

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

*A compendium of **UNCTAD**
partnerships and projects with civil society
and the private sector*



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Introduction

UNCTAD's cooperation/engagement with civil society and the private sector: examples of partnerships and projects involving civil society and the private sector

UNCTAD is the principal organ of the General Assembly in the field of trade and development. It was established as a permanent intergovernmental body in 1964 in Geneva, affirming the United Nations General Assembly's conviction that international cooperation in trade and development is vital for world economic growth and the economic development of developing countries. UNCTAD aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.

UNCTAD and its 192 member States work on three levels: (i) building consensus on trade and development issues; (ii) carrying out research into how trade and development can be accomplished; and (iii) providing technical assistance tailored to the specific needs of developing countries to help them achieve stable trade expansion and economic growth.

A knowledge-based institution at the service of development and deeply involved in capacity-building, UNCTAD seeks and needs partnerships to enrich its analysis, research, consensus-building and operational work in order to achieve its mandate. UNCTAD has developed cooperation arrangements with civil society (including NGOs, trade unions, academia, business associations), parliamentarians and the private sector in development-oriented research and technical cooperation in areas affecting international trade.

For specific operational projects, UNCTAD's divisions and programmes work directly and in partnership with private sector actors. UNCTAD also cooperates closely with several representative associations of parliamentarians. Parliamentarians participate in UNCTAD's events and meetings to exchange views and to discuss issues of concern to the development agenda.

UNCTAD has pursued a policy that allows cooperation with civil society actors by setting up formal and informal mechanisms for the participation of non-state actors in its activities, including participation in conferences, workshops and seminars, producing co-publications, information-sharing and policy analysis through informal exchange of ideas and implementation of technical cooperation programmes.

The following are examples of projects and partnerships involving civil society and the private sector:

Advisory Services on Investment and Training (ASIT) cooperation and relationship with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

The Advisory Services on Investment and Training (ASIT) cooperates closely with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), an NGO made up of over 170 investment promotion agencies worldwide. This cooperation, based on a partnership agreement between UNCTAD and WAIPA, is in line with the Partnership for Development Initiative launched at UNCTAD XI in São Paulo in June 2004. Joint training workshops on best practices in investment promotion and investor targeting are organized with a host country institution within the context of ASIT's ongoing technical cooperation programme. Through WAIPA, but also independently, private companies can participate in ASIT workshops and contribute their expertise and perspective to these events. Some partners have also provided logistical support to conferences and other events organized by ASIT and WAIPA.

More information is available online at [www.unctad.org/programmes/Advisory Services on Investment and Training](http://www.unctad.org/programmes/Advisory%20Services%20on%20Investment%20and%20Training).

Private sector and civil society dialogue and capacity building events on investment agreements

In addition to workshops and dialogues on international investment agreements, UNCTAD's work programme on international investment agreements (IIAs) has undertaken several capacity building activities in cooperation with civil society and academic institutions. Training sessions for negotiators of IIAs are organized in cooperation with local universities, which generally host and contribute substantially to the sessions.

In 2004, the joint UNCTAD-CUTS (Consumer Unity and Trust Society of India) project on "Awareness and capacity building for civil society on investment regimes and international investment issues"

was concluded. This DFID-financed project sought to address the need for involvement and capacity building for civil society through the organization of research and subsequent national and regional seminars on issues in IIAs for representatives of civil society. The project was implemented in Bangladesh, Brazil, Hungary, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. It concluded with a project briefing and a global seminar held on the occasion of the eighth session of UNCTAD's Investment Commission in January 2004.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/iia

UNCTAD-ICC project on investment guides and capacity-building for LDCs

This project was launched by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in 1998. The idea is to help LDCs attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), so that it may contribute to their economic growth and development. The UNCTAD-ICC project works closely with the private sector, both foreign and domestic, as well as with the Government. The resulting investment guides provide reliable information on matters such as the operating environment and the investment climate. They thus serve countries as credible marketing tools in attracting the attention of potential investors.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/investmentguides or contact investmentguides@unctad.org.

UNCTAD/ICC Investment Advisory Council

The Investment Advisory Council (IAC) provides a framework for high-level consultations between business and government leaders to explore practical ways of attracting increased FDI into developing countries, particularly LDCs. The IAC is a joint initiative by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and cooperates closely with the Global Compact.

Investment for Development Partnership

The Investment for Development Partnership, launched at UNCTAD XI, is an umbrella programme that enlists the cooperation of national and international organizations to leverage the outreach and impact of UNCTAD's work in the area of investment. It is open-ended and has a flexible structure, which allows UNCTAD to mobilize partners and resources according to the evolving needs of its developing country clients.

Climate change: Trade and investment opportunities under the Kyoto Protocol

In response to the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNCTAD assists developing countries to take advantage of the trade and investment opportunities arising from the Kyoto Protocol, including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). UNCTAD provides analytical research and technical cooperation support to interested Governments, the private sector and NGOs interested in engaging in CDM projects. It also prepares sector-specific assessments of CDM investment opportunities. Aside from implementing capacity-building activities in the areas of trade, environment and development, the programme also analyses the trade and investment implications of multilateral environmental agreements.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Development of a global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trading system

In response to the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC, UNCTAD provides support to interested Governments, the private sector and NGOs in the development of a plurilateral market for trading in greenhouse gas emission allowances and certified emission reduction credit.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Environmental requirements and market access

UNCTAD recently created a Consultative Task Force (CTF) on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries. The CTF is a multi-stakeholder forum, which analyses trends in new environmental and related health requirements as they impact market access for developing countries. One of the main focuses of CTF discussions is the analysis of environmental requirements set by the private sector and NGOs. The CTF debate therefore involves the advocates of these requirements.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Trade liberalization for environmental goods and services

This subject is one of the negotiating issues of the current Doha Round of trade talks at the WTO. UNCTAD has been assisting developing countries in the negotiations by analysing the role of environmental goods and services in exports and imports of developing countries, as well as the related developmental, social and environmental effects. Current activities are designed to assist developing countries in the development and modelling of national lists of environmental goods that can be tabled at the WTO. In this context, UNCTAD is organizing technical advisory missions and national stakeholder workshops that aim at identifying environmental goods of particular export and import interest to interested developing countries. These workshops also debate defensive interests of developing countries in terms of avoiding unjustified liberalization of imports and the protection of infant national environmental industries.

*More information is available online at
(http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/openF1.htm)*

Partnership on sustainable economic development and mining

The partnership, aims to work towards developing methods for enhancing the economic development impact of mining in developing countries by disseminating information among all interested parties about experiences, pilot projects, best practices and supportive government policies. It also links previously existing networks on mining established by UNCTAD, including a Latin American network. An African network launched in May 2005 will also be linked. The partnership organizes annual regional workshops and maintains websites serving as discussion fora and vehicles for disseminating information. Partners with operational roles, including those concerned with websites, include the Department for International Development (UK), ECA, ECLAC, UNEP, the Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC, based in Dar es Salaam), the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), the University of Dundee (Scotland) and the Universidad de San Marcos (Lima).

*More information is available at: www.goodpracticemining.com,
www.natural-resources.org and www.redlieds.org*

Community-based arrangements for sustainable commodity production in areas affected by mine closures

The purpose of the partnership is to establish and apply a framework for multi-stakeholder assessment of development strategies and growth paths in the Province of Espinar in Peru, which is heavily dependent on copper mining. Partners include the Government of Peru working through the Fondo Nacional de Compensación y Desarrollo Social (Foncodes), the Government of the province of Espinar, the Universidad de San Agustín (Arequipa, Peru) and the mining company BHP Billiton Tintaya. Under the partnership, a model of the province's economy will be developed and used as a basis for consultations about investment in development projects. These projects are to be funded through an annual contribution from BHP Billiton Tintaya to the Province of at least US\$ 1.5 million. Screening of projects will take place within the framework of an agreement between the mining company, the provincial government and a large number of civil society organizations.

Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI)

The purpose of the partnership is to improve the social, environmental and economic sustainability of commodities production and trade by developing global, multi-stakeholder, market-based strategies for action on a commodity-by-commodity basis. The first implementation of the initiative has involved coffee. Partners include the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) of Canada, international commodity organizations, enterprises, non-governmental organizations and Governments.

BIOTRADE Initiative

UNCTAD launched the BIOTRADE Initiative in 1996 to foster the development of biodiversity products and services and simultaneously promote the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity resources in developing countries. The BIOTRADE Initiative seeks to respond to a number of issues in an integrated manner: stimulating public and private investment partnerships in biological resource-based products and services while enhancing the supply capacity of developing countries; meeting domestic and international environmental regulations and seeking greater access to world markets for biodiversity products produced in a sustainable manner in developing countries. The Initiative undertakes economic and market assessment research, promotes training and capacity building, develops alternative partnership arrangements and strategies for biological resource

conservation and development, and promotes information dissemination, networking and active private sector involvement.

More information is available online at www.biotrade.org

Promoting trading opportunities for environmentally preferable products

Since 2003, UNCTAD, FAO and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) have joined forces in creating the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF). The key tasks of the ITF are (i) to identify opportunities for harmonization of standards, regulations and conformity assessment systems; (ii) to elaborate mechanisms for the establishment of equivalence of standards, regulations and conformity assessment systems; (iii) to develop approaches for achieving mutual recognition among and between public and private systems; and (iv) to recommend measures to facilitate access to organic markets, in particular by developing countries and smallholders. The ITF is a multi-stakeholder forum, which in its four sessions held thus far has actively involved a large spectrum of civil society.

More information is available online at http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/openF1.htm

UNCTAD's work on agro-biotechnology

UNCTAD has been working since 2000 on the specific problems faced by developing countries in dealing with agro-biotechnology. Agro-biotechnology is not only a crucial issue from an economic point of view, but also has close links with food security and environmental preservation and may raise ethical and religious concerns. UNCTAD has published three papers on the issue: "International trade in genetically modified organisms and multilateral negotiations: A new dilemma for developing countries" (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/1), 20 October 2000; "International trade in GMOs: Legal frameworks and developing countries' concerns" (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2004/1); and "International trade in GMOs and GM products: National and multilateral legal frameworks", (Policy Issues in International Trade and Commodities, Study Series No. 29, 2005). Academia has benefited from this work, and the universities of Harvard and Cornell have included the UNCTAD papers in the recommended reading list for Masters and PhD students. Because of the links between agro-biotechnology and religious and ethical concerns, some NGOs such as Caritas Internationalis have also used and disseminated the results of UNCTAD's analysis.

Virtual Institute

UNCTAD's Virtual Institute seeks to create a global network of higher learning and research on trade and development issues to equip future generations of decision makers with the capacity to make informed choices about the economic development of their countries. The Institute aims to assist academic institutions around the world that wish to enhance their curricula, knowledge, training skills and research expertise in the areas of trade, investment and development. It provides open access to selected UNCTAD resources (readings and presentations) and pedagogical tools to help interested institutions develop their own high-quality training materials. It also hosts a network of academic institutions committed to sharing material, expertise and experience to enhance their training and research activities.

More information is available online at <http://vi.unctad.org>

UNCTAD/UNDP Global Programme on Globalization and Sustainable Human Development

The UNCTAD/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Programme on Globalization, Liberalization and Sustainable Human Development works closely with Governments, NGOs, academic organizations and the private sector to assist Governments in creating strategies for managing their integration into the world economy in a manner conducive to sustainable human development.

More information is available online at www.globalprogramme.org

UNCTAD Study Series on Policy Issues in International Trade and Commodities

These publications provide ample opportunities for joint studies and research in partnerships with the academic community worldwide. In 2004 a number of such joint studies were carried out, in particular in connection with agriculture, trade reforms and poverty reduction.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/tab

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on debt

UNCTAD is a member of the core team guiding the multi-stakeholder consultation process on "sovereign debt for sustained development", led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Development Office. The consultations are aimed at

taking stock, at both the policy and the operational level, of ways in which the challenges to developing and transition economies in the use of sovereign external debt can be mitigated and the opportunities captured. For this, the consultations aim to elicit views and proposals from the different perspectives of all relevant stakeholders involved in debt issues, including those of civil society, and to deepen mutual appreciation of the main concerns embedded in those perspectives.

The debt consultation process has been structured so as to build an inclusive multi-stakeholder meeting (for Governments, international financial institutions, the private sector, academics and civil society) at a global level organized in conjunction with UNCTAD's Fifth Inter-Regional Debt Management Conference, held on 20-24 June 2005. The meeting in June was the third and final round of consultations organized as part of the dialogue. In addition, a compiled NGO response to the Issues Paper on Debt, which was prepared by the Financing for Development Office in cooperation with the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank in order to support the dialogue process, has also been submitted by civil society.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/dmfas

Activities in favour of development in Africa

UNCTAD seeks to exchange views with civil society on activities in favour of development in Africa. UNCTAD has also participated in and contributed to workshops, seminars and meetings on issues related to (i) sustaining a future for agriculture, (ii) international financial institutions, (iii) Africa's role in the multilateral trading system, and (iv) Africa in the global economy.

African oil trade and finance programme

Since 1995, UNCTAD has been working with private sector companies, banks involved in this sector, and other stakeholders on the interface between oil and finance, covering issues such as oil trade and project finance, improving the share of oil revenue retained in Africa, and managing budgets in the face of volatile prices. The programme includes analysis, advice, awareness-raising, training, institution-building and matchmaking activities. The flagship event is the African Oil&Gas Trade and Finance Conference, UNCTAD's largest annual meeting and Africa's largest annual energy conference. It attracts many of the continent's key energy sector decision-makers, and is entirely funded through private-sector sponsoring.

International E-portal on Commodities (INFOCOMM)

The INFOCOMM e-portal - market information in the commodities area - seeks to promote market transparency, to improve the understanding of commodity structures and to provide access to the analysis vital to the formulation of pertinent policies for commodity production, marketing, processing and financing. For instance, as the United Nations General Assembly declared 2004 the International Year of Rice, this commodity was selected as a pilot product to establish a partnership with Cirad, an agricultural research centre working for international development, to issue, through the INFOCOMM portal, a monthly report on the world rice market (available in French, English and Spanish). The value added of this work lies in the creation of an international network of information as a point of reference in commodities. It is worth noting that it is the most visited UNCTAD website, with roughly 5.5 million hits per month.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/infocomm

Commodity exchange development programme

Since the early 1990s, UNCTAD has worked actively with the private sector and Governments of many countries to develop commodity exchanges. It has undertaken a wide range of activities necessary to enable the successful development of such exchanges, including assistance to the private sector in developing business plans and structuring the necessary partnerships for effective use of commodity exchanges. Several new exchanges have been created as a result of this work. The two largest, both in India, are each expected to have a turnover of more than US\$ 100 billion in 2005.

Commodity finance programme

Liberalization and privatization in the 1980s and 1990s generally weakened commodity financing structures, leaving many farmers, processors and traders exposed to serious working capital and investment finance constraints. This damaged their competitiveness and potential for growth. UNCTAD has done considerable work on developing new commodity financing approaches and mechanisms, creating the single largest publicly accessible body of work on innovative commodity finance, which is actively used by bankers and others worldwide to inform themselves of trends and developments and design new financing schemes for their institutions. This work includes analysis of key developments in the

Area of commodity finance, the publication of manuals (often written with strong support from banks and other companies involved in commodity finance), the development of financing blueprints (including for non-traditional commodities), and training and awareness-raising events. The latter are organized in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, industry associations and regional banks; more than a thousand commodity financiers have benefited from these events.

Agricultural Trade Policy Simulation Model (ATPSM)

This analytical tool was developed in response to the need for researchers and policy makers in developing countries to be able to undertake analysis of agricultural impacts of any negotiated outcomes from multilateral trade negotiations. The model is available on CD-ROM and can be downloaded from UNCTAD's website. It is distributed free of charge from UNCTAD's website, and many research networks and universities are active users.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/tab

Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS)

TRAINS is intended to provide a comprehensive information system for policy makers, the private sector and civil society on general and specific international trade issues. One component of this data base relates to the generalized system of preferences (GSP), in that it includes information on tariffs, preferential margins, rules of origin and other regulations affecting private traders from developing countries vis-à-vis preference-giving countries. The data elements contained in TRAINS can be compared to a specialized library containing books on trade-related topics. It currently contains 153 volumes of tariff schedules, 50 of which are for 2004 and 72 for 2003; 52 volumes with para-tariff measures; 95 publications on non-tariff measures, produced by UNCTAD; and 70 volumes on detailed import statistics at tariff line level by origin. In addition, the new software jointly developed with the World Bank (World Integrated Trade Solution - WITS) now allows users to access the entire time series of the database through the Internet.

More information is available online at <http://www.unctad.org/trains>

Accounting

Activities in this area are intended to improve standards in the field of accounting and auditing. Activities are undertaken in close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), as

well as in liaison with professional organizations. Concerning financial accounting and reporting, Governments and enterprises are assisted in the formulation and implementation of accounting and auditing laws and standards and regulations according to internationally accepted principles and practices, including the development and implementation of international standards for professional qualifications.

More information is available online at <http://www.unctad.org/isar>

Cooperation agreement between UNCTAD and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)

The two organizations will cooperate in the following areas: education and training of accountants; corporate governance; participation in committees, task forces and each other's events; and raising awareness of the importance of transparency and good governance practices for sustainable economic growth.

UNCTAD-ICTSD (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) capacity building project on IPRs

The capacity building project on intellectual property rights (IPRs) and sustainable development aims to improve understanding of the development implications of the TRIPS Agreement and to strengthen the analytical and negotiating capacity of developing countries.

Empretec

Empretec, UNCTAD's integrated capacity-building programme, promotes the creation of sustainable small and medium-size enterprise (SME) support structures to help promising entrepreneurs build innovative and internationally competitive SMEs. Over the years, Empretec has collaborated with many public institutions, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, private sector organizations and large companies.

More information is available online at <http://www.empretec.net/>

Cooperation agreement between UNCTAD and OECD in the area of enterprise development

The OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development (CEE) and UNCTAD will undertake joint activities in the area of global value chains, promotion of entrepreneurship, access to SME finance, and SME and entrepreneurship-related statistics.

Partnership on market entry for small-scale developing country farmers

The partnership aims to facilitate the distribution in European supermarkets of products, particularly tropical fruits, from small-scale farmers in Africa. The first private sector partner is the Swiss supermarket chain Migros, which is cooperating with producers' associations in Ghana and other African countries.

Business linkages programme

Business linkages between large enterprises, such as TNCs, and local suppliers can be a channel for the transfer of technology, knowledge and skills to host economies. UNCTAD is well positioned to play an intermediary role in this comprehensive approach to the promotion of sustainable business linkages and to provide a combination of advisory (policy-oriented) and technical assistance (action-oriented) services in the field of foreign direct investment (FDI) and enterprise development.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (investment, technology and enterprise development/enterprise competitiveness/activities/capacity building/business linkage programme).

TRANSACT

TRANSACT provides assistance to Governments and the private sector in their negotiations with foreign investors, especially transnational corporations.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org (technical cooperation/investment policies and investment promotion/other investment related programmes).

The UNCTAD/SECO (the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) Programme on Strengthening Institutions and Capacities in the Area of Competition and Consumer Policies (COMPAL)

The COMPAL programme is a three-year programme on Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for selected Latin and Central American countries (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru and Bolivia) supported by SECO (Switzerland). COMPAL direct beneficiaries will be competition agencies or public institutions in charge of promoting competition and consumer protection. The project will strengthen their efforts in favour of the adoption and implementation of a competition

regime, which will have positive impacts on the development of the private sector, notably SMEs, as well as on consumers and their organizations. Special attention will be given to incorporating the private sector into the planned activities as a means to sensitize them to the benefits of competition in enhancing economic efficiency in their businesses.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/competition.

UNCTAD/Centre des Technologies de l'Information (Center for Information Technology of Geneva State) partnership

The project aims at implementing a capacity-building programme in the field of e-administration in developing countries, especially LDCs, through customized training based on the transfer of experience and knowledge to engineers undergoing training in the framework of specific applications.

Training courses and seminars on international trade issues

UNCTAD provides training courses and seminars on international trade issues for policy makers, government officials, trainers, businessmen and parliamentarians at the national or regional level.

Indigenous peoples - traditional knowledge

UNCTAD convened an expert meeting in 2000 to address the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities and to enhance cooperation on research and development on technologies associated with the sustainable use of biological resources. Traditional knowledge (TK) has been addressed as part of UNCTAD's work in the area of trade and environment. The UNCTAD secretariat has been working closely with the secretariats of other intergovernmental organizations, in particular the CBD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and encourages indigenous people to participate in TK-related activities.

Communication outreach tools

UNCTAD publishes material that addresses the development dimensions of international economic relations, covering areas such as trade in goods and services, commodities, finance, investment, technology, and trade facilitation. This material is intended to nourish deliberations and the exchange of knowledge regarding policy issues not only between Governments but also with academia and civil society at the country and inter-country levels. For further information on UNCTAD publications, please check the UNCTAD catalogue at www.unctad.org (click on digital library).

In addition to flagship reports and recurrent publications, UNCTAD publishes newsletters, including the following:

CSO Newsletter

The CSO Newsletter is an electronic information bulletin produced by UNCTAD's Civil Society Outreach Unit, which encourages the involvement of civil society actors in UNCTAD's work. The CSO Newsletter provides information on UNCTAD's activities, meetings, hearings with civil society, new publications and upcoming events of interest to civil society actors.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/newsletters).

UNCTAD news

UNCTAD news is a newsletter on latest events and programme highlights.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/newsletters).

Issues in Brief

Issues in Brief covers topical issues related to UNCTAD's work programme. It gives both a general overview of the issues at stake and a brief description of UNCTAD's related activities and programmes.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/ Issues in Brief).

Virtual Institute Newsletter

The aim of the newsletter is to provide members and anyone interested in the work of the Virtual Institute with details of current activities and future projects, abstracts of recent UNCTAD publications, and links to other trade and development related sites. The newsletter will also serve as a means by which the network of members can communicate and share ideas on a regular basis.

More information is available online at <http://vi.unctad.org/>

DMFAS (Debt Management and Financial Analysis System) Newsletter

This newsletter provides information on the development of DMFAS software, country projects, technical issues and country experiences related to debt management.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/Newsletters).

ISAR Update

ISAR Update is published twice a year by the UNCTAD secretariat on behalf of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) to provide news and updates to the global network of experts and other participants.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/Newsletters)

Transport Newsletter

Transport Newsletter includes articles about different aspects of trade efficiency, including transport connectivity, transport costs, and trade and transport facilitation.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org. (digital library/Newsletters)

The Civil Society Outreach Unit

The Civil Society Outreach unit is responsible for developing and implementing policies for public outreach and for promoting further cooperation with NGOs, academia, parliamentarians, business associations, trade unions and development-oriented religious groups.

Should you wish to have more information on UNCTAD's cooperation with civil society, please contact:

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