# 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 help developing countries raise living standards through trade, investment, finance and technology
- To help developing countries benefit from the globalized economy
- To contribute to international debate on emerging issues related to developing countries and the world economy - such as the current global financial crisis - through major reports, policy briefs, and contributions to international conferences

## WHAT WE DO...

## GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Identify broad trends and prospects in the world economy, such as the recent rise in "South-South" trade
- Identify solutions to the economic development challenges of African countries
- Analyse the effects on least developed countries of international aid and of other efforts to promote development
- Help with the restructuring of developing-country debt

### **TRADE**

- Assist developing countries in all aspects of their trade negotiations
- Analyse the impact of competition laws and policies on development

 Encourage the inclusion of environmental issues, such as climate change and preservation of biodiversity, in trade and development policies

### **COMMODITIES**

- Examine the factors influencing commodity markets
- Help developing country efforts to achieve sustainable commodity exports
- Help commodity-dependent countries diversify their economies

# INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

- Analyse trends in foreign direct investment and their impacts on development
- Help countries participate in

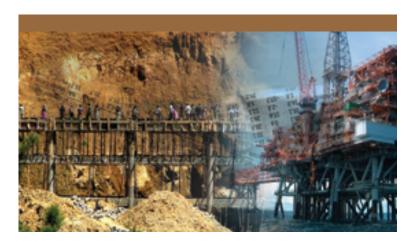
international investment agreements

- Advise governments on their investment policies through investment policy reviews, guides, and training
- Help with the creation and nurturing of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Help countries establish and observe international standards for accounting

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- Identify policies to take advantage of new technologies, including the Internet and e-business
- Help governments set up effective policies on science, technology, and innovation
- Help developing countries gain access to useful and appropriate technology and knowledge





# **HOW WE DO IT...**

UNCTAD carries out its activities through three channels:

#### RESEARCH, POLICY ANALYSIS, AND DATA COLLECTION:

Findings are published in official documents, reports, and policy briefs. Major publications are the *Trade and Development Report*; World Investment Report; Least Developed Countries Report; Economic Development in Africa Report; Information Economy Report; and the Review of Maritime Transport. Policy briefs respond in timely fashion to major events in the global economy.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING

Member States meet regularly to exchange experiences, to find common ground for UNCTAD's current and future work, and to review, with the help of experts, issues of trade, investment and development.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Over 250 projects and programmes are under way aimed at helping developing countries participate more actively in the world economy. They address such matters as customs computerization (ASYCUDA www.asycuda.org); debt management (DMFAS www.unctad.org/dmfas); commodities (InfoComm www.unctad.org/infocomm); training in trade and development issues (TrainForTrade www.unctad.org/trainfortrade); and networking among universities and research centres (Virtual Institute vi.unctad.org).

For more information, check the UNCTAD website at **www.unctad.org** or contact the UNCTAD Communications and Information Unit: +41 22 917 56 25 /58 28; info@unctad.org

# TRANSPORT, TRADE EFFICIENCY, AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Help developing countries computerize and streamline trade and customs clearance
- Build training networks and organize training in all areas of international trade, in particular for least developed countries

## **BASIC FACTS**

#### **HEADQUARTERS**

Geneva, Switzerland

#### **CREATION**

Established in 1964 as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly. UNCTAD is the focal point within the UN for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the related issues of finance, investment, technology, and sustainable development. It is also the lead agency of the UN inter-agency cluster on trade and productive capacity.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

193 member States

## SECRETARIAT

500 staff members

#### SECRETARY-GENERAL

Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand), since September 2005

## **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Petko Draganov (Bulgaria), since May 2009

## BUDGET

Approximately \$65 million from the United Nations regular budget and \$35 million from extra budgetary funds

