



UNCTAD AT A GLANCE

Forging the link between trade and development

MAIN GOALS

- To work as a laboratory of ideas and to provide on-the-ground assistance to developing countries in a number of areas related to trade, investment and finance
- To help developing countries to ensure development gains from trade, investment and development opportunities, and to participate fully in the world economy

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Globalization and Development

What we do...

- Identify broad trends and prospects in the world economy
- Identify solutions for the economic development of African countries
- Analyse the effects of international initiatives on the least developed countries
- Propose solutions for debt restructuring

Trade and commodities

What we do...

- Assist developing countries in all aspects of their trade negotiations
- Encourage South-South trade cooperation
- Analyse the impact of competition laws and policies on development
- Examine the factors influencing commodity markets and help commodity-dependent countries diversify their production
- Encourage the inclusion of environment issues in trade and development policies

BASIC FACTS

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Creation: Established in 1964 as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly. It is the only body of the UN system to deal with all aspects of trade, investment and development.

Membership: 193 member States

Secretariat: 400 staff members

Secretary-General: Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand) since September 2005

Acting Deputy Secretary-General: Lakshmi Puri (India) since September 2007

Budget: US\$ 45 million from the United Nations regular budget ; US\$ 28 million from extrabudgetary funds

Investment and enterprise development

What we do...

- Analyse foreign direct investment trends and their impact on development
- Help countries participate in international investment agreements
- Advise governments on investment policies through investment policy reviews, investment guides and training
- Create strategies for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises

Technology

What we do...

- Identify policy options in new technologies, in particular digital and e-business solutions
- Analyse and promote e-tourism options

Transport, trade efficiency and human resource development

What we do...

- Facilitate trade and customs clearance through the use of applied information technologies
- Build training networks and organize training in all areas of international trade, in particular in the least developed countries

HOW WE DO IT

UNCTAD carries out its activities through three channels:

Research, policy analysis and data collection: the results are published in official documents and reports. The main annual reports are:

- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report
- Economic Development in Africa
- Information Economy Report
- Maritime Transport Review

Forum for discussion - consensus-building

Member States meet regularly to exchange experiences and discuss with experts issues on trade, investment and development

Technical assistance

A total of 250 projects and programmes are underway (2006). All aim at helping developing countries participate more actively in the world economy. They include:

- Customs computerization: ASYCUDA (www.asycuda.org)
- Debt management: DMFAS (www.unctad.org/dmfas)
- Commodity information: InfoComm (www.unctad.org/infocomm)
- Training: TrainForTrade (www.unctad.org/trainfortrade)
- Networking universities and research centres: Virtual Institute (www.vi.unctad.org)
- BioTrade (www.biotrade.org)



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