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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
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**Results of the ex-ante survey on UNCTAD publication proposals in the  
proposed Programme Budget for 2004-2005**

prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat

## Explanatory Note

At the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, delegations had noted the difficulty in examining the programme budget proposals based on a list of publications without supporting data, such as mandate and target audience. The ensuing discussions led to an agreement at the same session of the Working Party to conduct a survey on the potential usefulness of proposed publications in a manner and format that would facilitate delegations' consultations with experts in the respective national capitals.

Following this decision, for each biennium the UNCTAD secretariat has been conducting an *ex ante* survey among all of UNCTAD's member States in order to assist the Working Party in its review of the Programme of Work for the forthcoming biennium. This informal note provides the summary of the results of the survey on publications envisaged for the biennium 2004-2005.

The survey forms were transmitted to all member States under cover of a Note Verbale on 30 October 2002. As of 10 January 2003, eighteen replies had been received from the following countries: Belarus, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Italy, Lithuania (2), Malawi, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Rep. of Nauru, Slovakia, Thailand (2), Tunisia. In addition, the secretariat received a letter from Denmark on behalf of the European Union including the following principal points: limited response in the past might indicate UNCTAD publications had not been receiving sufficient attention in the overwhelming flow of publications; the European Union welcomed the UN Secretary-General's emphasis on the need to streamline reports and the development of a coherent UN policy in this regard; and, based on the direction provided in the Mid-term Review, UNCTAD should continue its efforts to provide relevant high-quality reports in areas of its comparative advantage and where UNCTAD's reporting would provide clear added value.

For the tabulation of survey results, the ratings made by the respondents were converted to a numerical scale of 4 to 1 as follows:

- 4 = *"It seems very useful."*
- 3 = *"It may be of some use."*
- 2 = *"It may not be very useful."*
- 1 = *"It does not seem useful at all."*

Using this numerical scale, the average rating was provided for each publication proposal in the following table. Hence, the higher the average rating, the more favourable the replies. To facilitate the reading of the results, the number of replies that rated each proposal, as well as the ranking among all 59 proposals in terms of the average rating, from high to low, were also provided in the table.

	<b>Title/subject</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Ranking by average</b>	<b>Number of replies</b>
<b>Globalization, interdependence and development</b>				
	Trade and Development Report Overview (Title)	3.80	7	15
	Trade and Development Report (Title)	3.88	2	17
	G.24 discussion papers (Title)	3.83	5	12
	UNCTAD discussion papers (Title)	3.54	18	13
	Current issues in globalization and development policies (Title)	3.53	19	15
	Debt data validation techniques (Subject)	3.33	40	12
	Debt analysis (Subject)	3.64	14	14
	Proceedings of the Inter-regional Debt Management Conference (Title)	3.46	25	13
	UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics (Title)	3.75	9	16
	Guide to UNCTAD Publications (Title)	3.53	19	15
	UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics CD-ROM	3.80	7	15
	Sustained development of the Palestinian economy (Subject)	3.00	55	12
	Economic development in Africa (Subject)	3.45	28	11
<b>Investment, enterprise and technology</b>				
	Review of International Accounting and Reporting Issues (Title)	3.36	34	14
	World Investment Report Overview (Title)	3.88	2	16
	World Investment Directory CD-ROM, including statistical tables (Title)	3.67	13	15
	World Investment Report CD-ROM, including statistical tables (Title)	3.88	2	16
	Transnational Corporations Journal (Title)	3.29	43	14
	World Investment Report (Title)	3.81	6	16
	LDC investment guides (Subject)	3.36	34	11
	International investment instruments: a compendium	3.31	41	13
	IIA Materials on CD-ROM, update (Title)	3.15	52	13
	ASIT Advisory Series (Title)	3.27	45	11
	Issues in international investment agreements (Subject)	3.31	41	13
	Issues in international agreements and arrangements related to technology (Subject)	3.25	47	12
	FDI trends and policy issues (Subject)	3.53	19	15
	Investment Policy Review (Subject)	3.50	22	14
	Salient issues in science and technology for development (Subject)	3.29	43	14
	Best practices in capacity building for SME development - the case of EMPRETEC	3.62	15	13

	Title/subject	Average	Ranking by average	Number of replies
<b>International trade</b>				
	GSP Handbooks and Market Access Studies (Subject)	3.73	11	11
	Systemic issues in international trade: the development perspective - analytical studies (Subject)	3.75	9	12
	Selected issues in international trade negotiations (Subject)	3.71	12	14
	JITAP-related studies on trade policy development under the emerging multilateral trading system	3.40	31	10
	Analytical studies on international trade issues: the development perspective (Subject)	3.50	23	14
	Handbook of World Mineral Trade Statistics (Title)	3.00	55	9
	UNCTAD Commodity Yearbook CD-ROM (Title)	3.36	34	11
	UNCTAD Commodity Yearbook (Title)	3.40	31	10
	World Commodity Survey (Title)	3.25	47	12
	Commodity Development and Trade - analytical studies (Subject)	3.27	45	11
	Selected commodity issues and collection of papers from expert meetings on commodities (Subject)	3.11	53	9
	Handbook on competition legislation (Title)	3.38	33	13
	Model laws on competition (Title)	3.50	23	14
	Analytical studies on competition law and policy (Subject)	3.46	25	13
	Technical papers on competition law and policy (Title)	3.42	30	12
	Trade, Environment and Development: Analytical Studies (Series D) (Subject)	3.18	51	11
	Trade and Environment Review (Title)	3.23	50	13
	Proceedings of Regional and International Workshops undertaken by UNCTAD, including in the context of the Capacity Building Task Force on Trade and Environment, including, where appropriate, selected authored papers submitted by participants (Subject)	3.36	34	11
	Capacity Building Task Force on Trade and Environment: Thematic Studies (Subject)	3.36	34	11

	Title/subject	Average	Ranking by average	Number of replies
<b>Services infrastructure for development, trade efficiency and human resources development</b>				
	Review of Maritime Transport (Title)	3.09	54	11
	E-Commerce and Development Report	3.92	1	13
	Electronic commerce and international transport services (Subject)	3.46	25	13
	Trade facilitation and international multimodal transport (Subject)	3.25	47	12
	Studies in the fields of applied economics of transport, trade facilitation and multimodal transport (Subject)	3.00	55	12
<b>Least-developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States</b>				
	The Least Developed Countries Report 2004 (Title)	3.43	29	14
	Overview of the LDC 2004 Report (Title)	3.58	17	12
	Development issues in LDCs	3.36	34	11
	Effective benefits and the perspective of graduation from LDC status	3.60	16	10
	Improvement of transit transport corridors in West Africa	2.70	59	10
	Improvement of transit transport corridors in Eastern and Southern Africa	2.80	58	10