

**END-OF-YEAR WEB MESSAGE FROM
SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD**

December 2009

This year, the world has continued to be preoccupied by the deepening economic crisis and how to recover from it. UNCTAD, like other parts of the United Nations, has been doing its part to find sustainable solutions. In keeping with our mandate, we have paid particular attention to the needs of developing countries and the challenges they continue to face as they struggle to minimize the negative impact of the crisis and stimulate growth.

In recent weeks and months, we have been hearing much talk of an incipient recovery, especially on the financial markets where the crisis originated. In these difficult times, any good news is most welcome. Caution, however is needed: We must not begin to celebrate the turn-around until we see genuine recovery in the real economy. And we believe that when that recovery does materialize, it will take a long time to reach the poorest and most vulnerable economies – time that their populations, already hit by poverty, hunger, and joblessness, can ill afford. In fact, in both the developed and the developing world, there will be no real recovery until we see a robust and lasting revival of trade and employment.

My reflections on 2009 will not be complete until I have also talked about climate change and food security – the twin crises of recent years that have been compounded by the financial crisis. Whatever the outcome at Copenhagen, an impetus has been created that we must continue to build on if we are to save our environment.

UNCTAD will continue to monitor the situation and to advise developing countries on the most appropriate strategies for recovery and sustainable growth. As we say goodbye to another year, I wish to thank all those who have supported our work during these crucial times. I am confident that, with your continued commitment, we can all help to make 2010 a better year for the world economy, the world population, and the planet we all share.