

UNCTAD TOOLBOX

DELIVERING RESULTS





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.

We are now entering a new era with the sustainable development goals – one that should ensure dignity for all, prosperity for all and a sustainable planet for all. UNCTAD stands ready to help developing countries and transition economies to achieve the world we want by 2030.

Sustainable development is at the heart of UNCTAD's work. 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's technical assistance builds the capacities needed in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for equitable integration into the global economy and to improve the well-being of their populations.

This 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 post-2015 development agenda.

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 <http://unctad.org>.

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

PRODUCTS IN THE *UNCTAD TOOLBOX*

Transforming economies, improving competitiveness

- Investment Policy Reviews
- Services Policy Reviews
- Trade Policy Framework Reviews
- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews
- E-commerce and Law Reform Programme
- Investment Guides
- Non-tariff Measures
- National Green Export Reviews
- Accession to the World Trade Organization

Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

- Support to Graduation from Least Developed Country Status
- DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
- Assistance to the Palestinian People
- Enhanced Integrated Framework
- Rules of Origin and Market Access for Least Developed Countries
- Pan-African Cotton Road Map
- The BioTrade Initiative

Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

- Voluntary Peer Reviews on Competition Law and Policy
- eRegulations and eRegistrations Systems
- Trade Facilitation Programme
- ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data
- The UNCTAD Statistics Programme
- Corporate Social Responsibility – the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative
- Corporate Accounting and Reporting

Empowering people, investing in their future

- Trade, Gender and Development Programme
- International Investment Agreements
- Empretec and Business Linkages
- The Virtual Institute
- Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda – paragraph 166
- Train for Trade port training programme

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 UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Service. The Technical Cooperation Service 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 Service
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 917 5594
Fax: + 41 22 917 0043
E-mail: tc@unctad.org
Website: <http://unctad.org>

The UNCTAD secretariat will, if necessary and in consultation with the potential partner, send a mission in order to define all aspects of the proposed agreement.

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 <http://unctad.org> under technical cooperation.

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 request in writing, with an indication of the nature and contents of the assistance required.

The request should be addressed to:

Technical Cooperation Service
UNCTAD Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 917 5594
Fax: + 41 22 917 0043
E-mail: tc@unctad.org
Website: <http://unctad.org>

Requests may also be addressed through the nearest United Nations Resident Coordinator office.

The UNCTAD secretariat, in consultation with the requesting beneficiary, will consider sending a fact-finding mission in order to define all aspects of the proposed activities. Once the rationale for the activity has been determined, in cooperation with the beneficiary, UNCTAD will seek to secure the financial resources necessary for implementing the project.

The annual reports on technical cooperation, as well as up-to-date information on publications, technical cooperation activities and database, and UNCTAD meetings, are available on the UNCTAD website at <http://unctad.org/technicalcooperation>.

<http://unctad.org>

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INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEWS

LEVERAGING INVESTMENT POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a major catalyst for development, as higher levels of FDI can trigger growth in overall levels of trade in goods and services. FDI is also an integral part of an open and effective economy. With its many potential linkages with the domestic economy – such as technology transfer, human capital formation and creation of new industries – for developing countries, it can also stimulate greater integration into the global economy.

To fully reap the benefits of FDI for development, FDI inflows should be directed towards national actions that lead to transforming a country's economy. Yet the benefits of FDI do not automatically follow nor are they spread evenly across countries. Developing countries need diversified production capacities, supporting national policies and the international investment architecture to attract greater shares of FDI.

To support developing countries in attracting FDI, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies – Investment Policy Reviews – of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment specific to each country. These studies are aimed not only at attracting more FDI for beneficiary countries but also at obtaining increased benefits for them. The Reviews, published as reports, provide concrete policy advice. As follow-up, UNCTAD provides technical assistance activities to support countries in addressing the Reviews' concrete policy recommendations and improve the prospects for sustainable development.

WHAT MAKES REVIEWING INVESTMENT POLICIES WORK?

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 counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

Each Review focuses on a country-specific strategy to attract and benefit from FDI. The publication of the Investment Policy Review report is followed by technical assistance activities to support implementation of the recommendations.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Review countries across different regions experienced increases in FDI inflows and displayed less volatile FDI inflows, e.g. least developed countries in Africa.
- Country commitment to the Reviews, endorsement of policy recommendations and their implementation as demonstrated by implementation reports, such as those for Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The reports showed a good to strong implementation record, increased interest by existing investors and increased capacity to market investment opportunities.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

**Investment Policy Review
programme scope:** all regions

Programme start date: 1999

Reviews per year: 3 to 4 (average)

Number of Reviews to date:

42, including 17 least developed countries
and 24 African countries

Upcoming Review: first regional Investment
Policy Review (2015), covering 8 economies
in South East-Europe

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/ipr>



- Interest in the programme is illustrated by the 30 countries – of 42 with Reviews – requesting follow-up technical assistance and the 28 new countries that have requested to benefit from the Reviews.
- Over 300 policy recommendations have been implemented to date.

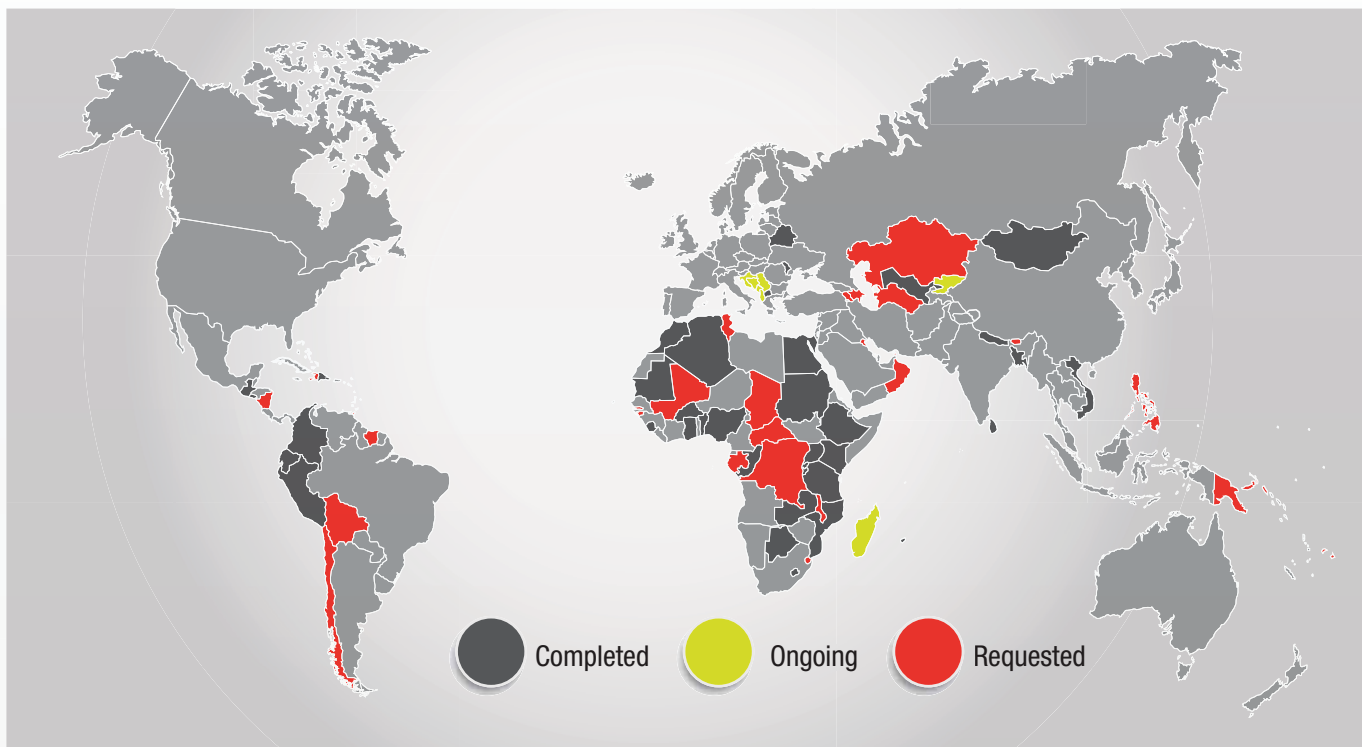
Brief highlight: *The Investment Policy Review of Mongolia resulted in concrete actions, such as a revamping of the country's entire investment law and the establishment of a national investment promotion agency.*

**DONORS/
FUNDING SOURCE**

Current: China, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

Past: Dominican Republic, France, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Development Programme, Inter-American Development Bank

Investment Policy Reviews



SERVICES POLICY REVIEWS

REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF SERVICES



GLOBAL CONTEXT

International trade in services expanded rapidly between 1980 and 2013 – faster than both global GDP and merchandise trade – with total exports increasing from about \$400 billion to \$4.7 trillion. Developing economies have achieved strong growth in their services exports since 1990, boosting their share of world exports from 18.1 per cent in 1990 to 30.1 per cent in 2013. Developing Africa and 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. Services can transform economies. 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.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- In May 2015, UNCTAD concluded the first Services Policy Review for Bangladesh – the fifth least developed country to benefit from such assistance. The Review is expected to help the country in formulating pragmatic policies for its emerging services sectors and to participate in the negotiations in the World Trade Organization on services waiver.
- Following the Review (second phase) for Uganda in 2015, the country committed to implementing its policy recommendations.

- The Services Policy Review for Paraguay, presented in 2014, included the telecommunications sector. The telecommunications regulatory agency of Paraguay then confirmed that one of the Review's policy recommendations had been incorporated into the National Plan for Telecommunications.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Services Policy Review
programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 2009

Reviews per year: 2–3

Number of Reviews to date: 12,
Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Uganda (2 phases),
Rwanda, Lesotho, Bangladesh, Angola,
Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua

Programme website:

[http://unctad.org/
services/sprs](http://unctad.org/services/sprs)

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

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

Past: China, France, Spain,
the United Kingdom, the United
Nations Development
Account



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, though, 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.

UNCTAD's Trade Policy Framework Reviews help countries in a systematic, comprehensive and strategic manner. 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 activities and workshops, provide the tools to policymakers in developing countries and transition economies 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 Governments. 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 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 to 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.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Based on UNCTAD's work, in 2010 Rwanda adopted a new comprehensive trade policy framework.
- Following on the Trade Policy Framework Review prepared by UNCTAD, Jamaica is in the process of adopting a new trade policy framework.
- In Angola, after a workshop organized in 2014 to validate the Review, the Government is now expected to submit its trade policy framework to the Council of Ministers for approval and for implementation to begin.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Trade Policy Framework Review programme scope: all regions

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

Reviews per year: 2 (average)

Number of Reviews to date: over 40 country/regional assessments of overall (or sectoral) trade policies

Upcoming Reviews: Algeria, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Namibia, Panama

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account

Past: United Nations Development Account

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

FACTORING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Building national capacities in science, technology and innovation is essential for local industries in developing countries to compete in today's global, knowledge-based economy. This can generate better paying jobs, increase living standards, reduce poverty and promote a Government's growth and export diversification strategy. Making effective use of innovation requires factoring scientific and technological knowledge into national development strategies and plans.

Assimilating, disseminating and applying scientific and technological knowledge and building capacities in these areas, though, require investment in human capital and infrastructure. National systems to retrieve, use and apply relevant knowledge should be in place. Systematic efforts are also needed to encourage the productive sectors of developing countries to thrive in a knowledge-based society – and economy.

UNCTAD developed the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews to assist developing countries in building those capacities at the national level. The starting point for the Reviews is that science, technology and innovation are essential to the policies that sustain the national innovation systems which can promote development. The long-term aim of the Reviews is for national science, technology and innovation plans and programmes to support the 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 analysis of the national innovation system and an assessment of the science, technology and innovation policies in place. They are usually complemented by in-depth studies of specific sectors, institutions or problems related to science, technology and innovation that are particularly relevant to the country that requested the Review. Recommendations are designed to increase national capacity to take in and make use of the value of science, technology and innovation, including at the policymaking level, to better respond to the challenges of a knowledge-based economy.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- After the 2010 Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review in Peru, the national budget dedicated to science, technology and innovation increased 20 times in one year.
- The Review in Oman in 2014 led to the establishment two consultative bodies in the country. One such body at a strategic level consists of five ministers and several senior advisers. The other, at an operational level, includes the executive directors of over 20 stakeholder institutions focused on science, technology and innovation.

- The Review in Thailand was completed in early 2015. A first draft of the review identifying nine sets of recommendations. The diagnosis and recommendations of the report have begun feeding into public policy design processes. This is seen already, for example, in the current proposal on science, technology and innovation policy reform being discussed as a part of the national reform process.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Science, Technology and Innovation
Policy Review programme scope: all regions

Programme start date:
2008, current series (1998–2005, first series)

Reviews per year: 1 or 2

Number of Reviews to date:
9 (current series)

Upcoming Review:
Viet Nam

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations
Development Account

Past: Finland,
Switzerland



Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews completed to date



E-COMMERCE AND LAW REFORM PROGRAMME

FACILITATING E-COMMERCE THROUGH ICTs



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Electronic commerce – and more generally the rise of the information society – is rapidly transforming the way in which enterprises are interacting among each other as well as with consumers and Governments. The result is that e-commerce is creating new opportunities for technological leaps, productivity gains across the economy, the rise of new sectors and boosting trade. It is also growing rapidly in developing economies, thereby offering a catalyst for growth and development. Some of the greatest dynamism in e-commerce and information and communications technologies (ICTs) can be found in developing countries, but that potential is far from realized.

Making ICTs work for development means adapting to the benefits and the legal challenges that go along with their use. One facet of e-commerce raises the same issues for developed and developing countries – the need to ensure that consumers can trust online transactions. Conducting domestic and international trade online has to be simplified, and there must be legal protection for users and providers to carry out online activities and offer e-government services. Developing countries should have the legal, institutional and policy frameworks in place to open the door to the dynamism of e-commerce, whether via the Internet, mobile phones or the cloud.

UNCTAD assists Governments of developing and transition economies by helping to build the capacity of policymakers and lawmakers in these areas. This is essential as developing countries start to take on a more prominent role as both buyers and sellers of goods and services online. Working at the national and regional levels, UNCTAD helps government representatives to assess their readiness for e-commerce. Policymakers and lawmakers also gain understanding on the issues behind e-commerce and in particular the legal implications of ICTs, such as cyberlaws and enforcement of new legislation.

HOW CAN E-COMMERCE LEGISLATION BE IMPROVED?

At the request of Governments, UNCTAD carries out two main activities. Regional and national capacity-building workshops are designed to build sustainable local capacities in the complex legal, institutional and policy frameworks necessary to foster development through e-commerce. Legislative support focuses on revising laws and preparing regional cyberlaw frameworks, with a view to achieving international interoperability. Work begins with an inventory of existing laws and a critical analysis of the jurisprudence to assess compatibility.

UNCTAD also developed a cyberlaw tracker which is regularly updated and maintained. Launched in March 2015, the Global Cyberlaw Tracker (unctad.org/cyberlawtracker) is the first online tool that maps cyberlaws globally, focusing on e-transaction, cybercrime, data protection and consumer protection.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

E-commerce and law reform programme scope: Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean
Programme start date: 2002
Number of training workshops: 31
Number of policymakers and lawmakers trained: 2,300
Number of developing countries benefiting from e-commerce legislation: over 60
Programme website: <http://unctad.org/ict4d>



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD recently supported the revision of laws in developing countries in Africa. In Ethiopia, the laws revised in May 2014 included the Draft E-signature Law, Computer Misuse Act, Data Protection Act and E-transactions Act. In Nigeria, the law on content development was modified in August 2014, while in Uganda, the Data Protection and Privacy Bill was revised in June 2014.
- The UNCTAD E-commerce and Law Reform programme pioneered the introduction of the legal dimension of ICTs in some 20 least developed countries (16 in Africa, 3 in Asia and Haiti); 21 developing countries in Africa (Ethiopia, all countries in the Economic Community of West African States and the East African Community), 10 in Asia (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean – where work continues. The East African Community became the first African region to adopt a harmonized framework for cyberlaws.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Finland,
the Republic of Korea

Past: Germany

INVESTMENT GUIDES

STRENGTHENING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BY PROMOTING INVESTMENT

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Foreign direct investment (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, though, 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 on 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

Programme start date: 2000

Number of investment guides to date: 26

Investment guides produced per year:
3 (average)

Programme website:

[http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/
Investment%20Facilitation%20Compact
/Investment-Guides.aspx](http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/Investment%20Facilitation%20Compact/Investment-Guides.aspx)

NON-TARIFF MEASURES

ADDRESSING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS



GLOBAL CONTEXT

International trade today has seen a decline in tariff rates as a result of multilateral and regional trade negotiations and growing importance in non-tariff measures. Non-tariff measures – defined as policy measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that can have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing the quantities traded or prices or both – are used as both protection and regulatory trade instruments. They include sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, quantitative restrictions (e.g. quotas), contingent trade-protective measures (e.g. anti-dumping duty) and other measures.

For exporters, importers and policymakers, non-tariff measures represent a challenge. Though many are aimed primarily at protecting public health or the environment, they also affect trade through compliance and procedural costs. Non-tariff measures can unintentionally and disproportionately affect small exporters and poorer countries. For developing countries, understanding the uses and implications of such measures is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

UNCTAD has been working on research and capacity-building programme activities related to non-tariff measures since the early 1980s. It has developed a comprehensive programme covering the entire “value chain” of non-tariff measures, ranging from conception (e.g. how information about such measures can be structured), data collection and dissemination to research and policy advice. More specifically, UNCTAD assists developing countries, including least developed countries, in increasing transparency and building analytical capacities on non-tariff measures through three important tools: a regional non-tariff measure integration review, online training for data collection on non-tariff measures and a set of resources on trade policy analysis.

HOW CAN ANALYTICAL CAPACITIES IN NON-TARIFF MEASURES BE BUILT?

Reviews of non-tariff measures, with a view to regional integration, aim at providing analytical support for the regional integration process by systematically addressing such measures in a free trade area. A review consists of four components: data collection on non-tariff measures; an impact assessment of non-tariff measures; institutional analysis to identify strengths and weaknesses in regional integration of non-tariff measures; and a validation workshop to foster political will and discuss the way forward.

The available online training for data collection on non-tariff measures consists of five modules: an introduction to non-tariff measures, classification of non-tariff measures, classification of products in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems, guidelines on collecting data on non-tariff measures and hands-on exercises. Successful participants are awarded certification by UNCTAD as a non-tariff measure data collector. Those with the top marks become part of an UNCTAD roster for consultancies in data collection or other work related to non-tariff measures.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date: 2008

Number of activities to date: 19 courses (trade policy analysis); 2 regional non-tariff measure integration reviews

Activities per year: 2–3 trade policy analysis courses (average); 1 regional non-tariff measure integration review; 100 participants in online non-tariff measures training

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-Analysis/Non-Tariff-Measures.aspx>



The set of resources on trade policy analysis aims at enhancing capacity in developing countries on analysing and implementing trade policy, including non-tariff measures, through training activities. A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis – a co-publication of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization – serves as a main reference for training, with the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) software (developed in collaboration with UNCTAD) another core component. Training is also tailored to the needs of each audience, with a more technical focus used for practitioners and a more discursive and descriptive approach for policy-oriented audiences.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD began collecting and classifying non-tariff measures in 1994. The UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) is the most comprehensive database on non-tariff measures. TRAINS has been accessible through the WITS software application since 2002.
- A 2014 UNCTAD pilot project, with funding from the German Agency for International Cooperation, conducted on reviewing regional integration of non-tariff measures in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was highly appreciated by stakeholders and workshop participants, particularly the analytical methodologies to determine status, potential and benefits for non-tariff measure harmonization were highly appreciated by stakeholders and workshop participants. SADC officials used the resulting study, which provided insights into the region's ongoing initiatives and helped to identify synergies, in their response to a request from the SADC Committee of Ministers Responsible for Trade for a strategic plan to eliminate non-tariff barriers in the region.
- The online training for data collection on non-tariff measures has received positive feedback from participants. Results of a 2015 questionnaire indicate that 98 per cent found the knowledge acquired during the training extremely or very useful in deepening participants' understanding of non-tariff measures; 86 per cent found the information on non-tariff measures extremely or very helpful to understanding the policy issues that her or his country faced in international trade.

- Following a 2015 training course on trade policy analysis, Ecuador, for example, requested further assistance in estimating the impact of trade agreements currently being negotiated with the Republic of Korea and the European Union.
- More than 300 participants have been trained through the online course on non-tariff measures. Participants have expressed appreciation of the course:
 - The course helped one participant in shaping the methodology used for a proposal on assessing the impact of non-tariff measures on Tanzanian exports 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 in the areas of collection, correct classification and tabulation of non-tariff measures.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account, Canada, Germany, Japan, European Commission, World Bank

Past: Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom

NATIONAL GREEN EXPORT REVIEWS TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMIES

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Across countries, transitions to a green economy have the potential to make increasing contributions to economic diversification. Such transitions can contribute to creating employment, export earnings, and environmental protection and social equity. A green economy is driven by both domestic and foreign demand for green goods and services, including more efficient and low-carbon energy and transportation, organic food, ecotourism, solid waste and water recycling, environmental consulting, and emerging categories that include green construction, sustainable harvested timber products and natural fibres. Whether in high-tech goods, commodities, basic manufactures or services, the export opportunities offered in a greening global economy are significant and expanding faster than overall world trade – a trend that is expected to continue.

What makes a product green? Green products are those with less of a negative impact on the environment than their traditional equivalents. A green product could be manufactured from recycled components or using renewable energy, or it could be supplied to a market with less wasteful packaging, or all three of these options. A large untapped potential exists for developing countries to advance their green sectors. Opportunities offered by greening economies may stimulate economic diversification, create jobs, raise income levels, foster environmental protection and thereby improve living standards. Achieving a green economy calls for making economic growth compatible with sustainable development, which in turn requires adequate policies and other mechanisms to achieve such goals.

UNCTAD National Green Export Reviews respond to an emerging demand from developing countries to assess national potential to advance the development of national green sectors and generate new employment, increased export opportunities and advance sustainable development. Conducting National Green Export Reviews enables UNCTAD to work in a close partnership with countries seeking to strengthen their green economies. The 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 sectors.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE AN ECONOMY GREENER?

A National Green Export Review is initiated at the request of a Government. Depending on the request, UNCTAD can either provide assistance in a particular green sector for which the country has a demonstrated comparative advantage or UNCTAD can support the requesting Government in better identifying the green sectors that have high potential in the country. UNCTAD supports sector-specific National Green Export Reviews in a wide variety of green sectors.

The National Green Export Review process covers the formulation, adoption and implementation of economic policies, plans, regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and competitiveness of a country to produce and

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date: 2014

Number of ongoing Reviews:
5 (Ecuador, Ethiopia, Oman,
Morocco, Vanuatu)

Number of Reviews possible
per year: 2 to 4



trade in greener sectors. The Reviews are conducted through an interactive national stakeholder process with the aim of designing and implementing green economy policies and establishing regulatory and institutional frameworks, as well as cooperative Government-to-business and business-to-business mechanisms, to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and competitiveness of a country's green sectors.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

As of July 2015, the National Green Export Review programme has been in place for less than 2 years. While still new, the Review process is already starting to show some initial results. For example, in Ecuador:

- An action plan was recently adopted by the Government.
- The national green export strategy and action plan adopted by the Ministry of Commerce seeks to maintain and expand Ecuador's competitive base for sustainable fish production.
- In line with the action plan, Ecuador has requested support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on regulatory assessments and review of national fisheries.
- The tuna industry sector is developing a voluntary code of conduct for the sustainability of the tuna value chain in Ecuador.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations
Development Account



ACCESSION TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION INTO THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Countries wishing to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO) consider membership as one important means of integrating beneficially into the international trading system and the global economy. Yet accession to the WTO is a long and complex negotiation process that requires extensive human resources and institutional capacities, including sectoral expertise. Many countries that request to accede, particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and small economies, face particular constraints and challenges, such as limited analytical capacity to support trade and impact analysis and lack of resources to respond to information requests during the accession process, as well as other limitations.

UNCTAD assistance serves as an important reinforcement of capacity in trade-related negotiations for countries engaged in the WTO accession process. Support includes training of government officials and other relevant stakeholders on particular WTO agreements and assisting countries in preparing memorandums of foreign trade regime and other key accession documents, as well as exchange of experiences and lessons learned. UNCTAD has assisted both large economies that have acceded to the WTO, such as China and the Russian Federation, as well as African countries, LDCs and countries in with economies in transition, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Samoa, Seychelles, Vanuatu and Yemen. As a part of its support, UNCTAD has developed a series of training modules to raise awareness and understanding of economic and technical aspects of the multilateral trading system, trade agreements and related issues, such as agriculture, non-agricultural sectors, services, intellectual property rights and regional trade agreements. Beyond the accession process, UNCTAD supports countries that have recently acceded in the implementation of their WTO commitments.

HOW DOES UNCTAD DELIVER SUPPORT TOWARDS ACCESSION?

UNCTAD undertakes technical assistance activities to benefit countries acceding to the WTO pursuant to its intergovernmental mandate, as agreed at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (1996) and reaffirmed successively at each quadrennial ministerial conference since then. Most recently, the 2012 Doha Mandate (paragraph 56 (a)) states: "UNCTAD should provide developing countries, in particular LDCs, and countries with economies in transition that are acceding to WTO with technical assistance and capacity-building prior to, during and in the follow-up to the accession process, depending on their level of development and needs."

Assistance is demand-led, tailored to and focused on the requirements and needs of beneficiary countries, while ensuring full national ownership of the accession process. Priorities are established at the national level through a multi-stakeholder approach involving all relevant actors including civil society, taking into account the fact the different levels of development of countries. UNCTAD support draws on its research, intergovernmental and expert meetings and technical assistance work. Assistance aims at enabling

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope of the programme
on accession to the WTO:

All countries not originally WTO members

Programme start date: 1996

Number of countries assisted to date: 35

Programme website:

[http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/TNCD/
WTO-accession-Technical-
assistance-and-capacity-building.aspx](http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/TNCD/WTO-accession-Technical-assistance-and-capacity-building.aspx)

national trade officials to meet accession requirements at the technical and policy levels, increasing their knowledge of the international trading system and multilateral trade negotiations techniques and strategies, and facilitating the formulation and implementation of trade policies. Through training and capacity-building, the human, institutional and regulatory capacities of national trade institutions and frameworks can be enhanced and awareness among civil society, increased. Activities can include needs assessment, training and capacity-building in trade policy; formulation of trade policies and definition of national policy objectives; sectoral and impact assessment studies; technical advisory missions on substantive issues of the accession process; reviewing and/or assisting in drafting of trade-related domestic legislation; building national research capacity; internships for trade policymakers, as well as workshops and training sessions for the negotiating team, policymakers, private sector, academia and civil society; facilitating exchanges of experience between acceding and recently acceded WTO members; and dissemination of trade policy information and multimedia training material.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Since WTO was established in 1995, most countries that were not original members have applied for accession, or at least indicated their interest in doing so, and have counted on UNCTAD assistance.
- UNCTAD has provided and continues providing technical assistance to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, the Comoros, China, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Tajikistan,

Timor-Leste, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Serbia, Sao Tome and Principe, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen. Of the countries assisted:

- 12 are LDCs
- Kazakhstan, Seychelles and Yemen became full members of WTO in 2014–2015.
- A 2015 external evaluation, in assessing subprogramme 3 (international trade), pointed to recognition of UNCTAD's comparative advantages: "Stakeholders note that UNCTAD provides valuable support to LDCs and developing countries in pre-accession and accession stages in ways that others cannot... Unlike WTO, 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 WTO."

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Current: Norway, Finland, Sweden (through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Past: Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom

"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 to the country, 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 (Norway) and member of team of independent evaluators, at the UNCTAD Working Party on the Strategic Framework and Budget, 2006

SUPPORT TO GRADUATION FROM LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS

SUPPORTING STRUCTURAL PROGRESS TOWARDS GRADUATION

GLOBAL CONTEXT

No country wants to be a least developed country (LDC) forever. Making graduation from LDC status possible has been one of the paramount objectives of the United Nations system. The Istanbul Programme of Action – the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 – adopted in May 2011 set the ambitious goal of seeing at least half of all LDCs meet graduation criteria by the end of 2020. In more than 40 years, though, only four countries graduated from LDC status. Achieving structural progress toward graduation is a challenging objective for LDCs, given the geographical disadvantages most of them suffer from, and their exposure to risks of external shocks beyond domestic control.

Structural economic transformation through productive capacity-building is a key development objective of LDCs. This is what ultimately underlies the quest for graduation from LDC status. Sound economic diversification is generally aimed at as the most desirable form of structural change, conducive to economic resilience and poverty reduction, ideally with stable employment opportunities. UNCTAD supports LDCs in achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation. This involves measuring structural change in all LDCs, strengthening the capacity of individual LDCs to harness structural transformation to make progress towards graduation and guiding graduating countries in their pursuit of a smooth transition to post-LDC life.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ARE PROVIDED?

In addition to general support of LDCs on the road to structural transformation, UNCTAD provides advisory services to all 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 for all countries considered pre-eligible for graduation. The aim of vulnerability profiles is to enrich the understanding of all possible elements of economic and social progress in a country, and all major constraints on its development, particularly its exposure to risks of external shocks. UNCTAD also assists LDCs in harnessing their structural progress before they have reached the stage of pre-eligibility for graduation. After a United Nations decision to graduate a country has been taken, UNCTAD assists the graduating State in formulating its smooth transition strategy. The exercise involves making an inventory of the benefits from LDC status of particular importance to the economy and

support in negotiations with relevant development partners, to ensure that the eventual loss of LDC treatment will not disrupt the continuation of progress.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme on support
towards LDC graduation: 48 LDCs
Programme start date: 1999
Number of countries
assisted to date: 10
Number of countries assisted
per year: 2 (average)



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD has assisted more than 10 LDCs – Angola, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Maldives, Myanmar, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – in harnessing structural progress towards graduation from LDC status, understanding the consequences of graduation and achieving a smooth transition to post-LDC status.
- In Cabo Verde, UNCTAD was instrumental in assisting the Government and its transition support group in the preparation of a smooth transition strategy. (The country graduated from LDC status in December 2007.) During 2005–2007, this work focused on aid levels, preferential market access and preparing the country to implement World Trade Organization obligations at a time when Cabo Verde was approaching accession to the World Trade Organization (July 2008).
- For the Government of Maldives, UNCTAD prepared a smooth transition strategy document that enabled national authorities to negotiate continuation of duty-free, quota-free (LDC-like) treatment with trade preference-givers, notably the European Union and Japan.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account, self-financing countries

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)

DMFAS – DEBT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS SYSTEM

IMPROVING CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE DEBT MANAGEMENT

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Effective debt management is indispensable for ensuring the financing needs of Governments, minimizing borrowing costs and risks, and to support 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 low capacity to build and maintain their own debt management systems and debt databases. In fact, even middle-income countries with higher capacities opt for a ready-made and customizable solution such as that provided by the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (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 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

DMFAS programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 1982

Projects implemented per year
on average: 25

Number of active DMFAS users:

The programme is active in
84 institutions in 57 countries

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Testimonies from DMFAS users back its practical solutions and results:

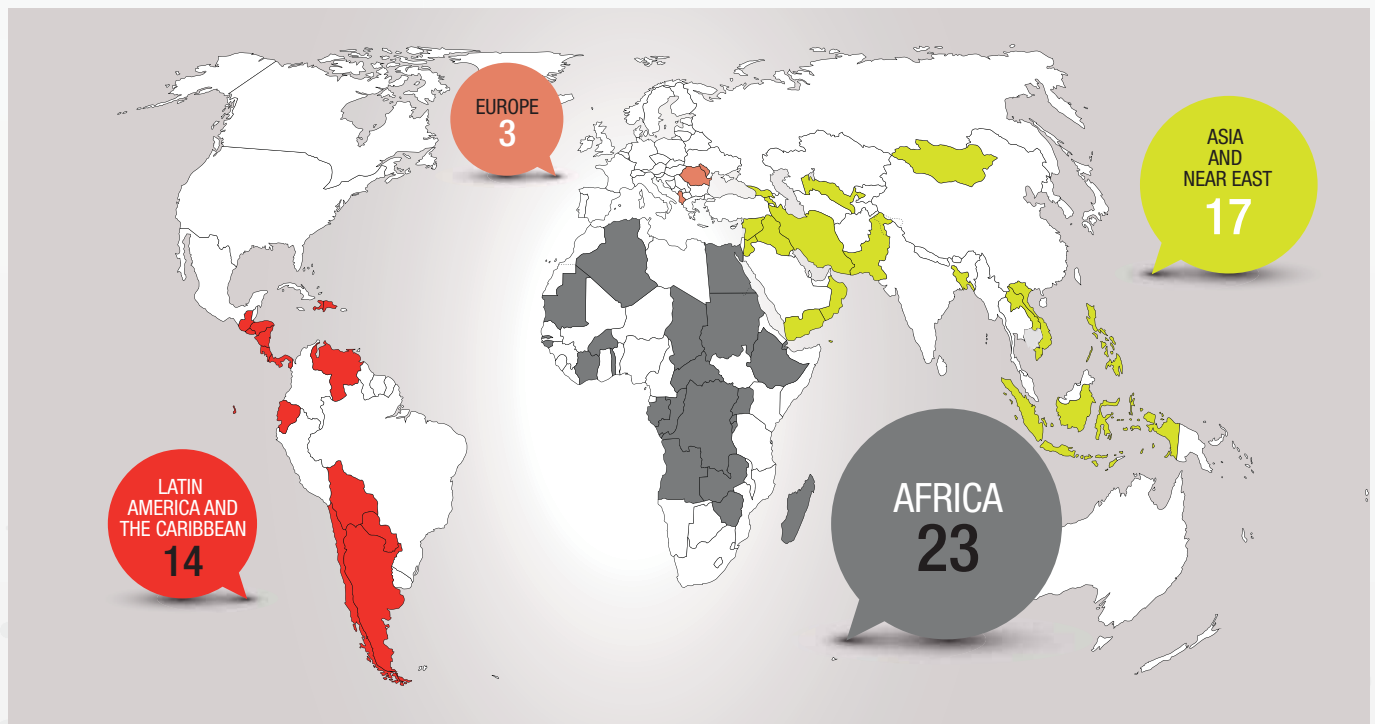
- “The Philippine Treasury expresses its unending gratitude and appreciation to UNCTAD for its valuable technical assistance to the Philippines without which our country would not have progressed immensely in the area of debt management.” *Treasurer of the Philippines*
- “Thanks to the joint efforts of UNCTAD and of the DMFAS users team in Albania, we have established an accurate information system on external debt. Its advantages are quite evident in the debt management decision-making.” *Vice-Minister of Finance of 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 the conciliation of our public debt data with our creditors.” *Director of Public Credit, Ministry of Finance of Honduras*

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

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

Past: Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden

DMFAS users by number of countries per region, 2014



ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR DEVELOPING A BETTER FUNCTIONING ECONOMY

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Economic development of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is considered to be an important issue at the regional and global levels. The unique challenges and volatile economic and political dynamics in the OPT have wider repercussions across the Middle East.

The complex challenges faced by the Palestinian people underscore the need for greater efforts on the part of the Palestinian National Authority for socioeconomic development, with the full support of the international community. The complex conditions in the OPT require careful strategies and initiatives to address the needs of the Palestinian people for building the institutional capacities and economic base required for a future sovereign Palestinian State, as called for in relevant United Nations resolutions.

Against this backdrop, and with more than 30 years of expertise on Palestinian trade and development issues, UNCTAD formulates and implements technical cooperation projects, providing training and advisory services to facilitate economic development in the OPT.

HOW DOES UNCTAD HELP THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?

UNCTAD addresses the Palestinian economy's complex and evolving needs through four clusters of work: (a) trade policies and strategies; (b) trade facilitation and logistics; (c) finance and development; and (d) enterprise, investment and competition policy.

UNCTAD conducts research, carries out technical cooperation projects and provides training and advisory services, in close cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian private sector, civil society organizations and United Nations and other international agencies. UNCTAD aims at strengthening the capacity of the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian private sector, and laying the foundations for the institutional capacities required for sound economic development and efficient functioning of the economy of a future independent Palestinian State.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Between April 2011 and March 2015 UNCTAD implemented a project on capacity development for facilitating Palestinian trade, with the explicit goal of consolidating the institutional capacity of the Palestinian Shippers Council and enhancing awareness

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date:

1979 (first technical assistance project in 1995)

Number of projects to date: 15

Projects implemented per year since 1995:

1 (average)

among professionals in the private and public sectors on best practices in trade facilitation. Several success stories came about during implementation of the project, particularly through the training programme under the project:

- The project generated new job opportunities for Palestinian youth who were trained on trade facilitation and logistics. Upon completion of a “training of trainers” programme, these young professionals were certified as trainers on the trade facilitation supply chain.
- The training aimed at achieving gender balance by ensuring that 30 per cent of the trainees were women, despite the fact that the field of trade facilitation has been historically dominated by men.
- Some of the professionals who benefited from the training reported considerable cost savings in the trade facilitation supply chain as a direct result of the knowledge they gained from the training programme.

Results in-depth

Strengthening capacity for analysing the economy

In 2011, UNCTAD and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the Central Bureau’s economic modelling and forecasting capacity and to enhance the Palestinian National Authority’s capacity for constructing, evaluating and interpreting socioeconomic indicators and assessing alternative policy scenarios. UNCTAD has conducted training programmes for

staff of the Central Bureau and Palestinian National Authority in Geneva (Switzerland) and Ramallah (Jordan). UNCTAD efforts on building Palestinian capacity for econometric modelling and forecasting led to the establishment of a forecasting unit within the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, headed and staffed by professionals trained by UNCTAD.

UNCTAD also handed over its econometric model of the Palestinian economy to the Central Bureau; the forecasting unit has used the model to produce official economic forecasts, which are drawn on by the Palestinian National Authority, Palestinian Ministry of Finance and other entities for planning and other purposes. UNCTAD continues to cooperate and provide advisory services to the Central Bureau. In April 2015, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics held meetings with UNCTAD staff and solicited advice on developing regionally disaggregated econometric models for the State of Palestine.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past:
Canada, Italy, Norway,
European Commission,
World Bank

ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

SUPPORTING LDCs IN TACKLING CONSTRAINTS TO TRADE

GLOBAL CONTEXT

The least developed countries (LDCs) represent the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 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 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, known as 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 (EIF) 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 at enabling 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, among other activities, trade policymaking that can lead to creating employment and reducing poverty.

As one of the six core EIF partner agencies, UNCTAD’s focus and support is on contributing towards strengthening the capacities of LDCs in trade policymaking and thus improve ownership of the EIF process. Specifically, UNCTAD supports LDCs under the EIF programme through the formulation of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and their updates, and by drafting technical cooperation projects for implementation of the action matrix of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies, particularly with regard to tier 2 projects funded by the EIF Trust Fund. The six core partner agencies that support the EIF 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 EIF participating countries. 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 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

Programme start date: 2012

Number of countries assisted:
8 (Diagnostic Trade Integration
Study updates)

Number of countries
assisted per year: 5 (average)

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- A number of LDCs – for example, Benin, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger and Senegal – have with support from UNCTAD made progress 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 DTIS 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 EIF secretariat in 2014.

Results in-depth

Strengthening productive and trade capacities

Benin. 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 EIF-sponsored Diagnostic Trade Integration Study. As part of the project, UNCTAD is responsible for elaborating a national trade policy document and will provide technical assistance in building capacities of governmental entities, private sector and civil society and non-governmental organizations in the areas of trade integration, negotiations, rules of origin and market access. In response to a request from the Government of Benin, additional support will be provided on geographical indications.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: EIF

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)

“UNCTAD presented the report on its work [the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study of Senegal] to all the stakeholders during a validation workshop on the [Diagnostic Trade Integration Study] update [. . .]. I take this opportunity to commend the quality of collaboration between our two institutions and to express the gratitude of the Government of Senegal for the quality of the results achieved.”

Representative of the Ministry of Commerce, Informal Sector, Consumption,
Local Product Promotion and SMEs, Senegal
2013

RULES OF ORIGIN AND MARKET ACCESS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

SUPPORTING LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Least developed countries (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 of America, 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 comply with requirements on rules of origin under preferential trading arrangements – focusing on product origin – with a view to improving utilization rates of trade preferences. Since 2006, for instance, UNCTAD has assisted LDCs that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Declaration adopted at the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, China) on duty-free and quota-free market access. The declaration called on ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access. UNCTAD also provides support in relation to the WTO Ministerial Decision (Bali, Indonesia) 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?

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 thus increase the utilization rates of trade preferences; and (b) delivering tailor-made technical assistance, such as advisory

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date: 2006

Number of countries assisted to date:
All LDC member States of UNCTAD
(rules of origin); 9 (geographical indications)

Countries assisted per year: All LDC
members of WTO regularly assisted
year-round; 3 (average, on
geographical indications)

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 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 a book of specifications for those products and containing a branding policy.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD continues to regularly assist LDCs that are WTO members. Through active participation in WTO negotiations following the 2005 Ministerial Declaration on duty-free and quota-free market access, LDCs successfully negotiated on the Bali decision on preferential rules of origin, and are actively pursuing its implementation.
- UNCTAD’s timely assistance 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 2013, import values multiplied by a factor 5.4, increasing from US\$60 to US\$325 million (an increase of 442 per cent).

- Realizing the importance and potential of branding products of rural communities through the use of geographical indications, with UNCTAD support, the Governments of Ethiopia and Myanmar have produced draft legislation for the promotion and protection of geographical indications.



**DONORS/
FUNDING SOURCE**

Current: Italy, the Netherlands,
World Bank

Past: United Nations Development
Account, Department for International
Development (United Kingdom)

PAN-AFRICAN COTTON ROAD MAP

COMING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THE AFRICAN COTTON SECTOR

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Cotton production and processing is a fundamental source of income and employment in 28 African countries. Although the continent is a small player in terms of world production, raw cotton is among the top exports of many African countries. The sector provides income for food security, education, health, housing and transportation. The crop is, therefore, critical in the fight against rural poverty.

The introduction and adoption of new technologies and expansion of the area under cotton has resulted in significant production gains in the world. And yet, cotton production in Africa peaked in 2004/05 (at around 2 million tons) and then declined by almost 50 per cent over the next five years. The African cotton sector faces major challenges pertaining to productivity, competitiveness and sustainability. Addressing those challenges means improving value addition (and quality) and closing the gap in productivity between Africa and other world producers. This requires improved farm-level productivity and ginning efficiency, and supporting capacities and institutions through the capacity-building of stakeholders and strengthening of governance structures.

The Pan-African Cotton Road Map was initiated by UNCTAD, the Common Fund for Commodities, the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the *Comité d'orientation et de suivi-coton* of the European Union-Africa Partnership on cotton. The Road Map is intended as a practical tool to revive the African cotton sector. The Road Map includes a thorough analysis of the challenges facing the African cotton sector and lays out a continental strategy along three thematic areas: raising productivity; improving marketing and trade; and increasing value addition. It also aims at strengthening coordination mechanisms and coherence across all policies and actions at the national and regional levels, in particular between regional strategies on clothing produced from cotton textile.

HOW CAN THE ROAD MAP HELP AFRICAN COTTON-PRODUCING COUNTRIES?

The Road Map is the culmination of an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process – involving African Governments of cotton-producing countries, cotton sector stakeholders and regional and international partners – with the ultimate goal of supporting African countries in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by producing cotton for trade. The Road Map outlines a path towards the integration of ongoing processes in the sector, describing specific short-, medium- and long-term actions and objectives for the continent's various cotton sector stakeholders, as well as a timeline for implementing those actions. UNCTAD offers advisory services and intends to conduct capacity-building workshops to facilitate the implementation of the Road Map.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope:
African cotton-producing countries

Programme start date: 2008

**Number of countries assisted
to date:** 28

**Number of countries assisted
per year:** 4 (average)

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RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The Road Map has become a valuable resource in the design of concrete initiatives:
 - Zambia has been using the Road Map for its cotton development strategy.
 - The Economic Community of Central African States has also reported using the tool in the establishment of cotton funds at the national level.
- The *Comité d'orientation et de suivi-coton* is considering funding the implementation of part of the Pan-African Cotton Road Map through the next cycle of the European Union Development Fund.



THE BIOTRADE INITIATIVE

PROMOTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Biodiversity is the natural capital base for a sustainable economy. The conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services can provide countries valuable opportunities for economic development and improvement of livelihoods. Furthermore, the market for sustainably sourced products (such as natural and organic cosmetics and personal care products) has grown significantly over the last 20 years. Many developing countries rich in biological resources have the potential to capture the market and use such products as an engine of sustainable development. Their access to the market, however, is still hindered by factors such as non-tariff measures, access to credit, and lack of financial and management capacities. The consolidation and the expansion of emerging biodiversity-based sectors also require financial and technical support from the international community.

UNCTAD launched the BioTrade Initiative in 1996 to help developing countries achieve the dual objectives of biodiversity conservation and improved economic and social welfare. The initiative promotes sustainable “biotrade”, which encompasses all activities related to collecting, producing, transforming and commercializing goods and services derived from native biodiversity – species and ecosystems – in a way that meets the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. It aims at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Within the framework of the forthcoming 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, biotrade can contribute specifically to implementing goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns and goal 15 on halting biodiversity loss.

HOW CAN A FOCUS ON BIOTRADE HELP COUNTRIES?

The UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative generally works at the national, regional and global levels through three strategic lines: enabling policy framework for biotrade; value chain enhancement; and market creation and development for biodiversity products and services. National programmes on biotrade, initiated at the request of beneficiary countries, are developed and implemented jointly with national partners. Regional programmes on biotrade are developed to share experience and knowledge and promote an enabling regional environment.

At the international level, the BioTrade Facilitation Programme was launched under the initiative in 2003 to facilitate sustainable trade in biodiversity-based products and services. Currently in phase III, with financial support from Switzerland, the programme comprises mainstreaming biotrade at the global level, identifying non-tariff measures applicable to biodiversity-based products and providing guidance on biotrade-friendly implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As a 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.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

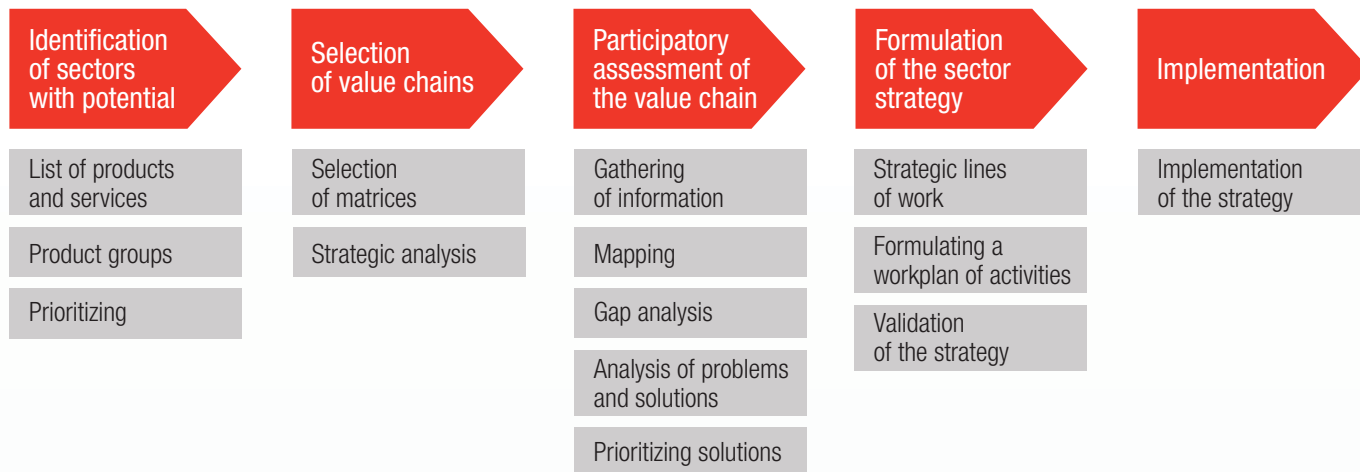
Programme start date: 1996

Number of activities to date:
70+ publications since 2000; 60+ events, including 3 BioTrade Initiative congresses, and 60+ advisory missions (since 2004)

Activities per year: Over 16

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/BioTrade.aspx>

Biotrade value chain methodology



RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Since the launch of the BioTrade Initiative, progress has been achieved by private actors and partners in embracing biotrade concepts and principles. Over 20 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been implementing the BioTrade Initiative. Currently, there are eight national programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America under implementation, and two regional programmes in Latin America. The Amazon BioTrade Programme covers eight Amazon-basin countries, while the Andean BioTrade Programme benefits four of the region's countries.

The products and services traded by beneficiary countries cover sectors such as personal care, food, pharmaceuticals, fashion, ornamental flora and fauna, handicrafts, textiles and natural fibres, and sustainable tourism. For example, through the BioTrade Initiative:

- Activities in biotrade have benefited approximately 30,000 farmers, collectors, breeders, hunters and producers, creating jobs and generating additional income opportunities for rural and marginal communities as well as other actors in the value chain.
- More than 19 million hectares of land are sustainably managed by beneficiary organizations working in biotrade, promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Sales revenues of biotrade beneficiary organizations, working with small and medium-sized enterprises and multinational companies, amounted to US\$5.2 billion in 2012 – an increase of 126 per cent compared with US\$2.3 billion in 2010.

Results in-depth

Biotrade and peace-building in Indonesia and Colombia

Biotrade is being used in post-conflict reintegration and recovery programmes as an approach to promote sustainable livelihoods. In Aceh Selatan, Indonesia, where nutmeg production is an important economic activity and a major source of livelihood, this native spice was successfully promoted as a biotrade commodity under the UNCTAD/United Nations Development Programme pilot project on a gender-responsive reintegration approach to reintegration and peace stabilization.

In Colombia, biotrade has been increasingly considered as a key tool that can support the reintegration of ex-combatants and displaced people. Initiatives have been funded by the Presidential Agency of International Cooperation, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and other biotrade partners.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Switzerland
(State Secretariat for Economic
Affairs (SECO))

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

VOLUNTARY PEER REVIEWS ON COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY

FOSTERING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY



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, increased 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. Many developing countries have realized that the potential of trade can diminish in the face of anti-competitive business practices that discourage competition. Such practices should not impede or negate the development benefits that trade and investment openness can bring to developing countries. Many developing economy markets are also relatively small and undiversified, augmenting the risks of abuse of a dominant position or oligopolistic behaviour. It is thus important for all countries to evaluate and, if necessary, improve the effectiveness of their competition policy enforcement frameworks.

UNCTAD's unique development perspective and experience in working with competition authorities in developing countries, as well as on competition policy worldwide, serve as a guarantee that the voluntary peer review process focuses on fostering competitiveness and takes into account the development needs of countries.

HOW CAN A VOLUNTARY REVIEW BY PEERS HELP?

UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Reviews on Competition Law and Policy allow developing countries to benchmark their performance against international best practices. They use an interactive peer review method that promotes knowledge-sharing between competition authorities at the regional and international levels, enhances informal cooperation networks and encourages South–South cooperation. The peer reviews identify major procedural, administrative and legislative changes that might be necessary for the optimum functioning of the competition authority and the law. They give insights into country-specific constraints, including political economic problems which have a bearing on the legitimacy of the competition law. The Reviews serve as a basis for peer review examination during the annual meeting of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Competition law and policy
programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 2005

Reviews per year: 2 to 3 (2, from 2016)

Number of Reviews to date: 18

Ongoing Reviews: Albania, Fiji,
Papua New Guinea

Upcoming Review: Peru



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RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Global competitiveness assessments carried out by the World Economic Forum annually show that competition climates have improved in 10 countries following their Peer Review process facilitated by UNCTAD – an indication of UNCTAD contributions to competition law and policy.
- Peer Review reports were used in amending legislations (at the level of draft laws), for advocacy and in establishing a new training agenda for staff. Based on a 2013 independent evaluation 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 their competition.



DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past:
Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,
the United Kingdom, European Union
(for West African Economic
and Monetary Union)

eREGULATIONS AND eREGISTRATIONS SYSTEMS

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES 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, increases government revenue and thereby fosters enterprise creation and operation, increases competitiveness and ultimately contributes to economic growth.

UNCTAD estimates that administrative and procedural transaction costs, excluding custom-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 hence increased competitiveness.

UNCTAD's Business Facilitation Programme aims at seizing this opportunity and offers a series of efficient tools and interactive methodologies to clarify and simplify procedures. Applied sequentially, they comprise an integrated programme for the modernization of public administration.

HOW DO E-TOOLS HELP BUSINESS REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS?

UNCTAD's Business Facilitation Programme offers a series of efficient tools and participative methodologies to clarify and simplify procedures. Aiming at producing quick and measurable results, the Business Facilitation Programme 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 data (entity, office, person in charge), the 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 (e.g. company creation, tax payment, import and export).

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date: 2005

Number of countries assisted per year:
6 (average)

Programme coverage:
44 eRegulations systems and 4 eRegistrations systems implemented in 28 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/Enterprise%20Development/Business-Facilitation.aspx>





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. UNCTAD’s “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 simultaneous registration with multiple public agencies.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- In El Salvador, the process to register companies has been reduced from 16 to 3 steps; 10 forms required by different administrations were merged into one, and the duration of the process dropped from 8 to a maximum of 3 days.
- In the United Republic of Tanzania, companies can be created with one form and in 2 steps online, within 10 working days. Prior to the implementation of the system, businesses had to go through 20 physical steps, complete 9 forms and wait 30 days.

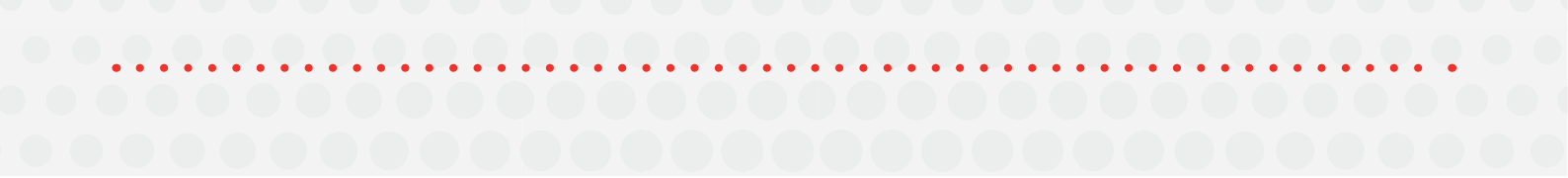
- All national eRegulations and eRegistrations systems developed by UNCTAD are listed in the Global Enterprise Registration portal, a joint initiative by UNCTAD, the Kauffman Foundation’s Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Department of State of the United States of America. The portal gives direct access to official business registration websites worldwide and assessments of their user-friendliness.

**DONORS/
FUNDING SOURCE**

Current: Self-financing by some user countries, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, One United Nations Fund

Past: France

Business facilitation systems in place, by country



TRADE FACILITATION PROGRAMME

MAKING TRADE EASIER AND FASTER

GLOBAL CONTEXT

In an international environment where the 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. World Bank estimates suggest that administrative hurdles arising from cumbersome border procedures can cause up to 75 per cent delay of shipments.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement signed at the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in 2013 is a major international achievement. It aims at reducing trade transactions costs and red tape, speeding up customs procedures and making trade easier and faster. Enhanced compliance with such multilateral trade rules and alignment of national and regional rules with the multilateral trade facilitation agreement is instrumental to achieving increased trade integration.

To facilitate the technical and institutional challenges resulting from compliance with the disciplines of the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD assists developing countries in the finalization of National Trade Facilitation Implementation Plans, in particular by providing support for the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, as well as in the establishment of national and regional trade facilitation coordinating mechanisms.

HOW IS TRADE FACILITATION SUPPORTED?

UNCTAD supports developing and least developed countries in the implementation of their trade facilitation plans. The plans are elaborated using a standardized questionnaire based on section I of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation. For each country, they contain a description of the current situation for the analysed trade facilitation measures, a list of actions which would be required for the implementation of measures, the need for external resources, the proposed lead implementation agency and a preliminary sequencing of the measures.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Although the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation is fairly recent, there are already early indications of the impact of UNCTAD's trade facilitation work:

- Mauritius, the first African country to have ratified the Agreement, requested UNCTAD's assistance for advisory services. These contributed to the Mauritius decision on 5

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Trade Facilitation
programme coverage: all regions
Programme start date: 2014

Number of countries assisted since 2014:
15 in the process of ratifying the World Trade
Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation

Number of countries benefiting from
UNCTAD assistance per year: 12 (average)

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/tfc> (online repository of
national trade facilitation bodies – more
than 90 countries covered)

March 2015 to deposit at the World Trade Organization the instrument of acceptance of the Protocol incorporating the Agreement on Trade Facilitation into the Marrakesh Agreement that established the World Trade Organization. Mauritius is among the countries to have formally accepted the Protocol.

- UNCTAD has also assisted in developing the World Trade Organization Agreement implementation plans for 15 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Burundi, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Republic of Tanzania. These countries figure among the 66 countries who have recently notified the World Trade Organization secretariat of their readiness to implement measures/obligations deriving from the Agreement.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: China, Finland, Germany,
Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

Past: Norway, Spain, United Nations
Development Programme,
European Commission

ASYCUDA – AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR CUSTOMS DATA

STREAMLINING CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Long waiting times at borders, inappropriate fees, 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 it encourages international trade. The automatic calculation of duties speeds up and simplifies the clearance process and increases state revenues.

The UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) is an ICT-based customs management system targeted at reforming developing and middle-income countries' customs clearance processes. It computerizes and simplifies procedures. ASYCUDA has a major impact on e-business and e-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 the single window for international trade.

HOW CAN CUSTOMS PROCEDURES BE IMPROVED?

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

The ASYCUDA programme 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, the ASYCUDA system is configured to incorporate national specificities, i.e. 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, other national sites are equipped with the logistical, technical and human skills to autonomously implement and manage the ASYCUDA project.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

ASYCUDA Programme start date: 1981

Number of countries and territories benefitted: 110

Ongoing activities: some 5 projects being negotiated and 45 active projects at any time

In the period 2013–2014:

Number of countries using latest ASYCUDA version: 27

Number of new ASYCUDA projects or addenda signed: 30

Programme website:

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/TTL/ASYCUDA-Programme.aspx>

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RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In Afghanistan, during the last 8 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. Also, the waiting time for trucks at the 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.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Primarily by beneficiary countries; 2013–2014: 82.3 per cent financed by recipient Governments, 12.9 per cent from the European Union and 4.8 per cent by others

Past: Primarily by beneficiary countries, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, European Commission, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank

ASYCUDA technical assistance projects, 2014



THE UNCTAD STATISTICS PROGRAMME

MAKING THE NUMBERS ADD UP TO IMPROVED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Reliable statistical information – statistics and indicators used in 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. As 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 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. Thus, UNCTAD statistics are 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, UNCTAD produces more than 150 indicators and statistical time series essential for the analysis of international trade, economic trends, foreign direct investment (FDI), external financial resources, population and labour force, commodities, 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 for 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. The country profiles are tailored to showcase data unique to UNCTAD:

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope:

over 150 indicators and time series data

Programme start date: 1967

Number of FDI activities per year: 4 (since 2004)

Programme website:

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Statistics.aspx>

UNCTADstat database website:

<http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/>

trade, investment, information and communications technology 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 and 2013. 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 at enhancing 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 transition economies 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, information and communications technology and 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 2014, the revamped UNCTADstat website recorded close to 400,000 visits from over 200 countries.
- The 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 the range of data. Moreover, each country profile can be easily downloaded in PDF format.
- In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the programme contributed to the formulation of indicators for the forthcoming sustainable development goals, providing technical advice and data on several proposed indicators.
- 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, 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 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 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/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 UNCTAD 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 FDI's contribution 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.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Regular resources,
West African Economic and Monetary
Union (trade in services statistics database),
Multi-donor/Cross-cluster Trust Fund
on Capacity-building in Investment for
Development (FDI)

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – THE SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES INITIATIVE

PROMOTING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

In an increasingly globalized economy, capital markets are playing an important part in driving globalization. Capital markets – where prices for different financial instruments (e.g. foreign currencies, corporate securities, government bonds, bank loans) can be negotiated and traded – enable issuing of shares and bonds to raise medium- or long-term financing. Given the dynamic and cross-border nature of capital markets, stock exchanges can be particularly instrumental for fostering sustainable business behaviour worldwide. They are at the intersection of investors, companies and capital market regulators. That means that they are perfectly placed to promote better reporting.

The United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, launched in 2009, explores how stock exchanges can work with policymakers, investors, regulators and companies to enhance corporate transparency. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance disclosure and performance on environmental, social and corporate governance issues and thus promote corporate social responsibility among companies.

Co-organized by UNCTAD, the United Nations Global Compact, Principles for Responsible Investment and Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative works with leading stock exchanges around the world to encourage long-term thinking and integrate sustainable development into investment and financial products.

HOW DOES THE INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative draws on the expertise of its co-organizers and their access to policymakers and regulators to influence the financial system through partner stock exchanges in global capital markets. The initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform that has been convening leading exchanges and market participants to create consensus, share best practices and provide guidance and training. With a view to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its activities are contributing to improved awareness of and performance on environmental, social and governance performance of listed companies and more stable and sustainable capital markets, thereby reducing financial shocks and crises.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope of the Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative: Any stock exchange whose country of incorporation is a United Nations Member State

Programme start date: 2009

Initiative members as of September 2015:
25 “Partner Exchanges” across America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia

Programme website:
<http://www.SSEinitiative.org/>

The initiative's key activities are:

- Regularly conducted dialogues between policymakers, securities regulators, stock exchanges, institutional investors and listed companies to build consensus on practical actions and promote responsible investment for sustainable development. The flagship event is the biennial Global Dialogue, with Regional Dialogues also held on an ad hoc basis. The Global Dialogues – designed to analyse and stimulate communication on sustainability-related activities of stock exchanges and demonstrate their progress – highlight the challenges and opportunities ahead such as the sustainable development goals and the climate agenda.
- Monitoring of trends and progress, through research conducted on current stock exchange and regulatory initiatives. Research results are made public via the Report on Progress (biennial), database of sustainability policies, fact sheets covering all stock exchanges in the World Federation of Exchanges to inform stakeholders on the work being undertaken to advance sustainability and other materials.
- Capacity-building activities, which provide guidance documents and training through technical workshops and thus promote best practice adoption among the world's stock exchanges. The initiative assists stock exchanges in developing sustainability products, such as thematic indices, exchange-directed reporting guidance and other practical materials.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Working together, UNCTAD, the United Nations Global Compact, Principles for Responsible Investment and Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme have achieved the following:

- 25 Partner Exchanges have joined the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative to promote sustainable development in their markets. Together, these exchanges list more than 21,000 companies with a market capitalization of over \$41 trillion.
- 4 Global Dialogues, and 3 Regional Dialogues, have been held as of September 2015.
- Toolkits, developed for voluntary use, aimed at helping stock exchanges to better interact with their investors and issuers. For example:

- *Model Guidance on Reporting ESG Information to Investors* (2015): A guidance tool helping stock exchanges to address the increasing investor demand for more information on environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) from issuers. The tool guides an exchange in creating voluntary guidance on environmental, social and corporate governance reporting for its issuers. To date, 7 exchanges have made a commitment to have such guidance by the end of 2016, including the London Stock Exchange.
- *Best Practice Guidance for Policymakers and Stock Exchanges on Sustainability Reporting Initiatives* (2014). Current best practices from around the world are examined in the publication, with practical options for policymakers and stock exchanges based on real world experience as such reporting can have a role in driving investment to sustainable business practices.
- A “communication to stakeholders” campaign, which provides a guidance template and a web platform, encouraging stock exchanges to begin publicly reporting on their sustainability promotion activities. More than two-thirds of the initiative's Partner Exchanges responded to the campaign in its first 6 months by introducing a public report, facilitating sharing of experiences between exchanges.
- The World Federation of Exchanges, which set up a sustainability working group in 2014, credited in 2015 the Model Guidance of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative as a critical influence in the proposals to its member exchanges.
- Establishment of a database on reporting regulations and fact sheets on over 60 stock exchanges worldwide, made publically available online in 2014.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past:

Regular resources, in-kind support from stock exchanges, small cash contributions from institutional investors

CORPORATE ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

AIMING AT TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATE ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

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 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.

The challenge for many countries, though, continues to be the adoption and effective implementation of international standards. Developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition struggle to comply with such requirements. UNCTAD, through its Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, developed an 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 essential elements of an effective accounting infrastructure.

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 stakeholders involved in the reporting supply chain which is required for conducting successful accounting reforms. The ADT is designed to provide guidance to stakeholders and policy makers 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, Spanish and Russian, through which assessments can be conducted.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 2012

Number of countries assisted to date: 11

Number of ongoing or upcoming assessments: 2

Programme website:

[http://unctad.org/en/pages/DIAE/ISAR/About-International-Standards-of-Accounting-and-Reporting-\(ISAR\).aspx](http://unctad.org/en/pages/DIAE/ISAR/About-International-Standards-of-Accounting-and-Reporting-(ISAR).aspx)

Accounting Development Tool website:

<http://adt.unctad.org>

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RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The impact of assessments conducted through the Accounting Development Tool is evidenced in the commitment of countries to the process and endorsement of the resulting recommendations, the implementation through action plans of those recommendations and the number of countries – 5 – requesting an assessment of their national accounting infrastructure.
- Governments have found the recommendations coming out of applying the Accounting Development Tool to be useful and have implemented them. Such impact was noted at the thirty-first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting of UNCTAD, in October 2014, when various country representatives underscored the Tool's value:
 - The Director General of SPF Économie Belgium highlighted that the benefit of the Tool in his country included a clear picture of the status of corporate reporting in relation to key international requirements, opening dialogue among key stakeholders dealing with corporate reporting matters and the usefulness of the Tool's findings in implementing legislative reforms.
 - The Secretary-General of the Permanent Council of Accounting of the Democratic Republic of the Congo indicated that his country would learn from the recent experience of Côte d'Ivoire, and expressed interest in providing resources to apply the Tool in 2015.

- In Ecuador, the Undersecretary of Governmental Accounting underlined that one of the important outcomes of the Accounting Development Tool exercise was the ongoing interaction it had generated among key regulators in the country.
- The President of the Academy of Management, under the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, highlighted that the country was in the process of harmonizing applicable regulations with European Union requirements and further indicated that the Tool had been useful in facilitating the country's reform process. The Tool's summary reports prepared by Ukraine also showed active to strong involvement of stakeholders, from the public and private sectors, in assessment exercises, leading to a consensus-based assessment of the national accounting infrastructure and identification of key areas for an action plan.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (United Kingdom)

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

Countries assessed with the Accounting Development Tool, 2012–2014



TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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, though, 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 will help in (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; and (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 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 studies and a teaching package.

Country studies contain an analysis of the country's trade flows that identifies sectors that have been positively or negatively affected by trade and market opening, their repercussions on women 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 studies are initiated at the request

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Trade, Gender and Development
programme scope: all regions
Programme start date: 2010
Reviews per year: 2 (average)
Number of Reviews to date:
7 completed countries



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 is targeted at strengthening understanding on the links between trade and gender and the capacities to formulate gender-sensitive trade policies. It consists of a training manual and an online course. The course 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 course contains three modules and spans 8 weeks.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations Development Account, Finland, Norway

Past: United Nations Development Account

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The UNCTAD programme on trade, gender and development began recently. There are however initial 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 Rwanda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion stated: "The recommendations of the study will inform national policies and strategies to better empower Rwandan women."
- Sixty-six participants from 40 countries successfully completed the first edition of UNCTAD's online course on trade and gender, held from 19 January to 8 March 2015. All participants indicated that the course had met or exceeded their expectations and enhanced their knowledge of the links between trade and gender.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS

BENEFITTING FROM INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Countries' efforts to attract and benefit from foreign direct investment continue to proliferate at the bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels. The result has been a network of investment rules embodied in numerous bilateral investment treaties, free trade agreements with investment components, double taxation treaties, regional trade agreements and multilateral agreements. That network of investment rules is multilayered and multifaceted – partly overlapping and partly complementary – and has an international policy dimension. All parties to negotiations on international investment agreements should therefore be thoroughly familiar with key issues and concepts surrounding such agreements, including their development dimension and implementation.

UNCTAD helps developing countries to participate in the debate on international investment agreements, with a focus on their development dimension and effects. In addition to supporting the participation of Governments, and of relevant stakeholders, in the international investment policy sphere, UNCTAD assists countries in mainstreaming sustainability into international investment agreements using the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. 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. 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:

- (a) Advisory services provide legal commentary, training and advice on international investment agreements and on managing investor–State dispute settlements, as well as other issues related to implementation.
- (b) Capacity-building workshops include intensive training courses and preparatory distance-learning courses on international investment agreements, drawing on UNCTAD's advisory and analytical work. Training activities are organized at the national, regional and interregional levels, often in cooperation with partner organizations.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

International Investment Agreements

programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 1997

Number of activities to date: 74 advisory services (28 for Africa, 15 for Asia, 27 for Latin America, 4 for transition economies) and 32 regional training courses (1998–2015)

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

Programme website:
<http://unctad.org/ia>



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- (c) Research-based policy advice provided through policy 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 82 per cent of all bilateral investment treaties and 97 per cent of all other international investment agreements currently in force – a “one-stop shop” for delivering information on the latest trends to users and investment stakeholders.
 - (e) An international e-network and online discussion forum on international investment agreements is maintained and backstopped as a service for negotiators and practitioners.

“Thanks for [providing] support. The [Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation International Investment Agreement Negotiators] Handbook project became a reality.”

Director General, Negotiation Services and Investment,
Ministry of Economy, Mexico, 2014

“UNCTAD’s help and expertise has been very helpful to us in reformulating our model text to date.”

Joint Secretary (Currency and Investment),
Department of Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Finance, India, 2014

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Of 13 international investment agreements signed in 2014 for which text was available, all 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 (i.e. references to sustainable development and right to regulate in the preamble and 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 transition economies, have begun revising their international investment policies to better align them with sustainable development objectives, frequently referring to UNCTAD work in this area.
- Feedback from participants of the capacity-building workshops are generally very positive, with an average of 90 per cent stating that the courses had 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 department, while 44 per cent noted that the Investment Policy Framework had prompted their country to reconsider its investment policy strategy.

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,
European Commission

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EMPRETEC AND BUSINESS LINKAGES

HELPING SMALL ENTERPRISES TO GROW SUSTAINABLY

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Small to medium-sized enterprises (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 most 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, though, 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, particularly 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. Empretec centres, located in 36 countries, receive support from UNCTAD in Geneva (Switzerland). The programme is focused on promoting public–private partnerships and aims at developing sustainable mechanisms to release entrepreneurial potential and provide business development services for local SMEs. The UNCTAD Business Linkage 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.

HOW IT WORKS

The UNCTAD Empretec programme operates through a network of centres in 36 countries. Certified local trainers ensure that training is delivered on the ground in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Swahili. The programme encompasses four elements:

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

Entrepreneurs benefit from follow-up services from established 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 Linkage Programme.

Through the Business Linkage Programme, UNCTAD plays not only the role of intermediary, it also improves the productivity

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 1988

Number of countries assisted
to date: 36

Number of entrepreneurs
trained: 342,000

Number of Empretec trainers:
600 (1988–2014)

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.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Business performance indicators measured on some beneficiaries in Jordan and South Africa, one year after an Empretec workshop, showed improvements in several areas. For instance, sales increased respectively by 78 per cent and 36 per cent; employment grew by 53 per cent and 50 per cent; and profitability, by 82 per cent and 40 per cent.
- A training assessment conducted in 2014 by the Brazilian Empretec centre, Sebrae, of 3,000 participants who attended the workshop the previous year showed positive ratings for the Empretec training in satisfaction and usefulness (the average score was 9 out of 10 points). The assessment also found that:
 - 96 per cent of participants had applied what they learned during the workshop in their professional life;
 - Attending the workshop influenced the decision to start a business in almost two-thirds of those who were not entrepreneurs when they started the training;
 - 72 per cent of participants stated that the workshop helped them with planning and goal setting;
 - 60 per cent of those who had a business before the workshop reported an increase in their monthly turnovers after attending the training and working on the competencies learned.

Results in-depth

Moving to another level of development: Linking up businesses

UNCTAD assists host countries that request development of national programmes on transnational corporation and SME linkages.

Uganda. The country's business linkage programme, run in cooperation with the Uganda Investment Authority and the Ugandan Empretec centre (Enterprise Uganda), involved 6 large domestic and foreign companies and 26 local SMEs. The objective was to streamline their supply chains. From 2006 to 2008, the sales values of SME-transnational corporations increased on average by 15 per cent; for SMEs, average net margins more than doubled. SMEs recorded an impressive 100 per cent growth in employment.

Mozambique. The national business linkage programme, in cooperation with the National Centro de Promoção de Investimentos and Enterprise Mozambique Foundation as its main local counterparts, benefited 43 farmers who were supplying barley to Cervejas de Moçambique Breweries, a subsidiary of SAB Miller of South Africa. As a result of the programme, farmers diversified their sources of income and learned how to run their farms as a business: their annual income increased from an average of US\$300 to US\$700.

"[The bank] recommended me for training with the Empretec centre in Uganda, called Enterprise Uganda. I was trained in business and financial management. That changed the face of my business. It put me in order. I wish I had got this training before I started my business. The training in entrepreneurship helped me... define my ideas of what a practical and inspiring education would be, incorporating hands-on experiences that would be useful to life out of school. ... Empretec helped me to build my skills, gain knowledge of my rights as a businessperson and to make my business unique.»

Founder, Lira Integrated School in northern Uganda, and beneficiary of the UNCTAD Empretec programme, at the first TEDxPlaceDesNations event (Geneva, Switzerland, 2014), on overcoming numerous challenges to establish her school in an underserved rural community and provide quality education to young people, in particular girls, in an economically disadvantaged region

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

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

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

THE VIRTUAL INSTITUTE

SHAPING POLICYMAKING DECISIONS IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING

GLOBAL CONTEXT

In today's increasingly complex world, countries at all stages of development need effective policymakers and negotiators with solid knowledge of international economic issues. They also need up-to-date analysis about how the changes in the world economy will impact their countries and which policies could best respond to both the opportunities and the challenges of globalization.

Academic institutions, such as universities and research centres, are a vital source of information and training in developing countries. They educate future policymakers and business leaders, and offer empirical research required for informed policymaking and negotiation.

The UNCTAD Virtual Institute works with universities, research centres and members of its global network of development think tanks to build capacity and establish networks for academic institutions in developing and transition countries. The aim is to help institutions to strengthen their teaching and research capacity in the areas of trade, investment and development, and increase the policy orientation and relevance of their work.

HOW DOES THE VIRTUAL INSTITUTE REACH POLICYMAKERS?

The Virtual Institute works with member institutions of its academic network on a long-term basis by providing services in three areas:

- (a) Support to degree programmes. The Virtual Institute provides advice on the design of university courses and programmes and develops teaching materials on trade and development issues, which universities then adapt to the contexts of their countries.
- (b) Professional development for research and teaching. The Institute offers training and learning opportunities for groups of academics (through regional and national workshops) and individuals.
- (c) Cooperation within the Virtual Institute's academic network. The Institute also draws on the potential of South–South and North–South cooperation in its academic network and supports exchanges of experiences and joint projects.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope: all regions

Programme start date: 2004

Number of Virtual Institute members:
119 academic institutions,
in 59 countries

Programme website:
vi.unctad.org

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In the 10 years since it was created, the Virtual Institute has helped embed trade and development topics into university programmes and create pools of researchers available to provide inputs to national policymakers in UNCTAD member countries. Professional development is provided through online courses, workshops, fellowships and mentored research projects. Key results include:

- The Virtual Institute's original five teaching materials nearly tripled and generated 30 adaptations to the contexts of 16 countries, as well as translations into eight languages.
- The libraries of member institutions have been kept well stocked – some 25,500 UNCTAD publications have been distributed.
- A total of 1,267 academics from 82 countries gained new skills and knowledge through 48 Virtual Institute workshops and online courses, which also generated 16 mentored research projects by researchers in 15 countries.
- The Institute provided training for nearly 1,500 students through its 53 study tours and visits.
- The network also nurtured 64 budding researchers from 20 countries through Virtual Institute fellowships at UNCTAD.

Brief highlights. During the second quarter of 2015, the Virtual Institute's national workshops on professional development trained 105 researchers in Bangladesh, the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Bangladesh, 23 researchers were trained on analysis of the impact of trade and trade-related policies on household welfare. The workshop for the Gambia – hosted by the University of the Gambia, a Virtual Institute core member – introduced 58 participants from academia and the public sector to ways in which domestic resources mobilization could help foster economic development in African countries. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the workshop guided 24 researchers through an economic analysis of non-tariff measures.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Finland, Norway

Past: Canada, Germany, Japan,
Spain, United Nations
Development Account

Results in-depth

Analysing trade and gender – a recent Virtual Institute workshop

The Virtual Institute's regional workshop on trade and gender analysis, using the latest Virtual Institute teaching materials, trained 25 researchers from 16 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in June 2015. The event was hosted by South African affiliate member, the North-West University, and funded by the Government of Finland.

Participants were trained on state-of-the-art research methodologies on trade and gender and learned about the sources, data and indicators used in empirical analysis in this area. Beyond theoretical explanations, participants engaged in hands-on practice using Stata statistical software.

All participants left the workshop determined to use the newly acquired knowledge and skills in their work, from enriching academic courses on international trade, development economics, agricultural policy and econometrics, to offering training on data management and Stata, and providing better support to students. Potential research applications included a paper on climate-related changes in economic activities for men and women and advising or providing research inputs to policymakers.

COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA – PARAGRAPH 166

ENHANCING POLICYMAKING AND NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Trade and development policies can be an important instrument for growth and development. Taking advantage of that potential requires developing countries to integrate such policies into their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. National goals such as poverty eradication, growth, economic transformation and production, diversification, export value added, employment expansion, gender equity and sustainable development also need to be coherent and consistent with trade and other economic policies at the national, bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. This is important for maximizing the contribution of national policies to development.

Such coherence and consistency in trade and development policies to meet global economic and trade challenges depends on the capacity and understanding that developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, have of key economic issues. An understanding of how various sectoral policies interrelate with national development strategies is also necessary. Integrating developing countries into the globalized world economy can be achieved only if these countries build resources, knowledge and skills that allow them to take ownership of their own development and achieve their development objectives.

The UNCTAD Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda is designed to help build the necessary capacity. The course addresses the analytical and policy challenges that policymakers, Geneva-based delegates and other stakeholders from developing and transition economies face in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Managing those challenges helps their countries to integrate into the rapidly globalizing economy in ways that are beneficial for all countries. The course focuses on the linkages between trade, finance, investment, technology, logistics and macroeconomic policies in the context of major economic trends and debates in multilateral forums.

HOW DOES THE COURSE IMPROVE EXPERTISE IN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT?

The UNCTAD Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda – known as the “paragraph 166 course” in reference to that paragraph in the Bangkok Plan of Action – primarily targets policymakers and academics both in government ministries and agencies and in permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

The course is delivered in two forms: (a) three-week regional courses for economic policymakers and academics working in Government; and (b) short (half-day) courses for Geneva-

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme scope: 5 regions

Programme start date: 2001

Number of courses conducted to date:
34 regional courses; 50 short courses,
between 2007 and 2015

Number of courses per year:
2 regional courses and 5 short courses
(average)

Programme website:
<http://p166.unctad.org/>

based delegates. It emphasizes the various approaches taken by countries to maximize development gains. At the end of the course, participants are better able to understand the links between their specific work and the overall economic development objectives of their countries. This enables them to better contribute to the formulation of national trade-related policies and international negotiating positions coherent with the development interests of their countries.

There are five modules in the curriculum: industrial policies; foreign direct investment; science, technology and innovation; trade logistics and infrastructure; and trade policies and multilateral and regional trade agreements. The curriculum of each course is complemented by the expertise of the various United Nations regional commissions and experts from countries with multi-year commitments to host the programme.

UNCTAD has venues in 5 partner countries in Colombia, Mauritius, Oman, Serbia and Singapore that host the course in different regions.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- 86 per cent of the government officials trained during 2012–2014 considered that the courses significantly contributed to their understanding of key issues on the international economic agenda.
- Policymakers report how the course enables them to apply their newly acquired knowledge to their work on trade negotiations and policy development. For example:
- One policymaker from the United Republic of Tanzania who attended a regional trade negotiation session after a paragraph 166 course stated that the course helped her to understand the relationship between achieving market access and developing the industrial and infrastructure pillars. She had used that knowledge to incorporate a development perspective into trade negotiations.
- Another policymaker from Trinidad and Tobago reported that she had been asked to prepare an effective national science and technology policy. The knowledge gained at the regional course she attended proved invaluable in enabling her to lead a team of analysts. The draft national policy she prepared was approved before the national Board of Governors and taken to the Cabinet for its approval by the Minister of Science and Technology.

"At first I expected to go through the usual trade policy issues of rules and negotiations for market access, but what I was exposed to throughout the course was overwhelming. Intense and packed as it was, I got to understand the important linkages of international trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation as they relate to economic development. These are the key pillars for any development strategy of a country. I got to appreciate the salient issues that should be considered in trade and investment that are relevant to the needs and interests of my country."

Principal Economist, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Zimbabwe, participant at the thirty-first regional course, Mauritius, 2015

"The course is like a gift that keeps on giving – I was able to apply some of the knowledge at a recent treaty negotiation session. Many thanks to UNCTAD for this useful programme."

Crown Counsel, International Legal Affairs, Attorney General's Ministry, Belize, participant at the twenty-sixth regional course, Medellin, Colombia, 2013

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Host Governments, United Nations Development Account, United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Past: United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Empowering people, investing in their future

TRAIN FOR TRADE PORT TRAINING PROGRAMME

ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH BETTER PORT MANAGEMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Some 80 per cent of international trade is channelled through ports. Thus, ports play a key role in connecting the many developing countries with port communities to international trade. An important challenge of that role is that the maritime transport sector is subject to constant regulatory changes. How the maritime transport sector is organized impacts significantly on trade volume and transport costs, affecting the competitiveness of countries and businesses. Port officials must therefore be able to keep up with the growing complexities of port management. Remaining competitive is vital to sustaining and creating jobs in developing countries with port communities.

The UNCTAD Train for Trade's port training programme supports port communities in developing countries and their quest for efficient and competitive port management. The port training programme brings together public, private and international entities. The aim is to share knowledge and expertise between port operators and to strengthen talent management and human resources development in port communities, ultimately increasing trade flows and fostering economic development.

HOW DOES THE PORT TRAINING PROGRAMME BENEFIT PORT COMMUNITIES?

Talent management and leadership development are fundamental to the port training programme. The programme operates through four language-based networks in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The course content is adapted to local contexts and situations. The programme also hosts a high-end course on modern port management, a powerful scheme to encourage value added solutions in port communities.

The modern port management course consists of 240 hours of instruction over a two-year period. Participants must successfully complete eight modules and defend a final dissertation to obtain an UNCTAD certificate in modern port management. The final dissertations require that each participant identify a concrete port challenge, carry out an in-depth analysis and propose practical management solutions, drawing on knowledge of local specificities and constraints.

Partnerships with European ports enable port officials to share their knowledge and expertise with port officials in the South, including at annual regional meetings that bring together port officials from different countries. The South-South exchange of instructors is encouraged in order to increase instructors' exposure to different port set-ups, as well as to facilitate knowledge transfer. In addition, training in participating ports is delivered by local instructors from the port community, initially supported by experts from UNCTAD



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Train for Trade port training programme scope: 4 language-based networks

Programme start date: 1996

Number of active countries: 18

Number of staff trained: 2,469 middle managers and 892 senior managers, through 59 "training of trainer" workshops (1996–2014)

European partner ports: Ghent (Belgium), Marseille and Nantes (France), Belfast, Cork and Dublin (Ireland), Leixoes (Portugal), Gijon and Valencia (Spain)

Programme website:
https://tft.unctad.org/?page_id=41

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: Multi-donors, self-financing countries (Francophone network), Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Irish Aid

Past: Belgium, France, Greece, Portugal

and European partner ports. Senior managers from participating ports are then trained to serve as local instructors, thus ensuring programme sustainability and greater local ownership.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- The 2008–2010 pilot phase of the port training programme’s English-speaking network was positively evaluated by stakeholders and Irish Aid (the programme’s main donor). Irish Aid’s review team concluded that the partnership between Irish Aid, Dublin Port Company, UNCTAD and the participating ports is an example of best practice in development cooperation. Subsequently, Irish Aid signed a new agreement with the UNCTAD Train for Trade programme, reaffirming the Government of Ireland’s commitment to the programme.
- In Cameroon, an official trained under the programme’s francophone network in 2014 – who directs work for a firm that loads and unloads ships at the Port of Douala – recently developed a system for manual labour management based on better preparation, anticipation and deployment of employees. The system has sped up operations by 30 to 40 per cent and reduced costs by almost 20 per cent.
- In Senegal, a participant trained in 2014 used his final dissertation to identify long delays in problem-solving as a hindrance to predictable and streamlined communication

and performance along the Port Autonome de Dakar’s 15km-wide, web-based network. He assessed and tested open source solutions, recommending the best one to the port’s Chief Executive Officer. The solution is currently being implemented. Technicians can now quickly identify errors and restore the network in less than 30 minutes. This has positively impacted the port’s efficiency and improved its image of reliability.

Results in-depth

Promoting improved management in port communities

Indonesia. In Indonesia, the port training programme of UNCTAD Train for Trade has served as a management instrument to promote the best candidates and rotate the functions of senior staff. The approach exposes staff to a wider range of the port’s activities in the country and increases their level of responsibilities. This new vision of management and company culture has been thriving for the last 5 years, and produced excellent results for the country’s “Pelindo II” port. Looking back since 2009, Tanjung Priok, Indonesia’s leading port and most strategic export operations, which handles two-thirds of the country’s international trade, is also having excellent results. The port has a tidier appearance today and its cargo volume has grown significantly – the port’s container traffic reached 6.4 million 20-foot equivalent units / year in 2014, up from 3.6 million in 2009.

Modern Port Management

