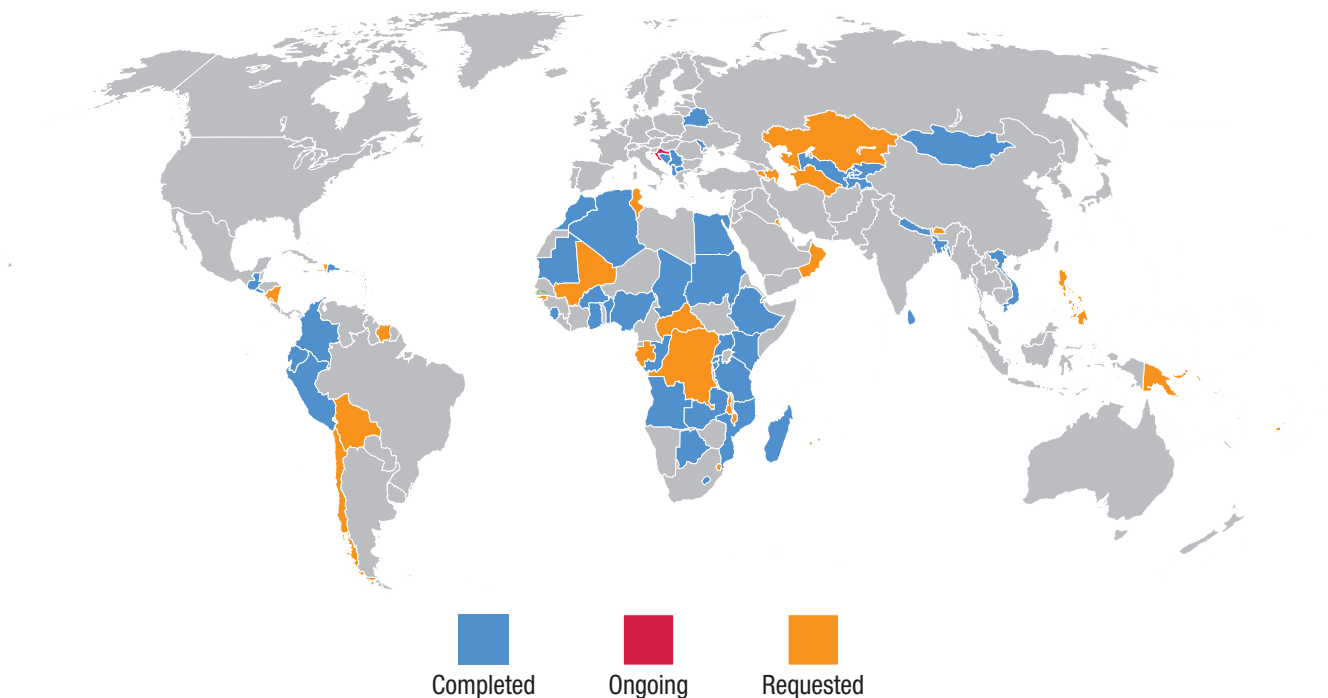


**DONORS/
FUNDING SOURCE**

Current: Norway, Sweden and Switzerland

Past: China, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, United Nations Development Programme and Inter-American Development Bank

Investment Policy Reviews



SERVICES POLICY REVIEWS

REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF SERVICES



GLOBAL CONTEXT



International trade in services expanded rapidly between 2005 and 2016 – faster than both global gross domestic product and merchandise trade – with total exports increasing from about \$2.7 trillion to \$4.9 trillion. Developing economies have achieved strong growth in their services exports since 2005, increasing their share of world exports from 23.1 per cent in 2005 to 29.4 per cent in 2016. Developing Asia recorded the sharpest growth.

Services are also essential to the efficient functioning of economies. Services, and in particular infrastructural services, improve value addition, promote employment and facilitate trade in manufacturing and agriculture. The services economy and trade have the potential to induce structural transformation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet many Governments face challenges in identifying and addressing the services-related needs of the domestic economy and then translating them into policy and negotiating positions, with a view to enhancing the quantity and quality of services output.

UNCTAD assists developing countries to seize the opportunities offered by a services-driven development strategy. UNCTAD developed Services Policy Reviews to systematically analyse the economic, regulatory and institutional frameworks that impact on the services sector of a given country. Services Policy Reviews provide recommendations to policymakers to improve policies as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks and to identify trade policy options that advance national and sectoral development objectives.



HOW ARE SERVICES POLICIES REVIEWED?

UNCTAD carries out Services Policy Reviews at the request of Governments. Each Review includes policy analysis and research, as well as multi-stakeholder meetings at the national level for fact-finding, awareness-raising and consensus-building. Once completed, the Reviews offer policy recommendations for the overall services sector of a developing country and for the specific sectors chosen by the Government.

The recommendations focus on how a country can more effectively expand its services sector, creating jobs and helping to raise living standards. UNCTAD can further assist Governments in the implementation of the policy recommendations presented in the Reviews.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 2009

Reviews per year: 2–3

Reviews to date: 12

(Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Uganda (two phases), Rwanda, Lesotho, Bangladesh, Angola, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua)

Website:

unctad.org/services/sprs



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 9

Indirectly: 10 and 17





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Following the two Reviews for **Uganda**, the country developed a national policy on services trade, to ensure competitiveness in the services sector, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2017 for implementation.
- The Review for **Bangladesh** – the fifth LDC to benefit from such assistance – helped the country formulate pragmatic policies for its emerging services sectors and review opportunities it may pursue under the World Trade Organization waiver to grant preferential treatment to services and service suppliers from LDC members.
- In 2016, the Economic Community of West African States launched a regional services policy review as a tool for developing a common trade policy in services in the region and for identifying regional negotiating positions for the services negotiations under the Continental Free Trade Area and the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the region and the European Union.

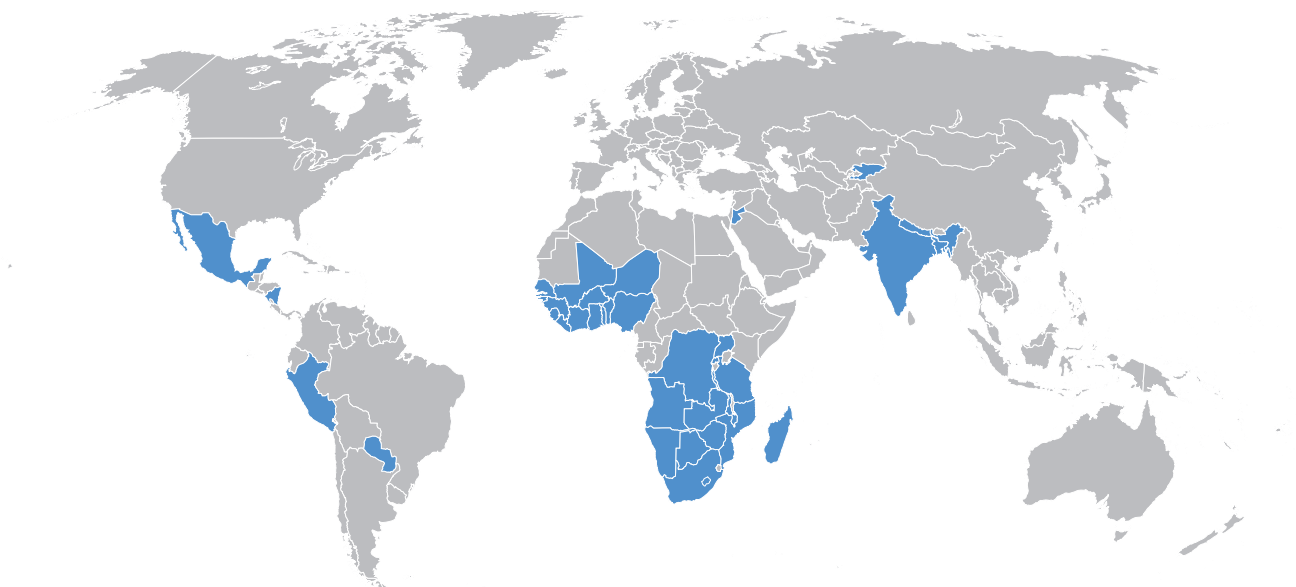


DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account and UNCTAD General Trust Fund on Services, Development and Trade

Past: China, France, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Nations Development Account

Service Policy Reviews completed to date



TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEWS

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF TRADE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT



International trade is an engine for economic growth that can contribute to promoting sustainable development. It can be a powerful force for creating jobs, fostering efficient use of resources, stimulating entrepreneurship and ultimately lifting people out of poverty. Many developing countries, however, have limited capacity to analyse the relationship between trade, productive capacity and employment, assess policy options and formulate and implement adequate national trade policy frameworks. This hampers their ability to make full use of the transformative power of trade for development.

The UNCTAD Trade Policy Framework Reviews help countries assess their trade policy regimes in a systematic, comprehensive and strategic manner, to identify possible areas for improvement. The Reviews focus on identifying key sectors for diversification with the potential to bring higher economic value, setting the right trade policies to back up those development priorities and establishing a trade policy framework to ensure effective implementation of such strategies. The aim is for Trade Policy Framework Reviews to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according to a country's own needs. The Reviews, via analysis and workshops, provide the tools to policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that enable them to set their own priorities, make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at the sectoral level.



HOW ARE THE LINKS BETWEEN TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MADE?

A Review is initiated at the request of a Government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

The first level of intervention consists of analytical and advisory support to raise awareness and enhance understanding, among key trade policy stakeholders, on the link between trade and development and poverty. The next step consists of training activities to enhance the expertise of government officials involved in the formulation of national trade-related policies. Lastly, the third level of intervention focuses on concrete and hands-on support for the formulation of national trade policy – to best reflect the country's priorities and needs – and facilitating multi-stakeholder consultation towards its adoption and implementation.

In concrete terms, preparation of a Review is preceded by national multi-stakeholder consultative workshops, to engage with national stakeholders to identify key trade and development challenges faced by the country and possible remedies and policy reforms. Following the preparation of the Review by UNCTAD, the analysis and policy recommendations emanating from the Review are reviewed and validated at national multi-stakeholder validation workshops for further governmental actions, as appropriate.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: late 1990s (original approach); 2013 (updated methodology)

Reviews per year: 2 (average)

Reviews to date: 40+ country and/or regional assessments of overall or sectoral trade policies

Website:
unctad.org/TPF-Reviews

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 17
Indirectly: 8 and 9





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Reviews have been conducted since 2013 of nine countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia.
- Based on the work of UNCTAD, in 2010, Rwanda adopted a new comprehensive trade policy framework.
- Following the Review prepared by UNCTAD, Jamaica is in the process of adopting a new trade policy framework.
- Several countries have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures by formulating draft national trade policy legislation and an implementation road map, such as Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. For example, in Botswana, an updated draft national trade policy has been prepared by the Government, and the Review helped Zambia to move towards export diversification.

"Words alone are not enough to thank UNCTAD for its financial and technical support provided for the preparation of Zambia's trade policy framework. Long live this UNCTAD–Government partnership and we will engage you again in the implementation phase very soon."

Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia, 2016

"UNCTAD has been very supportive in the area of trade policy formulation and in building our capacity to implement the recommendations of the review."

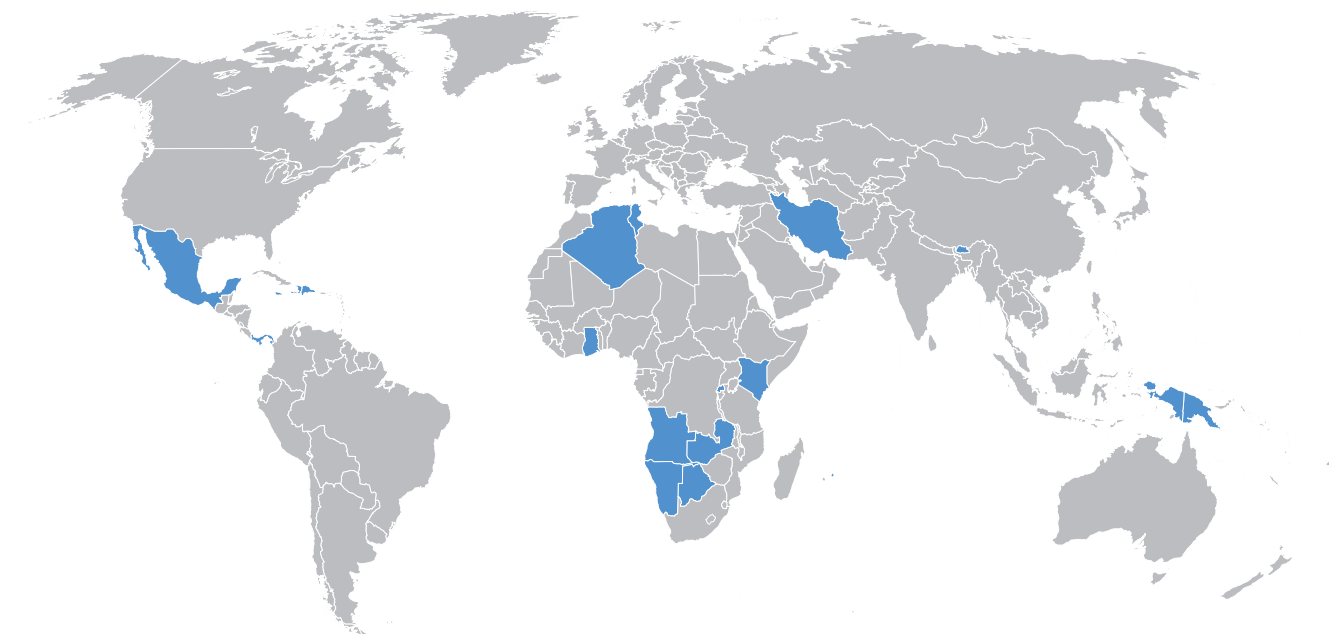
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, 2015



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Past: United Nations
Development Account

Trade Policy Framework Reviews completed to date



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

FACTORING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Building national capacities in science, technology and innovation at the firm, farm, industry and national levels is essential for local industries in developing countries to compete in today's increasingly globally integrated and knowledge-based economy. The capacity to adopt and use technologies, and to innovate, is critical to diversifying the production of goods and services into new areas with higher value added, in order to raise productivity, generate well-paid jobs, raise living standards, reduce poverty, improve social welfare and address environmental challenges. It has become increasingly clear that the attainment of all the social, economic and environmental objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals will be difficult, if not impossible, without the effective application of technology and the development of strong national innovation capacity.

UNCTAD is the United Nations focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD developed the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews in 1998 to assist developing countries in assessing science, technology and innovation systems and building innovation capacity at the firm, farm, industry and national levels. The starting point for the Reviews is that it is essential to harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Achieving this requires mainstreaming science, technology and innovation policy into national development strategies and plans and promoting coherence among key development policy areas related to technology and innovation. The Reviews seek to achieve both of these goals in order to support a country's broader national sustainable development agenda.



HOW CAN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION BE FACTORED IN?

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews are undertaken at the request of Governments. The Reviews include an assessment of the governance of science, technology and innovation; science, technology and innovation policies, rules and regulations; infrastructure; and firm, industry and national-level innovation capabilities. They usually include a mapping of innovation systems, along with in-depth studies of specific sectors or issues related to science, technology and innovation that are particularly important for development in the country. They include policy recommendations for fostering technology upgrading, strengthening innovation capacity and enhancing the systems or ecosystems that support innovation. They generally incorporate some scope for follow-up implementation, often including a capacity-building programme. UNCTAD is revising its framework for undertaking the Reviews in order to better align them with the policy agenda of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: : 1998–2005 (first series); 2008 (current series)

Reviews per year: 1–2

Reviews to date: 11 (current series)

Upcoming Reviews: Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Uganda

Website: unctad.org/STIPreviews



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 9

Indirectly: 8, 12 and 17

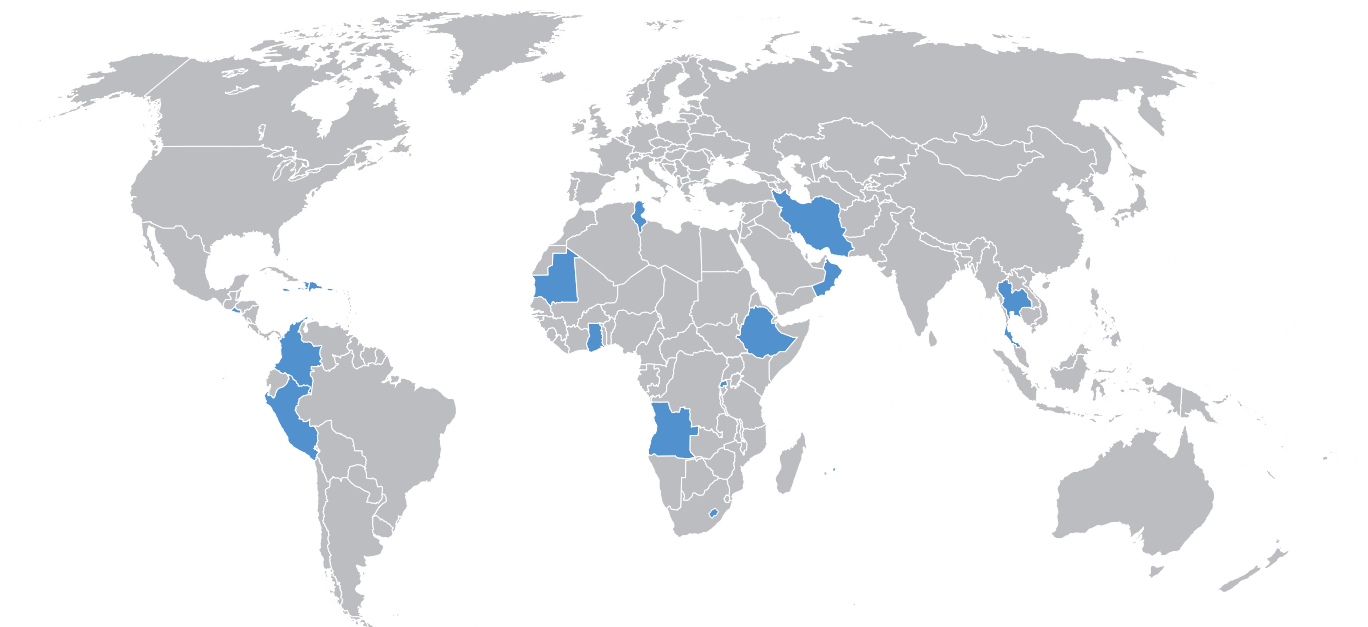


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Current: United Nations Development Account

Past: Germany and United Nations Development Programme

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews completed by end-November 2017

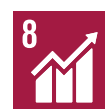


E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

LEVERAGING E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT



E-commerce – and more generally the rise of the digital economy – is rapidly transforming the way in which enterprises are interacting among each other, as well as with consumers and Governments. E-commerce is creating new opportunities for technological leaps, productivity gains across the economy, the rise of new sectors and boosting trade. At the same time, the transformation is raising new challenges and costs for countries. Some of the greatest dynamism in e-commerce and information and communications technologies (ICTs) can be found in developing countries, but the potential is far from fully realized.

Making ICTs work for development means adapting to the benefits and the legal challenges that go along with their use. Conducting domestic and international trade online has to be simplified, and there is a need for legal protection for users and providers in order to ensure that citizens, consumers and enterprises can trust online transactions. Developing countries should establish legal, institutional and policy frameworks, as well as effective national strategies, to leverage the dynamism of e-commerce, whether via the Internet, mobile telephones or cloud computing. Developing countries, including LDCs, require better access to reliable statistics on the digital economy. It is also important for policymakers to receive evidence-based guidance on the design of sound policies and to learn from best practices in securing development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. Seizing development gains from this evolving landscape requires a holistic, cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach.



HOW CAN THE BENEFITS OF E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY BE HARNESS?

UNCTAD offers several technical assistance programmes to assist Governments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in harnessing the benefits of e-commerce and the digital economy, as follows:

- (a) The E-Commerce and Law Reform Programme helps to build the capacity of law and policymakers at the national and regional levels to understand the legal issues underpinning e-commerce. Concrete actions include the following:
- Assistance in establishing domestic and regional legal regimes to enhance trust in online transactions and offer legal protection for users and providers of e-commerce and electronic government services;
 - Organization of national and regional capacity-building workshops for law and policymakers;
 - Mapping of e-commerce legislation in the areas of electronic transactions, data protection, cybercrime and consumer protection online, available at unctad.org/cyberlawtracker.
- (b) UNCTAD work on measuring the information economy includes statistical data collection (focusing on ICT use in enterprises, the ICT sector and ICT trade), technical assistance (for example, capacity-building to produce official statistics on the information economy), the development of methodologies and research



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: Developing countries and LDCs

Start date: 1999 (new components added in 2007, 2009 and 2016)

Projects per year: 10 (average)

Projects to date: 53 (e-commerce and law reform: 27; measuring the information economy: 18; ICT Policy Reviews: 3; rapid eTrade readiness assessments: 5)

Partners: 26 (public sector and civil society); 30+ (private sector)

Summary of success: 2,650 persons trained and 7 national reviews completed

Website: unctad.org/ict4d; unctad.org/ictpr; etradeforall.org

UNCTADstat database: unctadstat.unctad.org

Sustainable Development

Goals addressed:

Directly: 8, 9 and 17

Indirectly: 5



and analysis presented and published in the annual *Information Economy Report* and the statistics portal UNCTADstat.

- (c) The ICT Policy Review Programme provides technical assistance, advisory services, diagnostics and strategy development on e-commerce and national ICT planning at the request of Governments. Through analysis of the infrastructural, policy, regulatory, institutional, operational and socioeconomic landscape, the Reviews help Governments to overcome weaknesses and bureaucratic barriers, leverage strengths and opportunities and put in place strategies to maximize the benefits of ICTs and e-commerce.
- (d) The eTrade for all initiative was launched as a collaborative effort to scale up cooperation, transparency and aid efficiency towards more inclusive e-commerce. At the core of the initiative, the eTrade for all online platform, at etradeforall.org, helps countries navigate the technical and financial services available to drive development through e-commerce. Through the platform, beneficiaries can connect with potential partners, learn about trends and best practices, access up-to-date e-commerce data and be informed about upcoming e-commerce events. eTrade for all works in close cooperation with more than 30 contributors to Business for eTrade Development (business4etrade.org/), the premier private sector voice for optimizing public policies and leveraging cross-border e-commerce worldwide.
- (e) The Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments Programme assists LDCs in assessing their e-commerce readiness, in order that they can better engage in and benefit from e-commerce. The aim is to help LDCs take stock of their ICT and e-commerce capabilities and formulate a strategy to overcome barriers and bottlenecks to the growth of digital trade.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The E-commerce and Law Reform Programme pioneered the introduction of the legal dimension of ICTs in more than 20 LDCs and 63 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The East African Community became the first African region to adopt a harmonized framework for cyberlaws
- UNCTAD has trained over 250 national statistical officers from 117 countries and contributed to the definition of the core ICT-related indicators of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- As part of the ICT Policy Review Programme, the Government of Egypt developed and launched its first official national e-commerce survey of its microenterprises, covering all governorates in the country. Inter-agency collaboration between UNCTAD and the World Bank for the national e-commerce strategy for Egypt for 2015–2017 led to the development of a comprehensive strategy on electronic payments for e-commerce in a developing country.
- As at November 2017, the eTrade for all website, offering a platform for cooperation opportunities and knowledge exchange

between donors, beneficiary countries and development partners, had on average about 2,600 monthly visitors.

"The strategy is a solid foundation for stimulating e-commerce growth in Egypt throughout the coming years. I wish to express my appreciation for all the efforts and dedication by UNCTAD on this strategy. Egypt is heading steadily towards achieving better economic performance, inclusive growth and sustainable development. This strategy is a concrete step towards bringing this aspiration into reality."

Mr. Yasser El-Kady, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt, March 2017

"Leveraging e-commerce is a challenge that requires a joint multi-stakeholder effort and the [eTrade for all] initiative provides the perfect framework for collaboration."

Mr. Jovan Kurbalija, Director, DiploFoundation, and Head, Geneva Internet Platform (eTrade for all partner)



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Germany, Finland, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Enhanced Integrated Framework and MasterCard

Past: United Nations Development Account

INVESTMENT GUIDES

STRENGTHENING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BY PROMOTING INVESTMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

FDI has the potential to contribute to economic growth and social development. It can bring capital, technology, management know-how and access to new markets. Compared with other forms of capital flows, FDI is also more stable, with a longer-term commitment to the host economy.

Attracting FDI and facilitating decision-making on investments, however, is not a given. Host countries need to be able to provide potential investors with up-to-date information, ranging from business costs and investment opportunities to investment-related legal and regulatory frameworks, in areas such as company registration, land acquisition, labour laws and tax regimes. UNCTAD investment guides are a joint product of UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. They aim to raise awareness among the global investment community of the opportunities and conditions for investment in beneficiary countries. Since 2013, all investment guides – “iGuides” – are web-based. This means that investment guides can be easily updated to reflect changes in legislation, infrastructure, costs or taxes. It also means investment guides can include full texts of laws, legal instruments and hard, time-sensitive data that would be difficult for investors to find without visiting a country. Developing an investment guide helps to build the capacity of local institutions in investment promotion, as Governments of beneficiary countries are responsible for researching, inputting and updating data with the training support of UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce.



WHAT ADVANTAGES DO INVESTMENT GUIDES OFFER?

Investment guides are developed jointly with the Governments of beneficiary countries, at their request. Once an investment guide is ready, it typically allows potential investors to get three types of investment information: (a) locally-available data, costs and prices – including wages, taxes, rent values, utility prices and transport costs; (b) relevant rules and licensing requirements, timelines and useful contacts; and (c) experiences of established investors and investment case studies.

Usually, developing an investment guide requires the steps outlined below:

- Following a request from a Government, a team from UNCTAD visits the country together with an onsite team of staff nominated by implementing partners. The UNCTAD team conducts preliminary research on the laws and institutions regulating investors.
- During the UNCTAD visit, the onsite team can ask questions and begins to input information directly into the investment guide website, based on information standards and training provided by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. The training provided can include anything from identifying investment-specific issues and information gathering, to how to present information on the web and maintenance techniques.
- After the country visit, UNCTAD staff guide and monitor the work

of the implementing partner staff, as they conduct research, input information into and update the investment guide website, and provide feedback on the type and quality of information entered to further enhance capacity.

- The investment guide is launched at a stakeholder workshop where comments and recommendations of participants are taken into account to further improve the product.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2000

Investment guides produced per year: 3 (average)

Investment guides to date: 29

Website: theiguides.org



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 9 and 17





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- 29 online or printed investment guides have been produced to date, covering individual countries, regions and groupings, including guides for LDCs, the East African Community and the Silk Road region.
- Among 17 selected beneficiary countries or regions for which investment guides have been produced, 13 countries or regions have seen their average FDI inflows in the four years following the publication of their guides increase by at least twofold, compared to average FDI inflows in the four years preceding the publication. Such a contribution of investment guides to increased FDI inflows can be seen in Rwanda, for example, which registered a tenfold increase in FDI inflows.
- Following the launch of the Bhutan investment guide, Druk PNB Bank, one of the country's largest, circulated the guide to its clients, investors and partners for their use, calling it innovative and user friendly.

"This investment guide will improve transparency, reduce bureaucracy, improve the business environment and strengthen relations with investors."

Mr. Chimediiin Saikhanbileg,
Prime Minister of Mongolia, 2014–2016

"The investment guide is a reliable and credible online tool that will help both orient and provide information to foreign and local investors, and improve Benin's business climate."

Mr. Is-Deen Bouraima,
Director, Investment and Exports
Promotion Agency, Benin

"The iGuide is a one-stop place for investment information about Rwanda... It is because of the iGuide that Rwanda is pushing ahead of other countries in Africa in attracting investments."

United Nations Resident Coordinator,
Rwanda, 2013

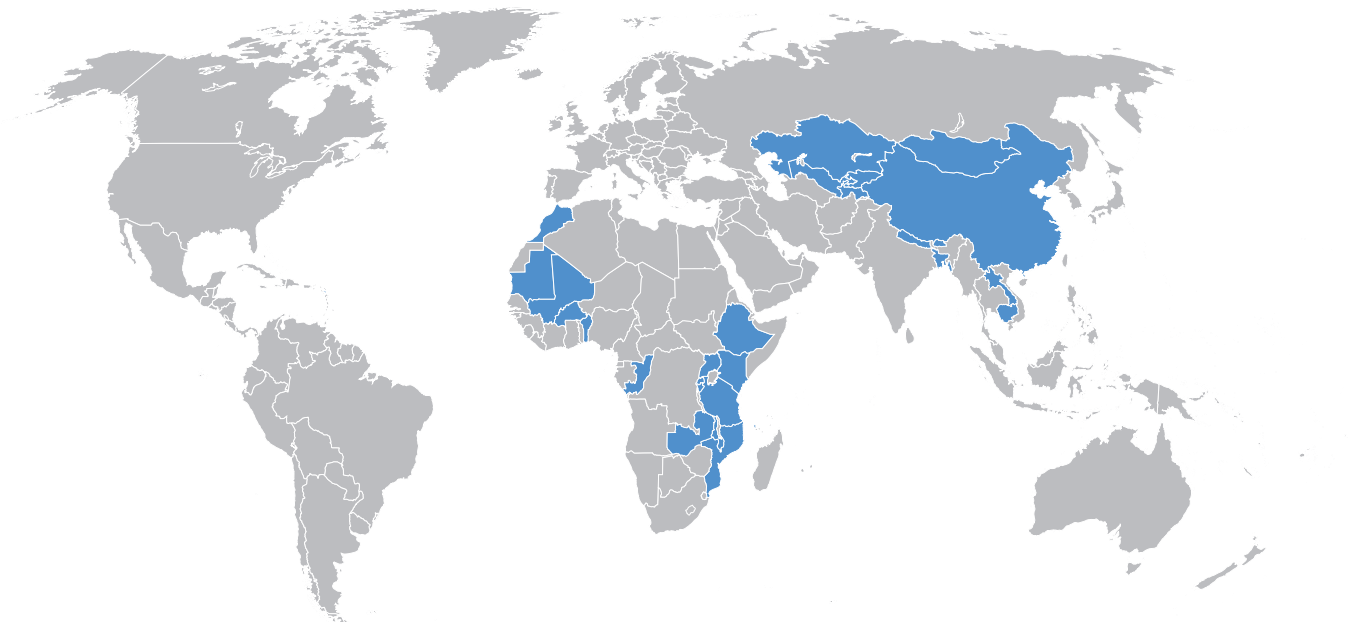


DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Multi-donor/Cross-Cluster Trust Fund on Capacity-building in Investment for Development, China, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland

Past: France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and United Nations Development Account

Investment guides produced to date



NON-TARIFF MEASURES

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND CONVERGENCE OF REGULATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Non-tariff measures affect lives every day. Packaging requirements and limits on the use of pesticides ensure safe food in supermarkets; restrictions on toxins in toys protect children; mandatory safety standards on electrical household appliances prevent electric shocks; and emissions standards for vehicles influence climate change. Currently, 90 per cent of global trade is affected by such regulatory non-tariff measures; traditional trade barriers such as quotas are less common. Regulatory measures are indispensable and crucial for sustainable development. Their elimination is not an option.

However, non-tariff measures also raise consumer prices and create barriers to trade and economic development. UNCTAD estimates show that the aggregate impact of non-tariff measures is three times higher than that of tariffs. Non-tariff measures affect trade through compliance and procedural costs, which often disproportionately burden small enterprises and poorer countries.

Striking a balance between trade costs and regulatory benefits requires transparency, policy coherence and international-level regulatory convergence. For developing countries, understanding the uses and implications of such measures is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

The UNCTAD Non-Tariff Measures Programme focuses on the means of reducing trade costs while enabling policymakers to fully achieve public policy objectives, such as protecting health and the environment.



HOW CAN COUNTRIES BETTER ADDRESS NON-TARIFF MEASURES?

UNCTAD has been working on research and capacity-building related to non-tariff measures since the early 1980s. It assists policymakers along the entire “value chain” of non-tariff measures, ranging from definition and classification to data collection and dissemination, to research and policy support. Specifically, UNCTAD assists developing countries through the following three tools:

- (a) Increasing transparency through data collection and dissemination. UNCTAD assists Governments in establishing greater transparency on non-tariff measures within regional trade agreements, to facilitate trade and stimulate economic growth. In collaboration with many partners, UNCTAD has developed a proven and widely accepted methodology to systematically collect and disseminate information on non-tariff measures. At a national level, increased transparency helps various domestic regulatory agencies to achieve interministerial policy coherence.
- (b) Capacity-building through online courses. Two online training courses are available and may be complemented by face-to-face training workshops, as follows:
 - Non-tariff measures transparency and data collection. This online training course enables participants to review national policy



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2008

Activities: Non-tariff measures data collected in 80 countries; 400+ persons trained in online courses; 3 Regional Non-Tariff Measures Integration Reviews conducted; 50+ training workshops and advisory missions conducted

Activities per year: Non-tariff measures data collected in 20+ countries; 100 participants trained online; 1 Regional Non-Tariff Measures Integration Review and 10–15 workshops and/or advisory missions conducted

Website: unctad.org/ntm;
trains.unctad.org



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 17

Indirectly: 2, 9 and 12

frameworks and collect comprehensive information on non-tariff measures. The course consists of the following five modules: introduction to non-tariff measures; classification of non-tariff measures; classification of products; guidelines on collecting data on non-tariff measures; and hands-on exercises. Successful participants are awarded certification by UNCTAD as a non-tariff measures data collector;

- Trade policy analysis. This online training course enhances capacity in developing countries to analyse and implement trade policy. *A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis* – a co-publication of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization – serves as the main reference for the course, and the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solution software (developed in collaboration with UNCTAD) is another core component. Training is tailored to the needs of each audience, with a more technical focus for analysts and a more discursive and descriptive approach for policy-oriented audiences.
- (c) Regional Non-Tariff Measures Integration Reviews and tailored advisory services. The Reviews provide analytical support for regional integration processes by systematically addressing non-tariff measures in regional trade agreements. A Review consists of an economic impact assessment, an institutional analysis to identify strengths and weaknesses in the regional integration of non-tariff measures and a validation workshop to develop strategies for deeper regional integration. Further tailored advisory services and support for trade negotiations are available upon request.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- *Enhanced transparency*
The UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System is the most comprehensive database on non-tariff measures. In recent years, significant improvements in data quality and coverage have been achieved. The database now covers over 85 per cent of world trade. The Trade Analysis and Information System is accessible through the UNCTAD portal, at trains.unctad.org, and the World Bank World Integrated Trade Solution portal, at wits.worldbank.org.
- *Online training in non-tariff measures transparency and analysis*
More than 400 participants have been trained through the online courses. Over 90 per cent of participants in the transparency and data collection course found the knowledge acquired during the training extremely or very useful. For example, the course helped one participant in shaping the methodology used for a proposal on assessing the impact of non-tariff measures on exports from the United Republic of Tanzania in the East African Community. Another participant noted that the course would help in regular reporting to the World Trade Organization on trade policy measures.
- *Regional Non-Tariff Measures Integration Reviews*
The Review in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was highly appreciated by stakeholders and workshop participants. SADC officials used the study to respond to a request from the SADC Committee of Ministers Responsible for Trade for a strategic plan to eliminate non-tariff barriers in the region.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Japan, Russian Federation, United States of America and United Nations Development Account

Past: Canada, Germany, European Commission and World Bank

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

SUPPORTING BENEFICIAL INTEGRATION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Trade remains an important instrument for economic growth and development. However, what countries liberalize and how and in what sequence they liberalize their economies matters, as do the complementary policies and national development strategies that they choose to implement. The engagement of countries in the international trading system and trade negotiations therefore remains important, and needs to be consistent with the overall development imperatives as enunciated in the Sustainable Development Goals and national development objectives and priorities.

In this light, reaping effective development benefits from participation in the multilateral trading system, as well as parallel and proliferating plurilateral, regional and subregional trade integration processes, remains an important challenge for national policymakers and trade negotiators. The multilateral trade architecture continues to be a central element of the global partnership for sustainable development as provided under target 17.10. It should therefore be continuously supported and strengthened, and countries' efforts aimed at their integration therein need to be facilitated, for it to serve as an essential enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within this global context, UNCTAD provides capacity-building support to developing countries, in particular LDCs, and countries with economies in transition, in their engagement in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, including accession to the World Trade Organization, South–South trade cooperation and preferences and the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations, addressing such specific substantive policy areas as agriculture, market access, services, rules, special and differential treatment, dispute settlement and other trade-related rules, disciplines and procedures.



HOW DOES UNCTAD DELIVER SUPPORT ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS?

UNCTAD support on trade negotiations aims to help beneficiary countries enhance their human, analytical, regulatory and institutional capacities in trade negotiations and agreements. The ultimate objective is to allow them to better draw benefits from international trade and the international trading system. Greater emphasis is placed on building national capacities to establish negotiating priorities and identify practical policy options in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, through research supporting evidence-based policymaking, along with advisory and capacity-building support to regional coordinators, national negotiating teams and regional institutions through various intervention methods.

At the multilateral level, UNCTAD works closely with the regional coordinators of developing country groupings, such as Africa, LDCs and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, as well as individual countries, to provide analytical and advisory support for their consideration of negotiating issues, implications and options, upon request. For countries acceding to the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD provides



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All developing countries, including LDCs and countries with economies in transition

Start date: 1990

Countries assisted: 70+

Website: unctad.org/tncd



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 10

Indirectly: 8, 9 and 17

hands-on support to national negotiating teams to build national capacities and institutions to effectively conduct policy reform and manage all stages of accession, that is, before, during and after. At the regional level, UNCTAD partners with regional entities such as the African Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and regional economic communities, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States and SADC, to support their constituencies' effective engagement in regional trade negotiations, such as the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, as well as Continental Free Trade Area processes.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- A 2015 external evaluation, in assessing subprogramme 3 (international trade), pointed to recognition of the comparative advantages of UNCTAD: "Stakeholders note that UNCTAD provides valuable support to LDCs and developing countries in pre-accession and accession stages in ways that others cannot... Unlike [the World Trade Organization], which can only address technical aspects related to rules and must refrain from any policy advice, UNCTAD's mandate tasks it with providing advice on policy options and alternatives for acceding States and backstopping the accession process. UNCTAD has flexibility to advise on bilateral and regional trade agreements, which are beyond the mandate of [the World Trade Organization]."
- UNCTAD has assisted the following countries that have acceded to the World Trade Organization: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, China, the Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Liberia and Seychelles became full members of the World Trade Organization in 2014–2016.
- UNCTAD support on Continental Free Trade Area negotiations has been appreciated by its partners. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 10 March 2017, Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner of Trade and Industry, African Union, stated that the contribution of UNCTAD to the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum was critical and noted her "sincere hope that you will continue to make your teams available to support the [Continental Free Trade Area] in its various institutions – including but not limited to the [Negotiating Forum]".

"My colleagues were very impressed with [UNCTAD] knowledge and experience in trade matters. The [draft] trade development act has come out very well..."

Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan, following
an UNCTAD consultative mission, 2015

"I am also very happy to have had the opportunity to see UNCTAD deliver and perform so well at the country level..."

UNCTAD does make a difference, a message I have conveyed to my capital in capital letters."

Ambassador of Norway, Member of team of
independent evaluators, at a session of the
Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the
Programme Budget



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Past: China, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden (through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization), the United Kingdom and United Nations Development Account

SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMIES



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in designing and implementing mutually supportive trade, environment, climate change and sustainable development strategies while integrating sustainable development objectives at all levels. UNCTAD work explores the trade opportunities arising from multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment-related negotiations. It promotes sustainable trade in sectors that contribute to further economic growth, job creation and opportunities for social inclusion.

UNCTAD work is based on requests from developing countries to examine the development impact and economic repercussions of existing and potential multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment negotiations and how best to address the challenges and seize the opportunities related to trade. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles under the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCTAD facilitates multilateral and expert processes in areas in which the environmental aspect is central to trade. Making economic growth compatible with sustainable development requires adequate policies and mechanisms, and UNCTAD programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment work towards stimulating economic diversification, creating jobs, raising income levels and fostering environmental protection, thereby improving living standards.



PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

- The Climate Change Programme brings Governments, industry and civil society together to address the economic aspects of climate change and its trade and sustainable development implications in several sectors of the economy, such as transportation, energy use, electricity generation and agriculture.
- The BioTrade Initiative works at the national, regional and global levels with partners along the following three strategic lines: enabling a policy framework for biotrade; value chain enhancement; and market creation and development for biodiversity products and services. As one means of enhancing the value chain, UNCTAD has developed a biotrade value chain methodology to support the growth of biodiversity-based sectors. The aim is to enhance the production of value added products and services derived from biodiversity, for both domestic and international markets.
- National Green Export Reviews assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement green economy policies and establish regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and competitiveness of their green export sectors. The Reviews respond to an emerging demand from developing countries to assess national potential to advance the development of national green sectors, generate new employment and increased export opportunities and advance sustainable development.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1997

Collaborative arrangements:
25+ programme partners

**National Green Export Reviews
completed:** 8

Website: unctad.org/environment

**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 8 and 17

Indirectly: 12 and 13



- The Oceans Economy Programme supports developing countries in seizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources. It promotes the sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors through analysing, developing and adopting evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies and enhancing national implementation capacities. With the support of the United Nations Development Account, in 2018, UNCTAD will launch an evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies programme, initially involving Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica.
- The Circular Economy Programme contributes to protecting the environment while providing an opportunity to save resources, develop new sectors, create jobs, generate income, decrease waste disposal costs and develop new capabilities. UNCTAD is working in this new area to assist developing countries in changing their trade patterns and improving the utilization of idle resources by developing and testing the application of technology-based solutions and cleaner production methods that will reduce the levels of environmental pollution generated by manufacturing activities. Underlying research activities target specific manufacturing sectors that are prevalent in developing countries and involve several types of commodities, such as textiles, clothing and leather, light manufacturing, household products, chemicals and petrochemicals, rubber and plastics.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD is currently working closely with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address countries' concerns about the negative effects of climate change response measures, as well as to explore ways to enable trade to be part of the global solution to address climate change.
- In the last two decades, BioTrade Initiative activities have benefited approximately 5 million farmers, producers and workers, creating jobs and generating additional income opportunities for rural and marginal communities, as well as other actors in the value chain. Sales revenues of BioTrade Initiative beneficiary organizations, working with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), community-based associations and multinational companies, amounted to €4.3 billion in 2015, compared with €35.3 million (\$40 million) in 2003.
- The National Green Export Reviews, through which national Governments and stakeholders prioritize sectors for deeper analysis, have assisted in the identification of dozens of new export products in 10 countries, namely Armenia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Oman, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Vanuatu.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Sweden, Switzerland (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) and United Nations Development Account

Past: Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and United Nations Foundation/United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND FACILITATION

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT



In the past 20 years, FDI has become an important factor in bringing capital, as well as jobs, technology and management skills, to many developing countries. Some developing countries have seen major benefits from these investments in terms of economic development and rising standards of living. FDI can also play a significant role in financing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in basic infrastructure, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, health and education. In order to do so, Governments need to mobilize private investment more efficiently, channel it into sustainable development sectors and maximize its positive economic, social and environmental impacts. As direct intermediaries between Governments and investors, investment promotion agencies have a crucial role to play.

Countries with great needs for investment in projects contributing to sustainable development often lack institutional capacity to catalyse foreign investment and maximize benefits generated by FDI inflows. UNCTAD strengthens the capacities of these countries to promote investment and gives them tools to identify, target and facilitate strategic investment projects. The Investment Promotion and Facilitation Programme includes advisory services, training, capacity-building for the development of online investment guides and high-level international meetings to share new developments, trends and best practices, as well as publications providing guidance on the institutional, policy and strategic aspects of investment promotion and facilitation. Through these activities, the Programme can help Governments promote economic growth and investments in Goals-related projects.



HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS BUILD INVESTMENT PROMOTION CAPACITIES?

The investment promotion advisory services of UNCTAD help create a policy and institutional framework for attracting and retaining FDI for sustainable development. Assistance is provided in areas such as policies, regulations, institutional arrangements, strategies and techniques. Investment promotion training builds capacities among professionals and diplomats in investor targeting, aftercare and policy advocacy, as well as in the promotion and facilitation of new business opportunities. Training is often carried out with partner organizations, including the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies.

Investment guides provide investors with strategic information online on the business environment of a country or region, including regulations, taxes, operating costs, prices and business opportunities, along with the experiences of established investors and investment case studies. Created jointly by UNCTAD, Governments and the International Chamber of Commerce, the guides help build the capacity of investment promotion agencies, as they are responsible for researching, inputting and updating the information. For more information, see the respective fact sheet in the *UNCTAD Toolbox*.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 1994

Conferences and workshops
per year: 8

Website: greenfdi.org



Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:

Directly: 9 and 17

Indirectly: 7 and 10

Investment promotion publications and newsflashes help investment promotion professionals learn about investment promotion strategies, best practices and trends. Special emphasis is put on green and sustainable sectors, such as in the *Promoting Low-Carbon Investment* guide, the Investment Promotion Agency Observer series and the monthly Smart Promotion Network newsflashes. Moreover, the greenFDI.org platform provides an extensive library of recent publications on attracting low-carbon investment, as well as information on upcoming events.

Investment promotion awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of best-practice investment promotion agencies in a variety of areas, and contribute to the dissemination of these practices among the investment promotion community.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Every year, 200 investment promotion professionals benefit from UNCTAD training and 700 investment stakeholders take part in high-level investment promotion meetings and conferences. In 2014–2017, UNCTAD trained investment promotion experts from more than 100 countries.
- 9 out of 10 participants in UNCTAD investment promotion training sessions rate the workshops as beneficial for their work.
- Through the UNCTAD programme on the promotion of green FDI, many developing countries have introduced or reinforced their activities in attracting low-carbon FDI.
- Since 2002, 46 investment promotion agencies have received investment promotion awards from UNCTAD for their achievements.

"I would like to take this opportunity for expressing our gratitude to UNCTAD for drafting a report on promoting FDI in solar energy with a special focus on India. This will be most useful for both the policymakers and the private stakeholders as we work towards our target of achieving 100GW in solar power by 2022."

Director and Chief Executive Officer,
Invest India, 2016



DONORS/
FUNDING SOURCE

Current: The Netherlands, Multi-donor Trust Fund on Capacity-building in Investment Promotion and United Nations Development Programme

Past: Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Finland, Ireland, Jordan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland and United Nations Development Account

TACKLING VULNERABILITIES, BUILDING RESILIENCE

Eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires joint and persistent efforts to tackle the specific challenges faced by weak and vulnerable economies. For example, poor people and nations are more vulnerable to external shocks. To build their economic resilience, structurally weak economies need to develop sound strategies to diversify economies and build productive capacity. In addition, to combat climate change, it is important to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure, conserve biodiversity and identify the best approaches to mitigating climate change while enhancing economic development prospects. UNCTAD technical assistance addresses the specific demand from LDCs, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict States to help them better address vulnerabilities and build resilience. In particular, UNCTAD helps to improve the capacities of developing countries to effectively manage debt, supports commodity-dependent developing countries in their diversification efforts, promotes trade and investment in biodiversity resources and assists LDCs in trade policymaking, market access and achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation from the LDC category. Many Governments in developing countries continue to have a limited capacity to build and maintain debt management systems and debt databases, and even middle-income countries with higher capacities may opt for a ready-made and customizable solution, such as that provided by the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme.

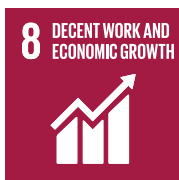


Photo credit: Stephan Gladieu © World Bank

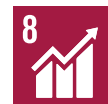


SUPPORT TO GRADUATION FROM LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS

HELPING THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO GRADUATE SMARTLY



GLOBAL CONTEXT



All developing countries aspire to achieve structural progress, notably through productive capacity-building, the paramount avenue for poverty reduction. For LDCs, graduation from LDC status is a milestone on the pathway to structural progress. Achieving this milestone in the largest possible number of LDCs has been an important goal of the United Nations. The Istanbul Programme of Action – the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 – adopted in May 2011 sets the ambitious goal of seeing at least half of all LDCs meet the graduation criteria by the end of 2020. Five countries, namely Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa, have graduated from LDC status, and 14 more are either confirmed to graduate or LDCs likely to be found eligible for reclassification by 2024 at the latest. Achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation from LDC status is a challenging objective for all LDCs, a majority of which are constantly exposed to serious risks of external shocks beyond domestic control.

At the forefront of United Nations action to fulfil the ambitious goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action, UNCTAD aims to help LDCs create and maintain a momentum of structural transformation towards and beyond graduation. Sound economic diversification is generally seen as the most desirable form of structural transformation if it involves creating stable employment opportunities – a necessary condition for durable poverty reduction – and building resilience to adverse factors. From the perspective of UNCTAD, this involves mapping and measuring structural change in all LDCs, and strengthening the capacity of individual LDCs to pave the way for structural transformation and to make the change of status an opportunity to re-examine their need for special and differential treatment. In this context, a key area of action by relevant countries, with UNCTAD support, has been to formulate a strategy for securing a smooth transition to post-LDC life.



WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ARE PROVIDED?

In addition to general support to LDCs in their efforts to achieve structural transformation, UNCTAD provides advisory services to countries that face the challenge of graduation from LDC status. Such services are provided before an official decision by the United Nations to take a country off the list of LDCs and after such a decision has been taken (through a General Assembly resolution).

Before a United Nations decision on graduation, UNCTAD prepares a vulnerability profile of each country considered pre-eligible for graduation. The aim of this exercise is to analyse the implications of pre-eligibility, to enrich the understanding of all major constraints on a country's development, in particular its exposure to risks of external shocks beyond domestic control, and to analyse the various facets of its economic and social progress. The vulnerability profile is a key input to the work of the Committee for Development Policy, the group of independent experts that may recommend an eligible



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 1999
Countries assisted per year:
5 (average)
Countries assisted: 14
Website:
unctad.org/LDCs-graduation



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**
Directly: 8
Indirectly: 10 and 17

country's graduation in the light of the graduation criteria and other considerations.

After a United Nations decision to graduate a country has been taken, UNCTAD assists the graduating State in formulating its smooth transition strategy. This exercise involves making an inventory of the benefits from LDC status of particular importance to the economy and supporting the country's negotiations with relevant development partners, to ensure that the eventual loss of LDC treatment will not disrupt the continuation of progress, an approach informally referred to as the move to graduate smartly.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

UNCTAD has assisted the following 17 LDCs or former LDCs in understanding the implications and consequences of graduation and in achieving a smooth transition to post-LDC life: Angola, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

- In Cabo Verde, Maldives and Samoa, UNCTAD was instrumental in assisting national authorities in a smooth transition and their request for continued preferential market access. In Maldives, this work enabled the Government to negotiate continuation of duty-free, quota-free (LDC-like) treatment with trade preference-givers, notably the European Union and Japan.
- In 1997, Vanuatu became the first LDC to receive UNCTAD assistance with regard to graduation. At the request of the Government in September of that year, a major reform of the LDC graduation criteria led the United Nations to adopt a vulnerability criterion as part of the methodology to identify graduation cases. This reform did justice to Vanuatu by highlighting its acute vulnerability to external shocks. Since then, UNCTAD has actively supported structural progress in Vanuatu, a country earmarked to graduate in December 2020.
- In Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, UNCTAD has carried out several advisory and training activities to help national authorities chart a path to graduation, notably in the form of a road map for government action.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Self-financing by some countries and United Nations Development Account

Past: : Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries (multi-donor: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Holy See and Common Fund for Commodities)

DMFAS – DEBT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS SYSTEM

IMPROVING CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE DEBT MANAGEMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Effective debt management is indispensable in ensuring the financing needs of Governments, minimizing borrowing costs and risks and supporting the development of domestic markets. Ultimately, it also helps to reduce the risk of debt crises, which is critical to ensure a stable growth trajectory for sustainable development. Debt crises tend to take long to recover from and trigger serious drops in economic output – they can also undermine a Government's capacity to meet the critical needs of its citizens and to mobilize necessary resources for development. In the current global environment of low interest rates, combined with new forms of borrowing, proper debt management is all the more essential to avoid repetition of past debt crises in developing countries.

Many Governments in developing countries continue to have a limited capacity to build and maintain debt management systems and debt databases. Even middle-income countries with higher capacities may opt for a ready-made and customizable solution, such as that provided by the UNCTAD DMFAS Programme.

The DMFAS Programme is one of the world's leading providers of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management. It offers countries a set of proven solutions for improving their capacity to handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities and the production of reliable debt data for policymaking purposes. This includes its specialized debt management software, DMFAS, which greatly facilitates the work of the debt office, as well as advisory services and training activities in debt management.



HOW IS MANAGING DEBT MADE MORE FEASIBLE?

DMFAS projects are initiated at the request of Governments. The counterpart ministry or central bank that is involved throughout the process takes ownership of the project. Each project is customized based on the specific needs of the beneficiary country. The project covers the software and the training activities related to the installation and use of the system. Technical assistance projects typically cover the following types of activities:

- Technical training on installing and maintaining the system;
- Basic and advanced functional training covering recording debt instruments, reporting, etc.;
- Specialized training on debt data validation, debt statistics and debt portfolio analysis.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1982

Projects implemented per year: 25 (average)

Active DMFAS users:
83 institutions in 57 countries

Website: unctad.org/dmfas

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 17
Indirectly: 1





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Testimonies from DMFAS users back its practical solutions and results:

- *"The Philippine Treasury expresses its unending gratitude and appreciation to UNCTAD for its valuable technical assistance to the Philippines without which our country would not have progressed immensely in the area of debt management."* Treasurer, Philippines
- *"Thanks to the joint efforts of UNCTAD and of the DMFAS user team in Albania, we have established an accurate information system on external debt. Its advantages are quite evident in debt management decision-making."* Vice-Minister of Finance, Albania
- *"DMFAS helped us manage our public debt in a more efficient and transparent manner, and proved itself to be an indispensable tool in helping us during the last phases of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in reconciling our public debt data with our creditors."* Director of Public Credit, Ministry of Finance, Honduras

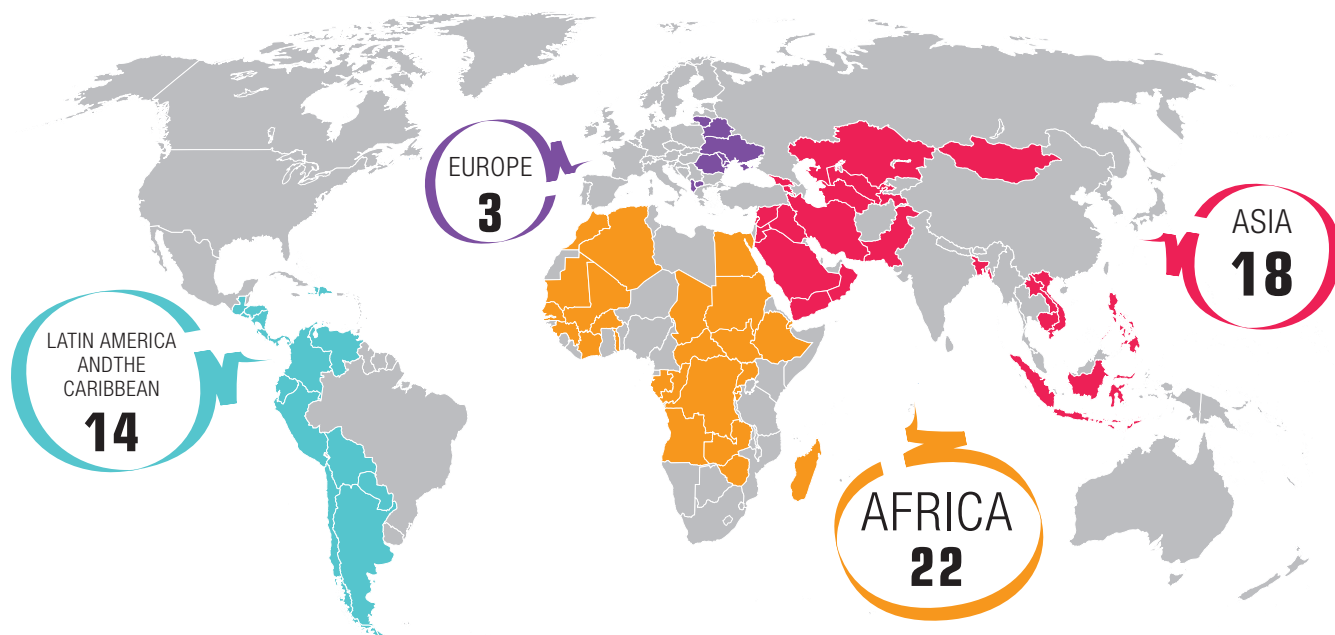


DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Self-financing by some user countries, other international organizations and institutions (e.g. European Commission, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme and World Bank) and Multi-donor Trust Fund (Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and cost-sharing by user countries)

Past: Finland, France, Italy, Norway and Sweden

Debt Management and Financial Analysis System users by number of countries per region, 2017



UNCTAD CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

SUPPORTING THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN TACKLING CONSTRAINTS TO TRADE



GLOBAL CONTEXT



LDCs represent the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. They comprise more than 980 million people, about 12 per cent of world population. Yet they account for less than 2 per cent of world gross domestic product and about 1 per cent of global trade in goods. Against this backdrop, the Istanbul Programme of Action recognized the critical importance of implementing “effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building in least developed countries on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share of assistance to least developed countries for Aid for Trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework” (paragraph 66, section 3 (e)).

The Enhanced Integrated Framework is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade-related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for LDCs. It aims to enable LDCs to mainstream trade into their national development plans, so that countries can mobilize the potential of trade to promote economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction at the domestic level and to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. In particular, the programme serves as a platform for LDCs to build productive capacities and start engaging in trade policymaking, among other activities, that can lead to creating employment and reducing poverty.

As one of the six core Enhanced Integrated Framework partner agencies, the focus and support of UNCTAD is on contributing towards strengthening the capacities of LDCs in trade policymaking and thus improving ownership of the Enhanced Integrated Framework process. Specifically, UNCTAD supports LDCs under the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme through the formulation of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and their updates, and by drafting and piloting technical cooperation projects for implementation of the action matrix of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies, in particular with regard to trade mainstreaming projects and tier 2 projects funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund. The six core partner agencies that support the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme are UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, United Nations Development Programme, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization, with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Tourism Organization as observers.



WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE DOES UNCTAD PROVIDE?

UNCTAD provides tailored assistance in response to specific requests from countries participating in the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Such requests can result in the updating of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies. Assistance can also focus on mainstreaming trade policy issues that are identified in countries’ trade diagnostics and preparing and implementing national and regional tier 2 projects drawn from action matrices of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies. In providing such assistance, UNCTAD uses a mix of national and international expertise to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and maximize results – the approach also contributes to national capacity-building.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2012

Countries assisted per year: 5 (average)

Countries assisted: 7 (Diagnostic Trade Integration Study updates)

Website: unctad.org/EIF



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 9 and 17
Indirectly: 1



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- A number of LDCs – for example, Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger and Senegal – have made progress, with support from UNCTAD, in mainstreaming trade policies into their national development plans, identifying trade-related priorities and implementing the action matrices of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies.
- Senegal completed and validated its Diagnostic Trade Integration Study update in July 2013. UNCTAD then assisted the Government in preparing a tier 2 project on transforming and commercializing fruits from the Casamance region and organized a workshop on the subject in January 2014. A follow-up workshop on trade mainstreaming, held in February 2014, led to the identification of multiple constraints to mainstreaming trade. Together with the Government, a mainstreaming proposal was elaborated and shared with the Enhanced Integrated Framework secretariat in 2014.
- Under the Enhanced Integrated Framework, UNCTAD prepared and validated the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study updates for Djibouti and Ethiopia in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The trade policy, trade facilitation and transport components of the updates focused on making the trading environment of both countries more efficient, and recommended that improvements be made in the logistical performance of the Djibouti–Ethiopia corridor that links Addis Ababa with Djibouti and the ports of Djibouti. UNCTAD arranged a follow-up workshop for Djibouti and Ethiopia in November 2016, to discuss options to improve the logistics systems and trade facilitation. As a result, a Djibouti–Ethiopia corridor management authority study was elaborated, to analyse legislation and coordination instruments, infrastructure, trade and transportation mechanisms and operating procedures, together with a tier 2 project proposal to establish a Djibouti–Ethiopia corridor management authority.
- Strengthening productive and trade capacities. UNCTAD, together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Trade Centre, is implementing a tier 2 project aimed at strengthening the productive and trade capacities of Benin. The project focuses on cotton, agro-industries and fisheries – three priorities identified in Benin’s Enhanced Integrated Framework-sponsored Diagnostic Trade Integration Study. As part of the project, UNCTAD is responsible for elaborating a national trade policy document and is providing technical assistance in building capacities of governmental entities and private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations in the areas of trade integration, negotiations, rules of origin and market access.

“In the last decades, Ethiopia went through a significant reform programme and put in place important regulatory and institutional frameworks to improve the business environment. In relation to this, they realized the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study that focuses on trade policy, trade facilitation and transport. The study shows that these elements are relevant for Djibouti too. The focus paves the way for making the business environment more efficient and effective. As the main trade artery for the two countries, it is important that the Ethiopia–Djibouti corridor be conducive and guided by the principle of a win-win situation. It is the right time to solve all existing issues along the common corridor. The relations between the two countries have now reached the highest level as we have launched the new railway from Addis Ababa to Dire Dawa and onward to Djibouti. I would like to thank UNCTAD, [Enhanced Integrated Framework] and all donor partners for their relentless efforts.”

Mr. Bekele Bulado,
Minister of Trade, Ethiopia, 11 May 2017



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Past: Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries; Core Project (multi-donor: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Holy See and Common Fund for Commodities)

MARKET ACCESS, RULES OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

SUPPORTING LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE



GLOBAL CONTEXT

LDCs are granted preferential tariff treatment in the markets of developed and developing countries under several schemes and arrangements. Among them are initiatives such as the Generalized System of Preferences, the European Union's "Everything but Arms" initiative, the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States, trade preferences under African, Caribbean and Pacific States–European Union Partnership Agreements and other preferential trading arrangements that have rules of origin as key components.

LDCs nonetheless face significant obstacles to market access. Overcoming the limited diversification of LDC exports, the low value added of those exports and the continued challenge of bringing small local producers up front in the global commodity value chain remain concerns. At the same time, the rich biodiversity of several LDCs allows them to draw on their natural resources to create an array of traditional products and preparations with the potential to compete globally and secure higher returns from sales. Benefiting from that natural wealth can require taking steps to gain recognition of quality and generate a solid reputation for specific products in the eyes of consumers and buyers. One important approach can be using geographical indications in combination with a branding strategy for those products.

UNCTAD provides policy advice and technical assistance to help developing countries comply with requirements on rules of origin under preferential trading arrangements – focusing on product origin – with a view to improving the utilization rates of trade preferences granted to them. Since 2006, for instance, UNCTAD has assisted LDCs that are members of the World Trade Organization on the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (Hong Kong, China) on duty-free, quota-free market access. The declaration called on ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are simple and transparent, and contribute to facilitating market access. UNCTAD also provides support in relation to the World Trade Organization Ministerial Decisions (Bali, Indonesia and Nairobi, Kenya) on preferential rules of origin for LDCs. Furthermore, UNCTAD assists rural communities and LDC Governments in enhancing the value of traditional products by exploiting trading opportunities such as geographical indications and facilitating compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.



HOW CAN A PRODUCT'S ORIGIN OR GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION HELP FACILITATE MARKET ACCESS?

Preferential market access granted to LDCs by developed countries and some developing economies should help LDCs to integrate into international markets and to progressively industrialize. However, the existence of a valuable array of traditional products and specific local knowledge provides an additional potential for developing product specialization.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2006

Countries assisted per year: All LDC member States of the World Trade Organization regularly assisted year-round; 3 (geographical indications (average))

Countries assisted: All LDC member States of UNCTAD (rules of origin); 11 (geographical indications)

Website: unctad.org/gsp/rules



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8, 10 and 17

Indirectly: 1, 5, 12 and 14

The principle of country ownership drives UNCTAD technical assistance on rules of origin and geographical indications. For all schemes under the Generalized System of Preferences, products exported from a country receiving such preferences must fulfil the rules of origin of the countries granting those preferences. Documenting evidence of compliance with those rules is necessary for products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment. UNCTAD services in support of developing countries in this area include (a) providing advice to Governments and the private sector to comply with origin requirements; and (b) delivering tailored technical assistance, such as advisory memorandums on policy options in drafting and negotiating preferential rules of origin under different trading arrangements.

Identifying and registering traditional products under a geographical indication requires different steps, such as drafting a “disciplinary of production”, the main text that defines a product’s unique identity. Being able to convey what makes products unique geographically adds value to those products. Such information is also useful for customers who can be attracted to those products when they learn more about them. UNCTAD provides countries support in identifying products that could be eligible to use geographical indications – signs used on products with a specific geographical origin and possessing qualities or a reputation based on that origin – and in drafting the legal specifications for those products and introducing a branding policy.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD has regularly supported LDCs in World Trade Organization negotiations by providing technical assistance with regard to duty-free, quota-free market access, as well as on rules of origin and the waiver to grant preferential treatment to services and service suppliers from LDC members. Through active participation in World Trade Organization negotiations following the 2005 Ministerial Declaration on duty-free, quota-free market access, LDCs successfully negotiated prior to the Bali and Nairobi decisions on preferential rules of origin, and are actively pursuing their implementation.
- In October 2017, UNCTAD organized an executive training session on rules of origin for LDCs, to enhance the skills and knowledge of officials from LDCs on analysing and negotiating preferential rules of origin based on notifications by preference-giving members. This activity constituted preparation for meetings of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin and for the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.
- The timely assistance of UNCTAD to LDCs has been critical in increasing utilization rates of preferences under the “Everything but Arms” initiative after the European Union introduced a reform on rules of origin in 2011. For instance, the utilization rate for bicycles exported to the European Union by Cambodia increased in 2011 to around 80 per cent, up from the previous year’s rate of 33 per cent. Moreover, between 2010 and 2015, import values multiplied almost sixfold, increasing from \$60 million to \$347 million.

- In an effort to strengthen the capacity of rural communities in LDCs and enhance the value added component of their traditional products, UNCTAD has supported communities in Benin, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Senegal, among others, in the introduction of geographical indications as a protection and marketing tool. For example, the experience of UNCTAD in supporting producers of Kampot pepper in Cambodia, Gari Sohoui (a crisp flour) from Savalou in Benin and Harenn coffee in Ethiopia, shows that rural communities can gain significantly from utilizing geographical indications. In Senegal, members of women’s fruit juices cooperatives in the Casamance region ensured that policy actions for the promotion of fruit juices using geographical indications were included in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study of Senegal and its action matrix. The use of suitable packaging for the fruit juices allows for pasteurization and subsequent international commercialization of the products.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account

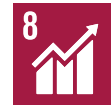
Past: Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom (Department for International Development), United Nations Development Account and World Bank

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF COMMODITY DEPENDENCE

DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIES AND STRENGTHENING NON-COMMODITY ACTIVITIES



GLOBAL CONTEXT



In many developing countries, an overreliance on exports of raw commodities constrains structural transformation and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD estimates that, in 2016, 91 of 135 developing countries were commodity-dependent, that is, countries in which unprocessed agricultural produce, minerals or crude oil constituted 60 per cent or more of total exports. The economic consequences of this dependence are severe. The boom and bust cycle of commodity prices severely hampers countries' macroeconomic management. The lack of value added activities restrains industrial development. In addition, most workers are limited to low-skill, low-paid jobs that risk disappearing with the next drop in prices.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires breaking the chains of commodity dependence. Developing countries should add more value to their commodities and diversify into non-commodity activities. They should anticipate the boom and bust cycle of commodity prices with prudent macroeconomic and fiscal management policies. Finally, they should plan how to convert natural resources wealth into better jobs and livelihoods for their citizens. UNCTAD assists countries in these efforts through its programme on breaking the chains of commodity dependence.



HOW ARE NEEDS IDENTIFIED?

In response to a request for assistance, UNCTAD works with a country to evaluate its needs under the following four main thematic outcomes:

1. Developing value added activities in its commodity sector;
2. Establishing development linkages between the commodity sector and the wider economy;
3. Diversifying to non-commodity activities;
4. Integrating into global and regional value chains.

To respond to the identified needs, UNCTAD and the country plan a programme of activities that may include workshops, training, advisory services, policy analyses, consensus-building events and information services.

Delivering an effective programme requires an integrated value chain approach that considers a country's commodity dependence in its full context. It also requires an inclusive process that engages the public and private sectors and civil society, with a special focus on small producers, women and minority groups. Inter-agency collaboration and South-South cooperation are two further principles of the Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence Programme.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: Commodity-dependent developing countries in all regions

Start date: 2008

Projects per year: 1 (average)

Projects: 9

Persons trained: 1,900+, including 500+ women, in 21 developing countries

Website: unctad.org/commodities



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 9



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Since 2008, the Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence Programme has assisted over 30 developing countries in reducing their commodity dependence, diversifying their economies and converting their natural resources wealth into sustainable development.
- A set of customized policies and information tools has been disseminated in project countries, as part of a \$3.9 million technical assistance project of UNCTAD, funded by the All African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Agricultural Commodities Programme of the European Union.
- The New Partnership for Africa's Development has appropriated the Pan-African Cotton Road Map, a regional framework for developing the cotton sector in Africa, a process led by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.
- UNCTAD conducted a review of Mexico's agricultural commodity policies related to agricultural production, trade, food security and poverty reduction, in relation to 13 agricultural products identified by authorities from Mexico as being of strategic importance.
- UNCTAD has trained more than 600 policymakers in three countries in Africa on formulating effective policies and regulations related to development linkages and local content in extractive sectors, as part of a technical assistance project funded by the United Nations Development Account.

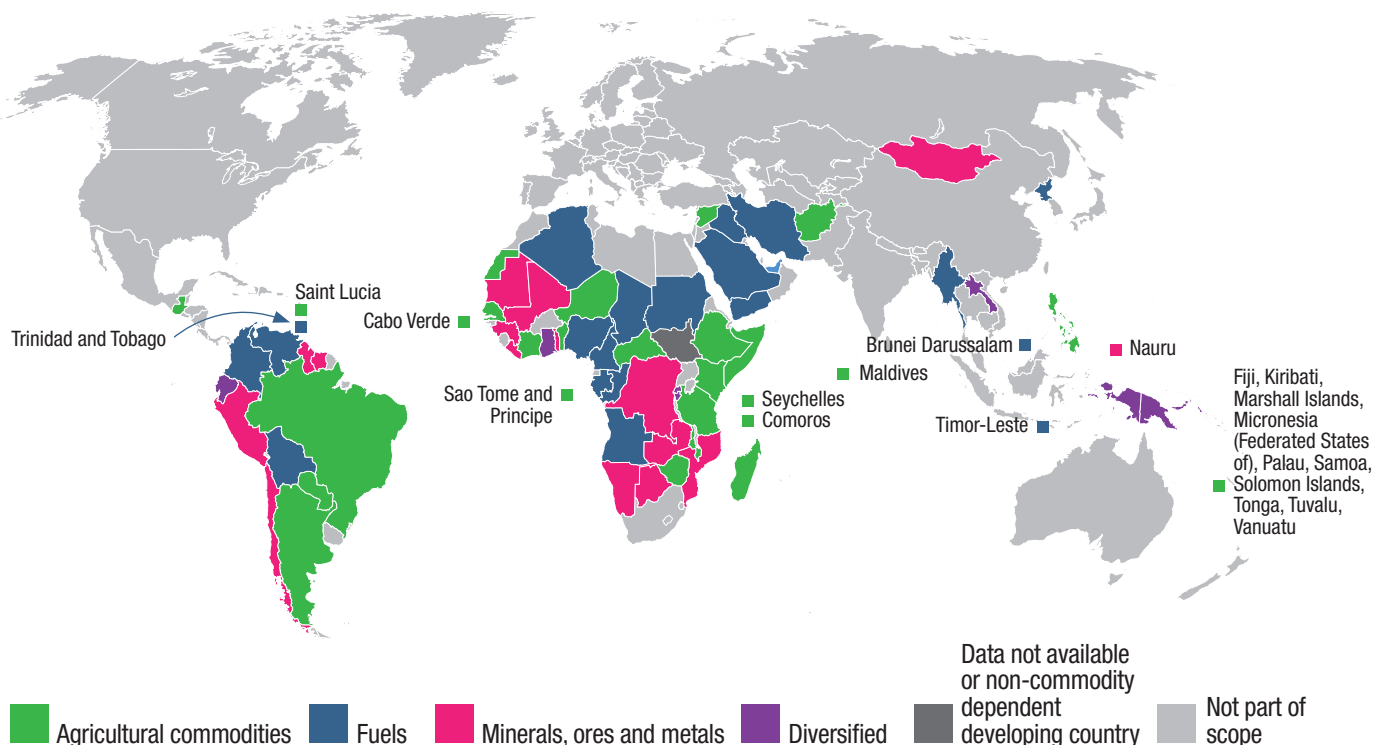


DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund

Past: France, Switzerland, the European Union, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and Common Fund for Commodities

Commodity export dependence by commodity group, developing countries, 2014/15



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT

SUPPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, IN PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS



GLOBAL CONTEXT

The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and driver of social development cannot be overemphasized. However, the adverse impacts of freight transport activity on human health, the environment and climate are a cause for concern, as are the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and other coastal transport infrastructure. If left unchecked, unsustainable freight transport patterns are likely to undermine effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. With the sustainable and resilient freight transport agenda gaining further momentum in recent years – at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2012 and 2016, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference in 2016 – UNCTAD has intensified its efforts to mainstream sustainability and climate resilience considerations into its work programme on transport and trade logistics. The overall objective is to assist the effective integration of developing countries into global and/or regional trading networks and transport systems and participation in relevant value chains through, among others, efficient, reliable, cost-effective, well-connected, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient freight transport systems. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume and over 70 per cent by value carried by sea, sustainable and climate resilient maritime transport is a sustainable development catalyst.



HOW DOES THE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT PROGRAMME WORK?

The Sustainable and Resilient Transport Programme consists of several components, as follows:

- *Promoting a supportive legal framework to facilitate transport and trade, through advisory services on transport law and policy.*

UNCTAD has been extensively involved in rule-making and standard-setting in the field of maritime transport law, with an emphasis on the economic and commercial aspects of shipping. Relevant international conventions and model rules cover the economic aspects of shipping, liability for carriage of goods by sea and



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions, including East Africa and the Caribbean (Jamaica, Saint Lucia and other small island developing States)

Start date: 2014

Projects: 2 technical cooperation projects

Summary of success:
160+ persons trained

Website: unctad.org/ttl/legal;
unctad.org/ttl/transport-infrastructure-services;
unctadsftportal.org;
sft-framework.org

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 9

Indirectly: 16 and 17



multimodal transport, as well as the enforcement of maritime claims. In addition to providing legal advice upon request, UNCTAD prepares analytical studies and reports on transport law and policy, aimed at assisting developing countries in assessing the merits of ratification of the relevant international legal instruments and/or in their national implementation. Relevant studies cover a range of topics, including the carriage of goods by sea and air, multimodal transport, ship-source oil pollution and maritime and supply-chain security.

- *Climate change impacts and adaptation for seaports and other key coastal transport infrastructure.*

UNCTAD activities include research and analytical work, as well as a series of intergovernmental expert meetings focusing on the implications of climate change for maritime transport, with a special emphasis on climate change impacts and adaptation for global seaports and other key transport infrastructure. For example, a technical assistance project with a focus on seaports and airports in small island developing States in the Caribbean aims to enhance the knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts among policymakers, transport planners and operators in small island developing States, and to strengthen their capacity to effectively plan and develop the requisite adaptation measures to enhance the resilience of their key coastal transport infrastructure.

- *Promoting efficient multimodal and transit transport networks and transport corridor development.*

Well-functioning transport networks and corridors are essential for countries' trade, economic development and social progress. They are also critical for regional and global integration, in particular of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Relevant work by UNCTAD in this regard includes a capacity-building and institution-building programme aimed at supporting efficient transit and/or multimodal transport corridor management systems, as well as a cluster approach that promotes collaborative structures and/or mechanisms between public and private sector stakeholders. A cluster approach integrates transport infrastructure and logistics services with economic activities within the corridor.

- *Promoting sustainable freight transport systems (road, rail, maritime and ports, urban, etc.) and freight transport finance.*

To support developing countries in developing and implementing sustainable freight transport systems that are efficient, safe, socially inclusive, accessible, reliable and environmentally friendly, while being resilient to disruptions, including those caused by climate change and natural disasters, UNCTAD has developed a sustainable freight transport toolkit that includes the following: sustainable freight transport portal; sustainable freight transport and green freight transport training programme (15 modules), which can be tailored to meet the needs and requirements of countries and regions; and the Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport, which sets out a methodology for sustainable freight transport strategy development and implementation. These tools aim to build and strengthen the capacity of key freight transport

stakeholders, including government authorities, policymakers, transport infrastructure managers, freight transport and logistics service providers and shippers, to effectively plan, design, develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- A technical assistance project is being implemented on building the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport, funded by the United Nations Development Account. Phase 1 of the project focuses on the two main transit transport corridors in East Africa, namely the Northern and Central corridors that bring together Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Phase 2 focuses on the sustainable freight transport challenges faced by selected small island developing States in the Caribbean, and aims to devise workable sustainable maritime transport solutions and response mechanisms.
- In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, UNCTAD supported the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority in developing a green freight programme.
- Under the project entitled "Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States", funded by the United Nations Development Account, case studies are carried out to assess the climate-related risk and vulnerability of seaports and airports in Jamaica and Saint Lucia and develop a transferable methodology to assist in developing adaptation options for seaports and airports in small island developing States. Successful national capacity-building workshops were held in Jamaica and Saint Lucia in May 2017 and a regional capacity-building workshop was held in Barbados in December 2017. Results of the case studies suggest that key international transport assets in both countries are at high risk of marine inundation under different climate scenarios.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations
Development Account

FOSTERING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY, IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

Efficient markets and effective and development-focused States are indispensable for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Markets play an important role in the allocation of resources. However, without proper regulatory mechanisms, there are risks of market failures, including abuses of monopoly power, negative externalities and inequality. The role of States is to correct market failures, create an enabling legal, regulatory and institutional framework and provide the right incentives for market players to contribute more effectively towards sustainable development. UNCTAD technical cooperation supports developing countries in fostering economic efficiency and improving governance. In particular, it helps establish pro-competitive regulations, promote responsible business practices, reduce administrative burdens and strengthen statistical capacity to formulate sound economic policies.



COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS

IMPROVING MARKET EFFICIENCY AND CONSUMER WELFARE



GLOBAL CONTEXT



UNCTAD assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in adopting or revising competition and consumer protection legislation and policies, to align with international best practices, as well as regional frameworks in these areas. Competition and consumer protection policies are complementary to trade and industrial policies. They play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNCTAD contributes to the strengthening of competition and consumer protection regimes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the following:

- Developing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks;
- Drafting competition and consumer protection legislation adapted to addressing current challenges and harmonized with regional frameworks;
- Designing institutional frameworks to improve institutional efficiency;
- Building human capacities through training programmes;
- Developing curriculums for universities, to deliver courses on competition and consumer protection;
- Establishing links between agencies through study visits to agencies from both developed and developing countries.

UNCTAD has expertise in competition and consumer protection policies and has been working in these areas since the 1980s. Competition and consumer policies are crucial to inclusive and sustainable development. In the current global economy, with highly concentrated markets, competition policy is even more relevant. On the demand side, consumers need more effective protection and appropriate remedies in the digitalizing world.

UNCTAD has a record of accomplishments in assisting developing countries in building capacities to adopt and implement competition and consumer protection laws and policies. The work of UNCTAD in this field is evident in the following regions: Asia and the Pacific, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; Eastern Europe, including the Sofia Competition Forum; Latin America, including Competition and Consumer Protection for Latin America (COMPAL) Programme I, II and III; the Middle East and North Africa, including the competition and consumer protection programme for the region; and sub-Saharan Africa, including, at the national level, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe and, at the regional level, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, SADC, the Southern African Customs Union and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

As a result of the effective implementation of its capacity-building programmes, UNCTAD has developed good cooperation and working relationships with competition and consumer protection agencies in member States. The UNCTAD network with these agencies is further reinforced through annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, held since 1998, and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, held since 2016.





HOW CAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS HELP?

UNCTAD competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks help countries to adopt appropriate policies and legislation in these areas or improve existing ones, foster a competition culture and raise awareness among consumers and businesses. UNCTAD provides support to relevant institutions to improve their structures and organizations and to strengthen staff capacities in implementing competition and consumer protection legislation.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

UNCTAD has achieved the following results in countries involved in its capacity-building programmes:

- Improved competition and consumer protection legislation, to address current challenges;
- Strengthened human capacities in competition and consumer protection law enforcement;
- Improved institutional structure and organization to strengthen effective and efficient law enforcement;
- Enhanced competition culture through advocacy and awareness raising seminars.

Brief highlights

The West African Economic and Monetary Union adopted a new institutional and regulatory competition framework to strengthen cooperation between national competition authorities and the regional authority.

With the support of COMPAL, at present, 31 competition and consumer protection agencies in Latin America are linked by over 35 cooperation agreements. UNCTAD organizes seven annual regional activities, gathering more than 250 participants. Since 2015, more than 800 civil servants have been trained each year under COMPAL at the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI)-COMPAL school in Peru. COMPAL has built partnerships with other entities, ensuring the sustainability of its activities, whereby beneficiary funding forms up to 80 per cent of the budget.

"The competition and consumer protection project implemented by UNCTAD and funded by the Government of Luxembourg helped the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority of Ethiopia build capacities, restructuring the Authority and amending the competition law. Training workshops have been helpful to [Authority] staff in competition law enforcement. The guidelines produced and validation workshops helped [the Authority] identify the gaps in the existing competition law and amend it to conform to international standards."

Mr. Biruh Gemedo, Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority, Ethiopia



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 2003

Completed programmes:

1 national (Zimbabwe); 3 regional (COMPAL I and II, West African Economic and Monetary Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

Ongoing programmes:

COMPAL III; 1 national (Ethiopia); 2 regional (Central African Economic and Monetary Community and competition and consumer protection programme for the Middle East and North Africa)

Website: unctad.org/competition



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 10

Indirectly: 12



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past: Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Union



VOLUNTARY PEER REVIEWS OF COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS AND POLICIES

SHARING BEST PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Competition is fundamental to the success of any market economy. It stimulates a country's attractiveness as a business location and can foster economic efficiency, productivity, innovation and economic growth. Competition can also result in lower prices and a wider range of and improved products, which in turn can benefit consumers by protecting their welfare. Benefits from trade cannot reach their potential due to anti-competitive business practices, which restrict competition or erect barriers to market entry. Furthermore, increasing market concentration is a feature of the current global economy. Therefore, it is essential for all countries to assess and, if necessary, improve the effectiveness of their competition laws and policies.

UNCTAD has supported developing countries and countries with economies in transition through a process of voluntary peer reviews of their competition laws and policies since 2005. The unique development perspective and experience of UNCTAD in working with competition authorities worldwide serves as a guarantee that the voluntary peer review process focuses on improving competition laws and policies in a way that fosters competitiveness and addresses countries' development needs and current economic challenges.

Consumer protection law and policy play a crucial role in ensuring that consumers are well-informed and well-protected against deceptive and fraudulent practices, and will be provided with appropriate remedies if deceived. UNCTAD has supported developing countries and countries with economies in transition through a process of voluntary peer reviews of their consumer protection laws and policies since 2016. The reviews aim to improve consumer protection legislation and enforcement and ensure that countries are able to address current challenges in providing effective protection to consumers.



HOW CAN A VOLUNTARY REVIEW BY PEERS HELP?

UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Laws and Policies allow developing countries to benchmark their legislative framework against international best practices. They also provide an opportunity for reviewed agencies to self-evaluate their enforcement performance. The Reviews are conducted using an interactive peer review method that promotes knowledge-sharing between competition authorities at the regional and international levels, enhances informal cooperation networks and encourages both North–South and South–South cooperation.



The Reviews identify major procedural, administrative and legislative changes that might be necessary for the optimum functioning of the competition and consumer protection authority and the law. They give insights into country-specific constraints, including political and economic problems that restrict effective enforcement of the laws in question. The Reviews serve as a basis for peer review examination during the annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on competition and consumer protection laws and policies.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Global competitiveness assessments carried out annually by the World Economic Forum show that competition climates have improved in 10 countries following their peer review processes, facilitated by UNCTAD – an indication of UNCTAD contributions to competition law and policy.
- Review reports have been used in amending legislations (at the level of draft laws), for advocacy and in establishing a new training agenda for staff. Based on an independent evaluation in 2013 of the UNCTAD programme, the proportion of recommendations adopted ranges from 10 to 85 per cent, with an average of 40 to 45 per cent. Competition authorities have been better equipped with high quality analysis capacities to assess competition.

Brief highlights

The Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy of Zimbabwe led to a capacity-building project to implement the Review recommendations. This project, funded by the European Union, was implemented by UNCTAD in 2014–2016, and resulted in the adoption of a national competition policy by the Cabinet and the drafting of a new competition law for Zimbabwe, to be submitted to the Parliament.

The recommendations of the Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy of Mongolia, undertaken in 2012, are currently being implemented in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection of Mongolia.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2005

Reviews per year:

2 (starting in 2018, one on competition law and policy and one on consumer protection law and policy)

Completed Peer Reviews of Competition Law and Policy:

25, including 1 regional Review in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (28 countries covered)

Upcoming Reviews: Botswana (competition law and policy) and Morocco (consumer protection law and policy; the first Review in this area)

Website: unctad.org/competition/peer-reviews



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 10

Indirectly: 12



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past:

Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the European Union

BUSINESS FACILITATION

SIMPLIFYING THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL BUSINESS, INVESTMENT AND TRADE CLIMATES



GLOBAL CONTEXT



Facilitating business through simplified administrative procedures reduces informality and corruption, empowers small entrepreneurs, removes bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment and increases government revenue, thereby fostering enterprise creation and operation. It also increases competitiveness and ultimately contributes to economic growth. UNCTAD estimates that administrative and procedural transaction costs, excluding customs-related costs, constitute between 3 and 6 per cent of the value of internationally traded goods. There are thus opportunities for reductions in transaction costs and for increased competitiveness.

The UNCTAD Business Facilitation Programme aims to seize such opportunities and offers a series of efficient ICT tools and interactive methodologies to clarify and simplify procedures. Applied sequentially, they comprise an integrated programme for the modernization of public administration. The Programme provides an interface for interdivisional and inter-agency cooperation for increased coherence and impact at the country level.



HOW DOES THE PROGRAMME HELP IMPROVE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT?

The Business Facilitation Programme provides a methodology that allows for the simplification of procedures without changes to regulations. Focused on streamlining administrative practices, the main aspect experienced by users, the Programme is aimed at producing quick and measurable results and includes three sequential components: eRegulations, eSimplifications and eRegistrations. The tools are developed at the request of beneficiary Governments.

The eRegulations system is an affordable, turn-key solution for Governments to clarify and publicize administrative procedures on the Internet. It shows administrative procedures step by step from the user's point of view. For each step, it provides the following data: contact information (entity, office and person in charge), expected result of the step, required documents, cost, duration, legal justification and ways to complain. Any type of administrative

procedure can be clarified through an eRegulations portal, such as company creation, tax payment, import and export.

Once clarified, procedures are easier to simplify, by comparing the practice to the law and limiting the number of interactions and documents to what is necessary and sufficient. The 10 principles to simplify administrative procedures – eSimplifications – generally allow Governments to decrease steps and requirements by more than 50 per cent, without changing laws.

Simplified procedures are computerized using the UNCTAD eRegistrations system, a web-based application conceived to create electronic single windows, which allow for simultaneous registration with multiple public agencies.





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

With rapid and measurable results, the Business Facilitation Programme concretely supports the move from an informal to a more formal economy with increased transparency. It also empowers small entrepreneurs through the removal of unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment.

The Programme supports Governments' efforts towards institutional efficiency, including the increased collection of tax revenue, to be later reinjected into the economy in support of innovative sectors with a focus on the employment of women and youth.

The Programme has been implemented in 34 countries. More than 60 user-centred open source electronic government systems have been developed to clarify, simplify and automate administrative procedures, thereby facilitating business operations and alleviating regulatory burdens. A few recent examples are as follows:

- Benin has reduced the time and cost for registering a business by 85 per cent through implementation of the eRegulations and eRegistrations systems. Businesses can now comply with formalities online and obtain nine mandatory registries with six different institutions through a unique platform in one day. Previously, the procedure involved 20 physical steps, 30 documents and 15 days of processing time;
- Cameroon has formalized over 12,000 businesses in one year through the eRegistrations system. The system has been installed in three regions, namely Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé, and has led to a reduction of more than 70 per cent in the number of steps and requirements and in processing time;
- El Salvador has fully automated the process to register companies and individual traders. Eight institutions now offer their services online through the eRegistrations system and businesses can obtain their mandatory registrations in less than three days;

- India, Oman and Saudi Arabia have officially joined the Global Enterprise Registration portal, a joint initiative by UNCTAD, the Kauffman Foundation's Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Department of State of the United States. The portal gives direct access to official business registration websites worldwide and assessments of their user-friendliness. Bhutan and Cameroon have received Global Enterprise Registration awards for their online systems.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Start date: 2005

Countries assisted per year:
6 (average)

Coverage: 52 eRegulations, 5 eRegistrations and 8 trade portal systems implemented in 34 countries

Website: unctad.org/Business-Facilitation

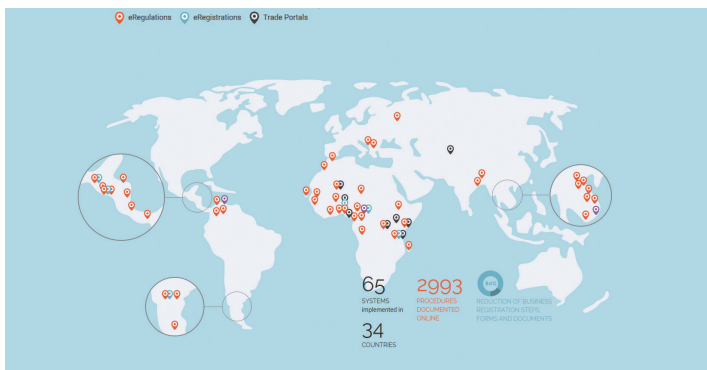


Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8 and 16

Indirectly: 1 and 17

Business facilitation systems implemented



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Self-financing by some user countries, Germany, the United States, European Commission, One United Nations Fund and Trade Mark East Africa

Past: France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland



TRADE FACILITATION

MAKING TRADE EASIER AND FASTER



GLOBAL CONTEXT

In an international environment where falling tariffs and quotas represent less of a barrier to trade, trade facilitation has emerged as an important trade policy tool. The main objective of trade facilitation is to reduce complexities and costs associated with cumbersome border procedures and controls, while maintaining efficient compliance controls. World Bank estimates suggest that administrative hurdles arising from cumbersome border procedures can cause up to 75 per cent of delays of shipments.

The Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, is a major international achievement. It aims to reduce trade transaction costs and bureaucratic barriers, speeding up clearance procedures for the cross-border trade of goods, thereby making trade easier, faster and less costly. The alignment of national and regional rules with the multilateral trade facilitation framework is instrumental to achieving increased trade integration.

To facilitate the implementation of the technical and institutional obligations resulting from the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD assists developing countries and LDCs with a range of activities, as follows: elaboration of needs assessments and assistance with the ratification, categorization and notification of national trade facilitation implementation plans; development of project plans; assistance with the establishment of national trade facilitation committees; general capacity-building and technical assistance on trade facilitation reforms; and assistance with the implementation of trade facilitation measures through related activities such as the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).



HOW DOES UNCTAD SUPPORT NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES?

UNCTAD provides an intensive professional programme for the secretariat and members of national trade facilitation committees, namely the Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees. The main objective is to assist committees to implement, in a coordinated manner, trade facilitation reforms, including the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and to be able to monitor implementation.

With a view to ratification and implementation of the Agreement, UNCTAD support covers the following:

- (a) Assessments of technical assistance needs and preparation of categorization of provisions of the Agreement;
- (b) Tailored training on trade, transit and transport facilitation;
- (c) Advisory services on ratification of the Agreement;
- (d) Assistance in the creation and sustainable operation of national trade facilitation committees.





RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

UNCTAD has developed 45 implementation plans and 145 project proposals related to needs assessments and gap analyses.

UNCTAD has established an online repository of national trade facilitation committees, containing information and analyses of over 130 committees worldwide.

UNCTAD published *Trade Facilitation and Development: Driving Trade Competitiveness, Border Agency Effectiveness and Strengthened Governance*.

UNCTAD has provided assistance to the East African Community secretariat and has supported the East African Community and its members in achieving the following:

- Notification of Category A provisions;
- Establishment of a regional subcommittee on trade facilitation;
- Establishment of five national trade facilitation committees;
- Design of strategic planning on trade facilitation;
- Elaboration of 15 project proposals;
- Completion of gap analyses and need assessments.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 2012

Countries assisted: 50+

Ongoing programmes:
Empowerment Programme
for National Trade Facilitation
Committees, in 15 developing
countries and LDCs

Website: unctad.org/tf



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 10 and 16

Indirectly: 17



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: China, Germany, the
United Kingdom, the United
States (Agency for International
Development), the European Union
and Trade Mark East Africa

Past: Norway, Spain, Sweden
and United Nations Development
Programme

ASYCUDA – AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR CUSTOMS DATA

STREAMLINING CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Long waiting times at borders, inappropriate fees and cumbersome formalities are all serious obstacles to trade and adversely affect investment and employment. An efficient and effective customs administration is essential to the welfare of any country. It benefits the national economy in various ways: by collecting revenue; by assisting the Government to promote cross-border trade; and by combating fraud and illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods. It further provides the statistical information on foreign trade transactions essential for economic planning and encourages international trade. The automatic calculation of duties speeds up and simplifies the clearance process and increases State revenues.

ASYCUDA is an ICT-based customs management system targeted at reforming the customs clearance processes of developing and middle-income countries. It computerizes and simplifies procedures. ASYCUDA has a major impact on electronic business and government transactions, making international trade simpler and cheaper, and international markets more accessible to enterprises from developing countries. In more and more countries, ASYCUDA constitutes the core system for building a single window for international trade, trade portals, port management training and the implementation of transit and corridor management.



HOW CAN CUSTOMS PROCEDURES BE IMPROVED?

The UNCTAD ASYCUDA software is installed at the request of Governments and adapted to suit the national characteristics of individual customs regimes, national tariffs and legislation.

The ASYCUDA Programme itself is implemented in three phases. A preparation phase identifies the areas needing reforms, such as simplification of clearance procedures, alignment of forms to international standards and modernization of the national customs law.

During the implementation phase, ASYCUDA is configured to incorporate national specificities, that is, the coding of tariffs and related regulations and legislation, data entry of the control tables and preparation of valuation systems. A large training and capacity-building programme is associated with this phase for the transfer of skills and know-how.

In the roll-out phase, various national sites are equipped with the human, logistical and technical skills to autonomously implement and manage the ASYCUDA project.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1981

Countries and territories benefited: 113

Ongoing activities: 5–8 projects under negotiation; 45–50 active projects

Countries using latest ASYCUDA version (2015–2016): 77

New ASYCUDA projects or addendums signed (2015–2016): 19

Website: unctad.org/ASYCUDA



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 9

- Inter-agency cooperation improved through information-sharing facilitated by use of ASYCUDA World, which streamlined work and reduced need for multiple verifications of the same consignment.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In Afghanistan, in the last eight years, customs revenues have increased from around \$50 million in 2003 to over \$950 million in 2011 – an increase of around 2,000 per cent. In addition, the waiting time for trucks at major border crossings has decreased. At Torkham, the border with Pakistan, over 90 per cent of trucks are now cleared in less than 1.5 hours, down from 18 hours in 2003.

In Rwanda, a \$3.3 million electronic single window system recorded the following results:

- Time taken to clear goods decreased from 11 days in 2010 to 34 hours in 2014, and volumes of cargo inspected increased from 14 per cent in 2012 to 42 per cent in 2014;
- Cost of clearance reduced by more than 85 per cent in one-year period (2013–2014);



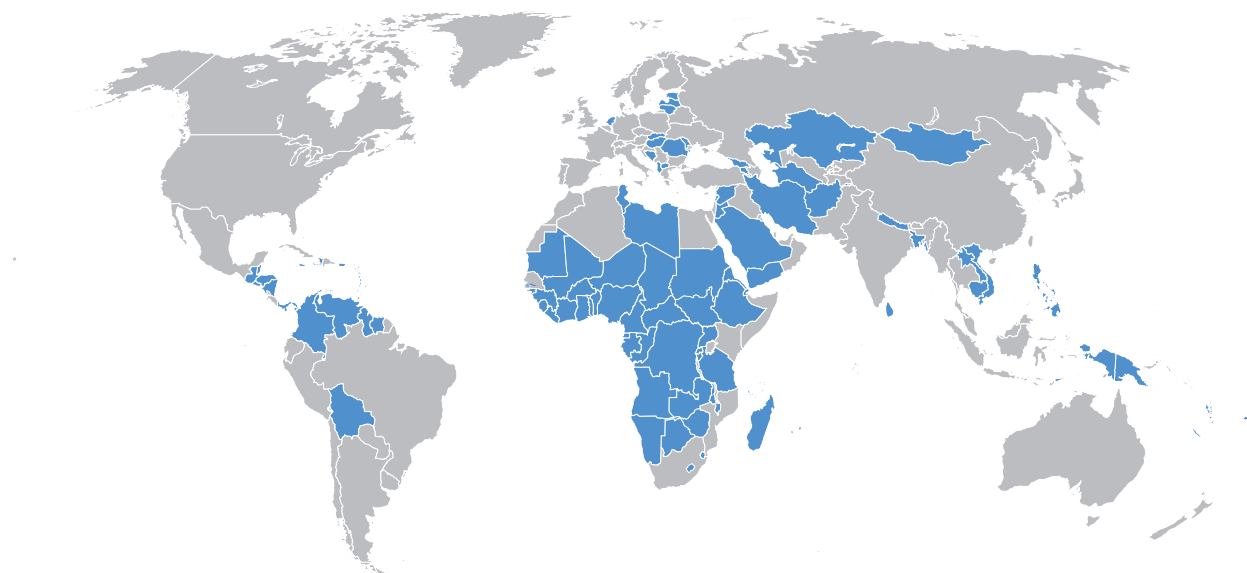
DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Beneficiary countries (91.3 per cent financed by recipient Governments in 2015–2016), development banks (3.3 per cent) and others (5.4 per cent)

Past: France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, European Commission and World Bank

ASYCUDA technical assistance projects, 2017

In 2017, 40 least developed countries, 24 landlocked developing countries and 20 small island developing States benefited from ASYCUDA programme support



STATISTICS

MAKING THE NUMBERS ADD UP TO INFORM AND IMPROVE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Reliable statistical information – statistics and indicators used in the analysis of international trade, investment and development – is indispensable for formulating sound economic policies and recommendations. Policy decisions, once taken, may commit countries for many years as they strive to integrate into the world economy and improve the living standards of their citizens. Having access to high-quality research and evidence-based policy analysis thus enables countries to make informed decisions and design better policies. This, in turn, is essential to fostering social, environmental and economic development.

Good quality, robust statistics are inherent to the work of UNCTAD. UNCTAD compiles, validates and processes a range of data collected from national and international sources. Most time series data cover extended periods of time, with some dating back to 1948, for almost all economies in the world. The breadth of information makes possible analysis of emerging and timely issues in the context of long-lasting trends and a wide geographical scope. When data are missing or there is a break in a series, UNCTAD applies its expertise and methodology to make estimates. UNCTAD statistics are thus grounded in continuity, accuracy and timeliness. Statistical work also conforms to the United Nations principles governing international statistical activities – formulated with significant contributions from UNCTAD.



HOW CAN STATISTICS BECOME THE BASIS FOR POLICY DECISIONS?

Broadly, the UNCTAD Statistics Programme produces more than 150 indicators and statistical time series essential for the analysis of international trade, economic trends, FDI, external financial resources, the population and labour force, commodities, the information economy and maritime transport. In many cases, UNCTAD statistics are compiled jointly or in close cooperation with other statistical agencies. For example, quarterly and annual trade in services statistics are jointly compiled with the World Trade Organization. This is not only an efficient use of resources but also ensures comparable and consistent results.

On a practical level, being able to use data is key to conducting the research and analysis that are the foundation of policymaking. The UNCTADstat database houses data for every country in the world. Such information can be used to automatically generate “country profiles”. The profiles are individual summaries of selected descriptive statistics that can be of interest to a range of users – from economists and modellers, who typically want all the data they can get, to journalists who need a few pertinent facts. UNCTADstat can also generate detailed tables for specialists.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: 150+ indicators and time series data

Start date: 1967

FDI activities per year: 4 (since 2004)

Website: unctad.org/statistics

UNCTADstat database:
unctadstat.unctad.org



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:
Directly:** 17



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past: West African Economic and Monetary Union (statistics on trade in services), Multi-donor/Cross-cluster Trust Fund on Capacity-building in Investment for Development (statistics on FDI) and United Nations Development Account (statistics on illicit financial flows)

The country profiles are tailored to showcase data unique to UNCTAD: trade, investment, ICT and maritime transport. Other basic economic data are also included – such as gross domestic product and exchange rates – to provide context. Currently, country profiles include data for 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2016. The profiles reflect any updates or revisions to the data and reference years are redefined accordingly, as soon as all variables have been brought up to date.

Reliable FDI data is crucial for the national statistical analysis of investment and for better shaping and evaluating national policies. To make this a reality on the ground, UNCTAD proposes workshops that aim to enhance the capacity of developing country government agencies to compile, disseminate and report FDI and transnational corporation data.

UNCTAD also assists national statistical agencies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their data collection and dissemination efforts. In cooperation with United Nations agencies, development banks and other international organizations, such as Eurostat, capacity-building initiatives are carried out in the areas of international trade, FDI, debt, commodities, ICT and the creative economy.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The UNCTADstat database went live in 2010. It is updated and enhanced continuously to provide users with the latest available data. In 2016, the revamped UNCTADstat website recorded close to 400,000 visits from over 200 countries.
- Country profiles, launched in 2015, are specially designed to display on most current web browsers. They draw on UNCTADstat and can be accessed from anywhere in the world using only basic computers. This enables users from developing countries, even with limited bandwidth, to have access to a wide range of easily accessible data. Moreover, each country profile can be easily downloaded in PDF format. A new series of maritime profiles was launched in 2016.
- In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Statistics Programme contributed to the formulation of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, providing technical advice and data on several proposed indicators. An annual dashboard dedicated to indicators for which UNCTAD is custodian is currently under development.
- UNCTAD produces a number of publications to further facilitate access to data. The *UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics* is produced

annually – capturing data at one point in time, as are the relatively new *Key Statistics and Trends in International Trade* and *Key Statistics and Trends in Trade Policy*. In addition, UNCTAD produces the online *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures*, which offers practical tools for a better understanding of development trends and their evolution over time. The 2016 edition was dedicated to the measurement of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- The scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency of FDI data pose a serious challenge for policymakers, academics and practitioners. To fill that gap, UNCTAD launched the Bilateral FDI Statistics 2014, which presents FDI data systematically. The tool covers inward and outward FDI flows and stocks by region and economy.
- The Statistics Programme is currently developing a “World Economy Database” – this will be a macro-modellers database designed to support the UNCTAD Global Economic Model, used to simulate and/or test scenarios for the Group of 20 specifically, but also generally for global computable general equilibrium modelling.

Results in-depth: Applying the numbers – UNCTAD flagships

The annual UNCTAD flagship publications – the *Trade and Development Report*, *The Least Developed Countries Report*, *Economic Development in Africa Report*, *World Investment Report* and *Review of Maritime Transport* – provide rigorous research and policy recommendations on globalization, interdependence and development. The reports draw on the Statistics Programme's data for their analysis of issues ranging from current economic trends and major policy issues of international concern to trends in FDI and emerging measures to improve the contribution of FDI to development, and socioeconomic analysis and data on the world's most impoverished countries. The data and analysis serve as the basis for the policy recommendations presented by UNCTAD in the reports for addressing such issues at the national, regional and multilateral levels.



CORPORATE ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

AIMING AT TRANSPARENCY



GLOBAL CONTEXT



The increasing pace of globalization has created a strong interdependence and connectivity among worldwide financial markets. Compliance with a series of international standards, codes and regulations applicable to corporate reporting has become an essential requirement for countries to continue attracting financial resources. Consequently, a sound accounting infrastructure that enables high-quality corporate reporting has become critical for facilitating economic development. Such an accounting infrastructure strengthens investors' and other stakeholders' confidence and enhances comparability, transparency, credibility and financial stability. A strong reporting system facilitates international flows of financial resources and regional economic integration, while helping to reduce corruption and the mismanagement of resources. In addition, the non-financial information component of corporate reporting makes companies and organizations accountable for the social and environmental impacts that their activities produce, and provides a link between enterprise reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, accounting infrastructure elements related to microenterprises and SMEs play an essential role in fostering financial inclusion and access to finance.

The challenge for many countries, however, continues to be the adoption and effective implementation of international standards. Developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition often struggle to comply with such requirements. UNCTAD, through its Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, developed the Accounting Development Tool with a view to responding to those challenges. The Tool has two main components: an accounting development framework for high-quality corporate reporting; and a related assessment questionnaire, consisting of detailed questions on important elements of an effective accounting infrastructure, based on international best practices.

UNCTAD is mandated to advance its work on international standards of accounting and reporting, and to promote best practices in corporate transparency and accounting, including through the use of the Accounting Development Tool.



HOW DOES THE ACCOUNTING DEVELOPMENT TOOL WORK?

The Accounting Development Tool enables beneficiary countries to voluntarily assess their accounting infrastructure, including national institutions, regulations, human resources and processes, against international requirements for high-quality corporate reporting. The Tool also promotes an open and constructive dialogue among all



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 2012

Countries assisted: 15

Ongoing or upcoming assessments: 3

Website: unctad.org/isar

Accounting Development Tool website:
adt.unctad.org



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 12 and 17

Indirectly: 9, 13 and 16

stakeholders involved in the reporting supply chain which is required for conducting successful accounting reforms. It is designed to provide guidance to stakeholders and policymakers on the current level of development of a country's accounting infrastructure in order to identify gaps, determine priority areas for further development and design and implement sustainable strategies and action plans towards convergence with international standards and practices.

The Accounting Development Tool provides a quantitative benchmark of a country's position at a particular point in time and its progress towards increased implementation of international standards and practices. Dynamic graphical quantitative information can be generated on strengths and weaknesses at different levels of detail. The Tool also features an Internet-based platform, currently available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, through which assessments can be conducted.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

The impact of assessments conducted through the Accounting Development Tool is evidenced in the commitment of countries to implement the Tool and endorse the resulting recommendations through action plans. As at 2017, 15 countries had implemented the Accounting Development Tool. In some cases, countries have implemented the Tool more than once, in order to obtain a quantitative assessment of progress in enacting accounting reform, thereby showcasing the Tool's status as a relevant policymaking guidance instrument.

In 2016, delegates at the thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting encouraged the UNCTAD secretariat to continue updating the Accounting Development Tool, based on feedback from member States on its practical implementation and responding to new challenges in the area of sustainability reporting. They also requested UNCTAD to continue raising awareness of the availability of the Tool, to continue promoting its application by member States.

Governments have found the recommendations stemming from applying the Tool to be useful and have implemented them. Such impact has been continuously noted since the thirty-first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, most recently at the thirty-fourth session in 2017.

"[The] Accounting Development Tool has helped Kazakhstan develop an action plan and concrete recommendations for the improvement of the corporate reporting infrastructure."

Arman Bekturova,
Director, Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan

"The Accounting Development Tool has allowed Colombia to establish a rigorous diagnostic of the state of national regulations, institutions and practices, as well as lay the foundation for national stakeholder coordination mechanisms in support of accounting reform."

Wilmar Franco,
President, Technical Council of Accounting,
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Colombia

"Between 2012 and 2017, three rounds of Accounting Development Tool implementation have provided the Russian Federation with a dynamic full-scope assessment of its progress on achieving a high-quality accounting environment."

Leonid Shneydman, Head, Regulations of
Accounting, Financial Reporting and Auditing,
Ministry of Finance, Russian Federation



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (United Kingdom)

Past: Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, the Netherlands Institute of Chartered Accountants, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (United Kingdom), Deloitte, Ernst and Young, FBK, KPMG and Pricewaterhouse Coopers

INVESTMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS BY PROMOTING INVESTMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Pharmaceutical research and development requires investment. In this regard, two challenges need to be overcome. First, while the pharmaceutical industry has developed effective treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, cancer and hepatitis, the related medicines are too expensive for developing countries' public health systems. Second, current research and development incentive structures have limitations and a rethink is required to channel investment for innovative responses to public health needs. There is, for example, an acute need to respond to the steep rise in antimicrobial resistance, affecting in particular Latin America, South and South-East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



HOW DOES THE INVESTMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME WORK?

UNCTAD provides technical assistance to developing countries in the promotion of investment in domestic public health systems, in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 3, through its Investment and Public Health Programme. The Programme emphasizes coherence between related laws and policies, including investment, intellectual property and health. UNCTAD also assists countries with the formulation of intellectual property-related policy and promotes stakeholder ownership to ensure the sustainability of its activities, for instance through the training of judicial academy trainers. The mandates for the Programme are in paragraph 55 (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; recommendation 40 under the Development Agenda of the World Intellectual Property Organization; and elements 4 and 5 of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property of the World Health Organization.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

The Investment and Public Health Programme was launched in 2017, building on a wealth of experience under the long-standing Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property Rights Programme, as shown in the following examples:

- Training courses are held to equip judges with an understanding of the public health implications of their decisions. Workshop



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: Africa, Asia and Latin America

Start date: 2002

Activities and countries assisted per year: 25 (average) and 3 regional activities

Countries assisted: 39

Website: unctad.org/ddip



Sustainable Development

Goals addressed:

Directly: 3 and 9

Indirectly: 16 and 17

evaluations attest to the courses' benefits. For example, 96 per cent of workshop participants in the Philippines said they would apply the knowledge acquired in their daily work, all participants rated the course as excellent or good and 96 per cent said they would recommend the workshop to others;

- During the World Investment Forum in 2016, Kenya, South Africa, the African Union, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UNCTAD signed the Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines, undertaking to facilitate investment in pharmaceutical production in Africa;
- In July 2016, Indonesia enacted amendments to its national patent law, incorporating recommendations from an UNCTAD report on the development dimension of intellectual property in Indonesia;
- UNCTAD assisted Viet Nam in reviewing its patent examination guidelines and aligning the national intellectual property policy with recommendations to improve the policy environment to stimulate local pharmaceutical production and promote access to medicines. As a result, there is increased awareness of the implications of free trade agreements on the domestic pharmaceutical and health sector;
- The final report of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, in its recommendations on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights flexibilities, foresees a role for UNCTAD, along with other relevant agencies, in designing patentability criteria for pharmaceuticals in developing countries.

"I would like to express my appreciation for the work conducted by UNCTAD. Participants are now in a better position to understand the implication of [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights] plus provisions in trade and investment agreements on public health and to design potential negotiation strategies. ... Our patent examiners [better understand] how to use public health considerations in the examination of pharmaceutical patent applications."

Ms. Josephine Santiago, Director General,
Intellectual Property Office, Philippines

"[The UNCTAD programme on access to medicines] has demonstrated its strength in policy analysis, facilitating consensus-building and stakeholder consultation and capacity-building."

Mr. Lionel October, Director General, Department of
Trade and Industry, South Africa



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and German Agency for International Cooperation

Past: Sweden (International Development Cooperation Agency), United Kingdom (Department for International Development) and Rockefeller Foundation

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS

BENEFITING FROM INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Countries' efforts to attract and benefit from FDI have resulted in a network of investment rules embodied in numerous bilateral investment treaties, free trade agreements with investment components, double taxation treaties and other treaties with investment provisions. This network of investment rules is multilayered and multifaceted – partly overlapping and partly complementary – and consists of first-generation treaties in need of reform. Parties to international investment agreements and current negotiators should therefore be thoroughly familiar with key issues and concepts surrounding such agreements, including their sustainable development dimension and implementation.

UNCTAD helps developing countries to engage in international investment policymaking, with a focus on treaties' development dimensions and effects. In addition to supporting the participation of Governments, and of relevant stakeholders, in international investment policymaking, UNCTAD assists countries in mainstreaming sustainability into international investment agreements using the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and the road map for international investment agreement reform. The Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development consists of a set of core principles for investment policymaking, guidelines for national investment policies and guidance for policymakers on the design and use of international investment agreements. Together with the road map, the Investment Policy Framework anchors all UNCTAD training and capacity-building activities on such agreements.



WHAT SERVICES HELP TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS WORK FOR COUNTRIES?

UNCTAD activities pursue the common objective of assisting countries in better responding to the growing complexity of the international investment agreement regime and strengthening the sustainable development dimension of these agreements.

Demand drives the services that UNCTAD tailors to the specificities of each country and/or region. Support through the International Investment Agreement Programme covers several aspects, as follows:

- (a) Advisory services provide legal commentary and advice on international investment agreements and their implementation and modernization;
- (b) Capacity-building workshops include intensive training courses and preparatory distance-learning courses on international investment agreements, drawing on the advisory and analytical work of UNCTAD. Training activities are organized at the national, regional and interregional levels, often in cooperation with partner organizations;



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1997

Activities per year: 4 regional workshops organized, 6 expert advice services provided and 10 national, regional and international capacity-building events co-organized (average)

Activities (1998–2016): 90 advisory services and 35 regional training courses

Website: unctad.org/ia

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 17

Indirectly: 1 and 10



- (c) Evidence-based policy research, provided through tools such as the Issues Notes on international investment agreements, as well as reports to requesting countries and regional organizations;
- (d) Information on bilateral investment treaties, other international agreements with investment components and investor–State dispute settlement cases, provided through databases. The web-based International Investment Agreements Navigator, for example, contains the texts of more than 2,250 bilateral investment treaties and 330 other international investment agreements, dating from 1959 to the present. The database covers 86 per cent of all bilateral investment treaties and 95 per cent of all other international investment agreements currently signed – a “one-stop shop” for delivering information on the latest trends to users and investment stakeholders;
- (e) An international electronic network and online discussion forum on international investment agreements is maintained and backstopped as a service for negotiators and practitioners.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Of 18 international investment agreements signed in 2016 for which text is available, most reflect the consolidation of a trend to increase the number of sustainable development-oriented provisions as outlined in the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and the road map for international investment agreement reform (that is, references to sustainable development and the right to regulate in the preamble and the preservation of regulatory space in the treaty text). These developments point towards the Investment Policy Framework’s effectiveness and impact. In addition, several emerging and large developing countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa, as well as countries with economies in transition, have begun to modernize their international investment policies to better align them with sustainable development objectives, frequently referring to UNCTAD work in this area, such as the 10 options for phase 2 of reform of the international investment agreement regime.
- Feedback from participants in capacity-building workshops is generally very positive, with an average of 90 per cent stating that the courses contributed substantially to improving their understanding of the key issues at stake. An average of over 80 per cent of respondents also indicated that they had reported on issues related to the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development to colleagues in their departments and 44 per cent noted that the Investment Policy Framework had prompted their country to reconsider its investment policy strategy.

“UNCTAD has played a vital role for the success of [international investment agreement] reform on two tracks. First, you keep feeding us (the small countries) with excellent information, analysis and technical assistances and second, by organizing different events (regional and multilateral), you give us voice.”

Head, Unit on Bilateral Trade Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016

“I had also the opportunity to learn more about UNCTAD’s idea of a systemic and sustainable, development-oriented reform for the [international investment agreement] regime. That whole experience provided me with some food for thought for what would later become Brazil’s [Cooperation and Facilitation Investment Agreements]. I can’t talk about Brazil’s [Cooperation and Facilitation Investment Agreements] construction process without mentioning UNCTAD.”

Secretary of Foreign Trade and Services,
Ministry of Industry, Brazil, 2016



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

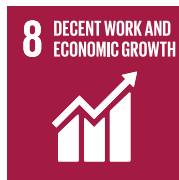
Current: Multi-donor/Cross-cluster Trust Fund on Capacity-building in Investment for Development

Past: Canada, China, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and European Commission

EMPOWERING PEOPLE, INVESTING IN THEIR FUTURE

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The transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. It aims to end poverty in all its forms and improve human well-being. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals require, on the one hand, sound strategies and policies by Governments and, on the other hand, the active participation of all people from different sectors of society, including local authorities, farmers, business and industry and non-governmental organizations. To support policymaking and the effective participation of people in this new development process, it is essential to strengthen their skills and update their knowledge bases through capacity-building activities. UNCTAD has developed well-targeted technical assistance programmes, including training, to build capacity for various stakeholders, including policymakers, academic institutions, SMEs and port operators in developing countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD supports developing country policymakers in mainstreaming gender equality in trade policy and empowering women in trade.



TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

GENDER MAINSTREAMING: A PATH TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Economic growth, as well as inclusive sustainable development, requires women's empowerment. Some 70 per cent of the people living in extreme poverty are women. Globalization through increased trade and investment has been associated with rising employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for women. In some cases, however, it has exacerbated existing gender inequalities and worsened women's economic and social status. One key reason for this is that trade policies, as well as economic policies more generally, have long been gender-blind – they do not factor in the effects of different policies on women as a distinct and often disadvantaged group in the economy.

Mainstreaming gender into trade policy involves assessing the impacts of trade policies on the well-being of women and men. Such an assessment helps in the following:

- (a) Better understanding the specific challenges and opportunities that women face from markets
- (b) Designing and implementing complementary policies aimed at maximizing opportunities for women;
- (c) Facilitating women's access to more competitive markets.

UNCTAD has been conducting analytical work on gender and trade policy since the early 2000s. This extensive experience in accompanying and monitoring the gender dimension of trade led to the establishment in 2010 of a dedicated work programme on mainstreaming gender in trade policy. The programme conducts country and regional studies and training activities, specifically designed to address the persistent lack of awareness, data, analysis, representation and action on women's empowerment in trade and trade policy.



WHAT ARE SOME STEPS TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING GENDER?

Programme activities are aimed at building the human and institutional capacities of key national stakeholders – policymakers and trade practitioners – to mainstream gender in trade policies. Activities encompass country and regional studies, a teaching package and a trade and gender toolbox.

Country and regional studies contain an analysis of the country's or region's trade flows that identifies sectors that have been positively or negatively affected by trade and market opening, their repercussions



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 2010

Reviews per year: 2 (average)

Country studies: 7

Regional studies: 2

Online courses: 4

Trade agreements analysed through the Trade and Gender Toolbox methodology: 1

Website: unctad.org/gender



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 5 and 8

Indirectly: 1, 10 and 17



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Finland, Sweden, United Nations Development Account and Trade Mark East Africa

Past: Norway

on women, especially in the labour market, and the existing scope for using trade policy – and complementary policies – as a tool for gender equality and women's empowerment. The studies also consider the bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements to which a country is a party. Country and regional studies are initiated at the request of Governments. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

The teaching package on trade and gender aims to strengthen understanding of the links between trade and gender and the capacities to formulate gender-sensitive trade policies. It targets academics, policymakers and representatives of civil society involved in research, teaching, policy formulation and implementation or in field work on trade and gender. The teaching package consists of a training manual and online courses, namely a standard course addressed to stakeholders in all developing regions and region-focused courses that address trade and gender issues within a specific economic grouping. The standard course contains three modules and spans seven weeks, and the regional courses contain an additional teaching module and span eight weeks. To date, UNCTAD has developed an online regional course for the member countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and is developing two additional regional courses for the East African Community and SADC.

The trade and gender toolbox is the first attempt to provide a systematic framework to evaluate the impact of trade reforms on women and gender inequalities prior to their implementation. The methodology has been applied to date to a specific trade agreement, namely the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the East African Community, and is used to assess the likely impact of the Economic Partnership Agreement, mainly through employment, on gender equality and the well-being of women in Kenya, a partner country in the East African Community. The same methodology can be used to assess the gender-related impacts of any other trade agreement or trade reform in other countries. This form of ex ante gender analysis aims to answer the question: what may happen to women if a given trade policy is implemented?



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The UNCTAD programme on trade, gender and development has been under way for some seven years. There are thus now indications of enhanced capacity at the national level to include gender considerations in the formulation of trade policy in Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Rwanda and Uruguay. For example, in October 2016, Uruguay signed a free trade agreement with Chile that incorporates

a gender chapter. The free trade agreement recognizes the importance of gender mainstreaming for achieving inclusive economic growth and the key role that gender equality policies can play in fostering socioeconomic development. Some of the provisions align with the priority areas for policy action identified by UNCTAD to strengthen women's productive participation in the economy of Uruguay, showing that concrete steps have been taken at the national level to ensure that gender considerations are factored into trade policy formulation.

- Three iterations of the standard online course on trade and gender were offered in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Of 338 participants, 233 graduated – 148 women and 85 men – from all developing regions.
- A regional course for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa was held in 2017. Of 73 participants from 13 partner countries, 50 graduated. All participants agreed that the courses had met or exceeded their expectations and enhanced their knowledge of trade and gender links, with a number noting that the relationship between trade and gender was new to them and that the courses had helped them to learn more. According to the feedback received, the courses had succeeded in preparing participants to conduct their own research on the topic and/or incorporate trade and gender-based concepts into their teaching and policy-related work.

"Dear Secretary-General Kituyi, ... Your firm personal commitment and the excellent achievements of your collaborators to establish clear links between trade policy, gender equality and women's economic empowerment mark a milestone in the nexus of human rights and trade. ... I am impressed with how much you and UNCTAD have accomplished in this area".

Minister for European Affairs and Trade, Sweden



ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

HELPING SMALL ENTERPRISES TO GROW SUSTAINABLY



GLOBAL CONTEXT



SMEs are key engines of economic growth. They are dynamic, adaptable and flexible and have an innovative capacity that makes them a cornerstone of ongoing economic reforms in developed and developing countries alike. SMEs make significant economic contributions through outputs, employment, new job creation and innovation. In most countries, they account for over half of the total share of gross domestic product. Their share in the number of registered companies is typically much higher, reaching 90–95 per cent in nearly all countries. The importance of SMEs for large companies, both as subcontractors and sellers of their products, has been constantly increasing. For SMEs to benefit more from globalization, however, they need assistance to realize trade and investment opportunities and to become internationally competitive.

Empretec – the UNCTAD Entrepreneurial Development Programme – is a capacity-building programme that promotes the creation of a one-stop centre for enterprise creation and development, in particular for SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Since 1988, the Empretec Programme has helped to foster entrepreneurship capabilities and the growth of internationally competitive SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Programme is focused on promoting public–private partnerships and aims to develop sustainable mechanisms to release entrepreneurial potential and provide business development services for local SMEs. The UNCTAD Business Linkages Programme, as a multi-stakeholder initiative that grew out of Empretec, goes a step further for SMEs by transforming linkages between SMEs and transnational corporations into sustainable business relationships.

UNCTAD also provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to a number of developing economies, including advice and training, to inform and guide the development and implementation of national entrepreneurship policies, strategies and action plans, based on the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework of UNCTAD.



HOW DOES THE EMPRETEC PROGRAMME WORK?

The Empretec Programme operates through a network of centres in 40 countries. Certified local trainers ensure that training is delivered on the ground in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Swahili. The Programme encompasses the following four elements:

- Entrepreneurship reviews and advisory reports;
- Intergovernmental peer reviews;
- Installation of Empretec centres and follow-up technical assistance;
- Follow-up services to entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs benefit from follow-up services provided by established



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1988

Countries assisted: 40

Entrepreneurs trained: 422,000

Empretec trainers: 600 (1988–2017)

Website: unctad.org/empretec



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 4 and 8

Empretec centres that involve assistance with business health checks, business plan formulation, public–private sector partnerships and business linkages with transnational corporations through the UNCTAD Business Linkages Programme.

By means of the Business Linkages Programme, UNCTAD plays not only the role of intermediary, it also improves the productivity and efficiency of local suppliers through training, mentoring, information exchange, quality improvements, innovation and technology transfer. In addition, UNCTAD assists Governments and other stakeholders in building an enabling policy environment and supports networks of business development and other service providers.

The Entrepreneurship Policy Framework identifies policy objectives and options in the form of recommended actions designed to aid Governments in the practical formulation and targeting of national entrepreneurship strategies and action plans. Beneficiaries have included Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Advisory services are delivered to facilitate Entrepreneurship Policy Framework implementation efforts. To date, 10 countries have successfully utilized the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework in the implementation of national entrepreneurship policies.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Business performance indicators measured in some beneficiaries in Jordan showed that 72 per cent of participants started a business within the eight months following attendance at an Empretec training course and, within the same timeframe, the number of jobs created by participants in the survey was on average 2.6 per business.
- A training assessment conducted in 2016 by the Brazilian Empretec centre, Sebrae, of 3,000 participants who attended a workshop in the previous year showed positive ratings for the Empretec training in satisfaction and usefulness (the average score was 9.1 out of 10 points).
- Mechanisms to promote public–private sector dialogues have been established in six countries, namely Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- A sustainable institutional framework to monitor the implementation of an action plan has been developed in Ecuador with an online tool; core indicators show that 300 new firms have been established, 1,000 jobs have been created and \$9 billion in exports has been generated.
- In the United Republic of Tanzania, the national business linkages programme, implemented in cooperation with the Investment Centre, has assisted 565 farmers in tomato, coffee and dairy value

chains. An assessment carried out on tomato growers showed that 75 per cent of trained farmers adopted improved tomato breeds, which translated into an increase in average productivity per acre from 16,000 kg (local breeds) to 40,000 kg (improved breeds). Another assessment showed that, following UNCTAD assistance, milk suppliers were able to reduce the fluctuation in production volumes between dry and rainy seasons, and became more attentive to quality control protocols.

- In Mozambique, the national business linkages programme, in cooperation with the National Centro de Promoção de Investimentos and Enterprise Mozambique Foundation as its main local counterparts, benefited 43 farmers who diversified their sources of income and learned how to run their farms as a business; their annual income increased from an average of \$300 to \$700.

"Under the framework [of] Entrepreneurship Policy Framework implementation, two important elements have been identified as best practice. First, the involvement of the private sector in implementing entrepreneurship policy. Secondly, the creation of a venture capital fund aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs and their participation into value chains."

Mr. Eduardo Egas, Minister of Industry and Productivity, Ecuador

"From what I have learnt from the Empretec workshop, I have managed to get more customers, improved on diversity and moved on a number of projects that previously I could not attempt. I was very motivated when I won the first prize at the Empretec workshop, having the highest profits in the business creation exercise."

Mr. Davies Mendulo Sinyinza, Empretec graduate, Zambia



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Multi-donor/Cross-cluster Trust Fund on Capacity-building in Investment for Development

Past: Finland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland



TRAIN FOR TRADE

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

With a view to supporting the development of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the UNCTAD Train for Trade Programme proposes tailored technical assistance to best meet countries' needs in key areas pertinent to trade. The Programme aims to develop local capacities and knowledge and skills, to empower countries to reap the benefits of international trade. The Programme promotes national ownership, supports South–South and triangular cooperation and leads to poverty reduction. Specifically, the Programme helps developing countries in building sustainable networks of knowledge, developing trade-oriented policies to reduce poverty and promoting ICT solutions and innovative thinking, to enhance the capacities of international trade players.

In recent years, the Train for Trade Programme has enlarged its scope, with recognized expertise in international trade and port management. With regard to international trade, the Programme covers a number of interrelated areas, such as the following:

- E-commerce, including issues such as the legal aspects of e-commerce, digital authentication and best practices in the use of e-commerce by practitioners;
- Trade statistics, including statistics on international trade in services, international merchandise trade and FDI;
- Competition law and consumer protection.

The Port Management Programme aims to support port communities with efficient and competitive port management services, to increase trade flows and foster sustainable economic development.



HOW DOES THE TRAIN FOR TRADE PROGRAMME WORK?

The Train for Trade Programme is based on a pedagogical methodology, including the training of trainers, coaching and blended learning. The Programme provides countries with a public–private partnership model, sustainable training and capacity-building, a talent management scheme and a systematic methodology combining blended learning and digital technology.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: All regions

Start date: 1996

Countries assisted: 50

Persons trained: 5,000 professionals and 300 certified trainers

Website: tft.unctad.org

Electronic learning platform: learn.unctad.org



**Sustainable Development
Goals addressed:**

Directly: 8 and 9

Indirectly: 1, 14 and 17

With regard to port management, it offers worldwide networks of port entities, value added solutions in port communities (case studies), modern port management courses (240 hours over two years) and port performance measurements.



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Since 1996, the Train for Trade Programme has been active in more than 50 countries, with 150 face-to-face and electronic learning courses delivered, training more than 5,000 professionals. The Programme includes 300 certified trainers and proposes training and capacity-building based on research and analysis, with six publications, and empirical evidence, based on more than 700 case studies. It is supported by four language networks, allowing for worldwide coverage.

The European Union classified the Train for Trade methodology of project management and blended learning delivery as a best practice, following an evaluation of a Train for Trade project in Angola. The Government of Ireland, the main donor of the Port Management Programme, has stated that the partnership between Irish Aid, ports in Ireland, UNCTAD and beneficiary ports is an example of a best practice in development cooperation.

"[The] Train for Trade Programme is putting ports around the world in one village where information becomes power and tools for development and modernization of our ports."

Mr. Hebel Mwasenga, Ports Authority,
United Republic of Tanzania



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past: Beneficiary countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and Caribbean; European Union

Some results of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme are as follows:

- Establishment of four language-based port networks (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish);
- Development of advisory services, involving 34 countries and over 200 port community entities;
- Training of 3,297 port managers;
- Organization of 100 national training and capacity-building cycles;
- Organization of 67 workshops for the training of trainers;
- Issuance of 1,240 UNCTAD port certificates.

A Programme built on strong partnerships

