



# THE UNEP ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE HUB

USING TRADE AND INVESTMENT  
AS VEHICLES FOR ACHIEVING  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



DECEMBER 2015

## The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Role of Trade

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consists foremost of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Financing for Development (FfD) Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The SDG agenda recognizes international trade and investment as key and cross-cutting means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, it reaffirms the role of trade, investment flows and policies as being engines for environmental sustainability, sustainable production and consumption, sustained economic growth, while helping countries to achieve transitions towards food and energy security, climate resilience, natural resource management, and poverty relief.



The Financing for Development Agenda also highlights the need for strengthening enabling conditions and domestic policies conducive to realizing the potential of trade as driver of inclusive growth and sustainable development. Governments promised to support capacity building for developing countries to benefit from opportunities in international trade and investment agreements.

UNEP's trade work is vested in the belief that while the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda offers many opportunities for sustainable trade, it cannot be achieved without balancing the rapid growth of international trade with environmental and social safeguards. Therefore, capacity needs to be built at an international, regional, national and sub-national level, to ensure that trade and trade policies promote sustainable production and consumption. They must also provide access to and investment in critical environmental goods, services and technologies, foster eco-innovation, contribute to achieving climate goals, and enable decent and inclusive job creation. To address this need, UNEP cooperates with a broad range of partners to deliver the Environment and Trade Hub for capacity building. The Hub concept reflects the vision and mission of UNEP Trade work, which is articulated as shown below.



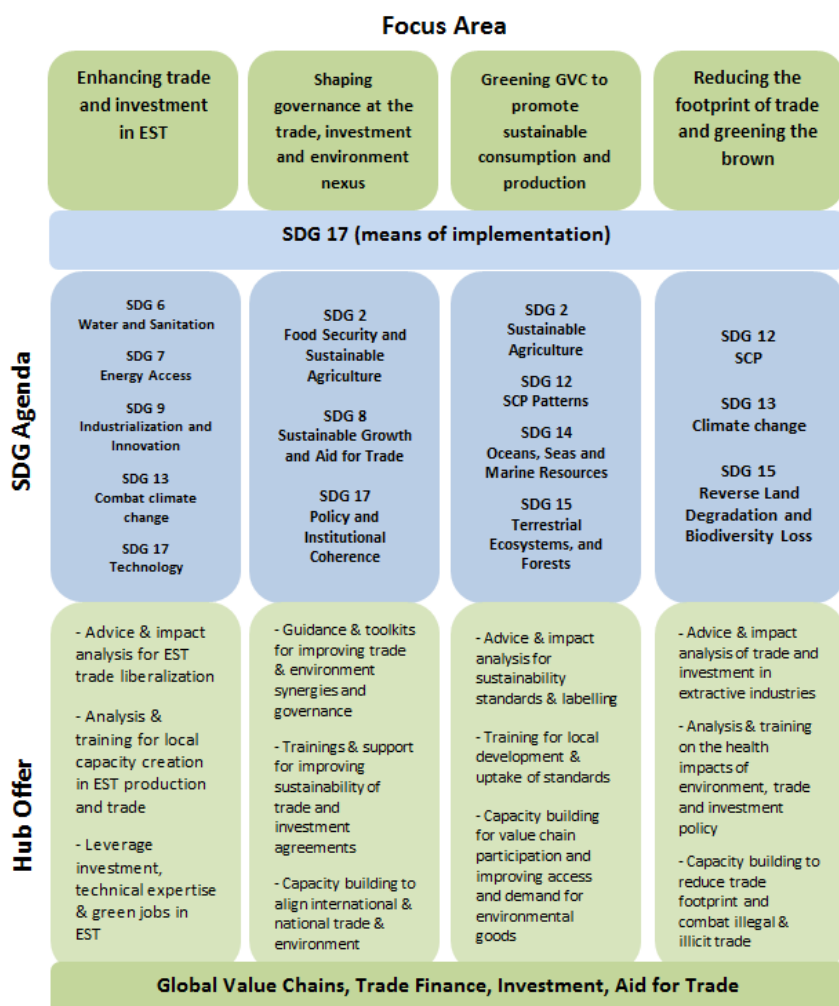
### Objectives of the Hub

The UNEP Environment and Trade Hub is a demand-driven mechanism offering capacity building and related policy advice on sustainable trade and investment. Through its Hub, UNEP as the leading global environmental authority offers to assist countries in their capacity building towards using sustainable trade as a driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda. By working through a network of national, regional, and international partners, the Hub is able to offer interdisciplinary services that are tailored to local needs and circumstances while being delivered in an effective and demand-oriented manner. The specific objectives of the Hub are to:

- Enhance capacity of countries to design and implement trade policies that foster environmental sustainability and human well-being;
- Assist countries in the realization of trade opportunities arising from a transition to greener economies;
- Strengthen the sustainability aspects of cross-border trade and investment agreements in bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations;
- Realize a shift of trade practices and trends to more sustainable patterns.

## Services of the Hub

The Hub's capacity building services include tailored technical trainings to support international, regional and national design and implementation of sustainable trade and investment policies; targeted stakeholder trainings; assistance in designing trade and environment related agreements; development of tools, methodologies and indicators for sustainable trade; identification and dissemination of best practices; support to stakeholder consultation and national, regional, and international dialogues on advancing the sustainable trade agenda; as well as the identification of sector- or region-specific sustainable production and trade opportunities. These services are delivered in four focus areas, in direct alignment with particular elements of the SDG Agenda, as shown below.



## The Hub's primary focus areas

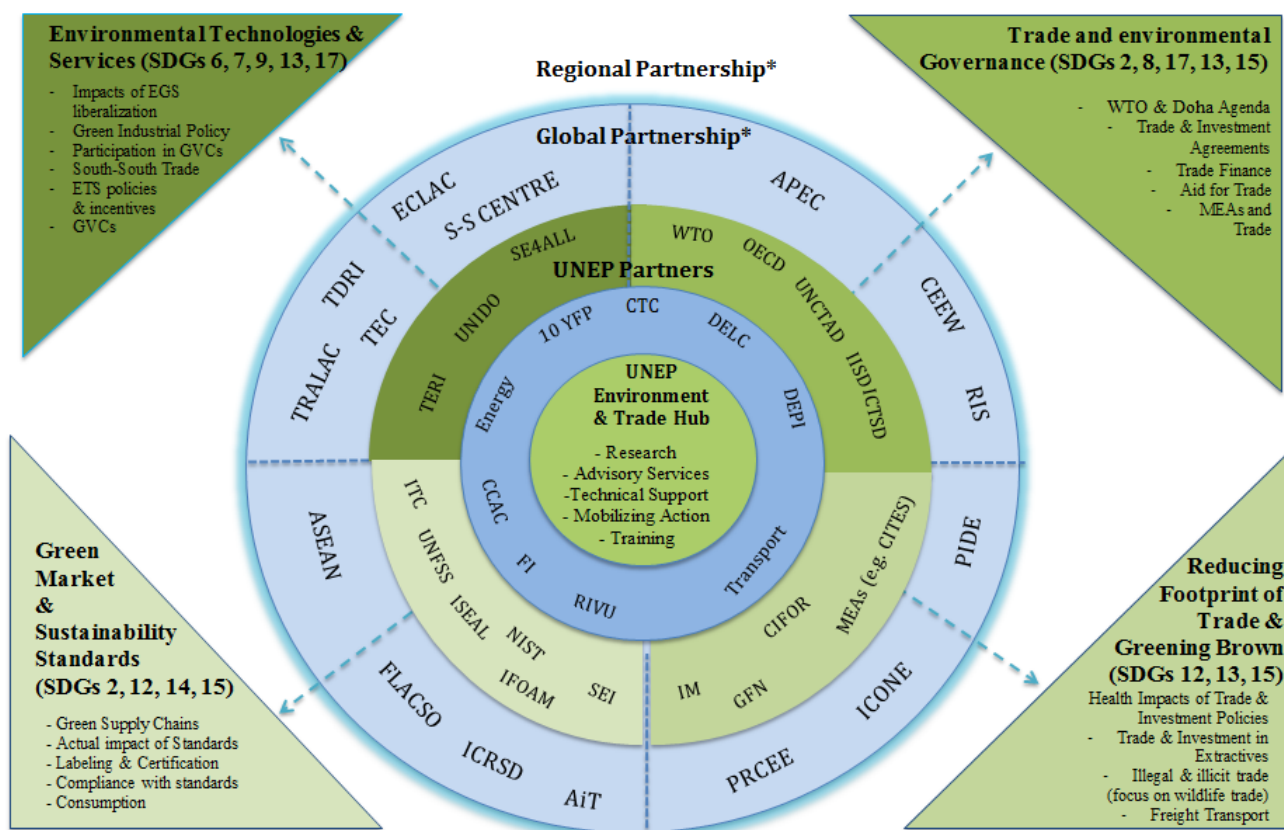
The Hub's four inter-linked focus areas for capacity building encompass the following objectives and services:

- **Area 1** – Enhancing trade and investment in environmentally sound technologies (EST): Provide advice, impact analysis, and capacity building for countries to engage in the local production, deployment, and trade of EST and environmental services, while enhancing the use of global value chains and green export strategies.
- **Area 2** – Shaping governance at the trade, investment and environment nexus: Build capacity for countries to pursue environmental management and sustainable development through trade and investment agreements and global economic and environmental governance mechanisms.
- **Area 3** – Greening global value chains to promote sustainable consumption and production: Enhance the design and uptake of sustainability standards and facilitate market access for sustainably produced and certified products in order to green global production and consumption.

- **Area 4 – Reducing the footprint of trade and greening the brown:** Support countries to make trade and investment activities more sustainable by assessing adverse environmental, social, and health impacts related to trade practices, and developing alternative solutions.

### Mobilizing Concerted Action through Partnership

SDG 17 affirms that partnership is key to achieving sustainable development through enhanced policy coherence and international support. The Hub is designed to deliver capacity building services through a wealth of expertise within and outside UNEP for achieving environmental and social sustainability across the full range of trade-related SDGs. In addition to UNEPs divisional, regional, and national offices and institutional partners around the world, UNEP will actively seek new national and regional partners for effective and tailored delivery, as illustrated in the figure below.



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