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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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**Results of the readership survey among member States
on UNCTAD's publications issued in 2000-2001**

prepared by UNCTAD secretariat

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1. The UNCTAD secretariat, as a part of its publications policy, regularly seeks feedback on the usefulness and impact of its publications. The annual readership survey among its membership has been a standard feature of this policy. Further, one of the indicators of achievement contained in the medium-term plan of UNCTAD, as approved by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-fourth executive session, is the usefulness and the quality of research and analysis “as measured by readership and other surveys”. In this context, the views of member States on UNCTAD’s publications issued during the 2000-2001 biennium were solicited.

2. The results of this survey are summarized below by publication or by series of publications. When a comment concerns one publication or one issue within a series, the respective publication/issue is indicated in brackets after the comment in question. The number of replies was only 14, but these were representative in terms of their distribution (7 from developing countries, 5 from developed countries, 2 from countries with transition economies)*.

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Title: Trade and Development Report

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
5	2	2	

Comments:

- Very informative and excellent analysis of issues of great importance, especially to policy makers.
- Good analysis and very informative.
- A poor competitor to *Global Economic Prospects* by World Bank. Not sure of the necessity in its current form.
- It is recommended that the Report analyses the situation of developing countries with small economies in particular.
- Specific inputs are to be used for decision-making in practical politics in the parliament. The publication can contribute to international negotiations and designation of the role of parliament in developing public policy. Information contained in the publication will be summarized for the parliamentarian’s discussions, debate and negotiations in international conferences.
- Need prompt translation into languages for better dissemination.
- 2001 issue was deeply flawed, rife with outdated assumptions and unbalanced arguments. UNCTAD should stick to its core mandates of trade, investment and development for its flagship reports. (*TDR 2001*)
- Informative. However, previous issues had better quality. (*TDR 2001*)

* Replies included are from:
Australia, Bolivia, Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Fiji, Norway, Portugal, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen.

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Title: **World Investment Report**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
10	3		

Comments:

- Good information and analysis of current developments and trends, interesting topics. Balanced views.
- Best international FDI-publication available.
- FDI development by regional groupings and its implications might be interesting topic for the future.
- Worldwide coverage, missing data replaced by sound estimates, timely and reliable data sets, big effort to collect the best available figures.
- Informative with detailed statistics.
- Good approach addressing one major issue each year.
- The only source of some statistics on investment.
- Very useful data for further analysis.
- Huge effort to produce a good publication. Found to be useful both for the ministries (esp. science and technology, and production and commerce) and for Geneva discussions.
- Need translation into other languages.
- It could address two related issues, instead of one, each year to widen the scope of coverage.
- Good analysis and practical use for policy-making, but might have a wider coverage of the issue. (*WIR 2000*)
- Very informative with up-to-date data, topic that captures the current investment movement, and a lot of specific and concrete examples that benefits policy makers. (*WIR 2001*)
- Deepen the analysis especially the recommendation on best practices. Both pros and cons of each measure and success and failure stories should be cited. (*WIR 2001*)
- Useful summary of linkages, fitting well with OECD work on the investment benefits. Conveyed a helpful message for attracting FDI for countries in need. (*WIR 2001*)
- Useful and reliable data on FDI and TNCs. (*WIR 2001*)
- High quality. (*WIR 2001*)
- Concise and practical use for quick information (*WIR 2001 Overview*)

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Title: **Least Developed Countries Report**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
3	2		

Comments:

- Very informative on issues of great importance to policy makers.
- Definitely, there is ample scope for improvement in reaching out to diverse sources of information in LDCs.
- Informative, some useful analysis.
- Should be useful to have a brief overview chapter which is consistent over time.
- Data should accompany analysis.
- Parts dealing with specific issues vary in usefulness.
- 2001 issue was generally balanced and quite informative. (*LDCR 2001*)

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Title: **Handbook on Statistics**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Informative.
- Should be possible to present statistics in a more user-friendly way.
- Same statistics available in a more user-friendly way from other sources.

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Title: **Discussion Paper Series**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Informative, useful to have different views.

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Title: UNCTAD's Contribution to the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN New Agenda for Africa in the 1990s: Economic Development in Africa: Performance, Prospects and Policy Issues

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
			1

Comments:

- Very disappointed. The statistics do not hang together. Various base years were selected without sufficient justification. Appear to blame the lack of progress exclusively on external factors.

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Title: UNCTAD's Assistance to the Palestinian People

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Very carefully prepared and provided useful information on UNCTAD's work and the challenges to development.

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Title: Issues in International Investment Agreement Series

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
2	2		

Comments:

- Informative, good summary of both facts and arguments.
- A good overview of the issues. A wider coverage of issues and more varied source would improve the usefulness. (The issue on *Fair and Equitable Treatment*)
- Good analysis of problems (The issues on *Scope and Definition* and on *Most-favoured-nation Treatment*)

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Title: **Investment Policy Review**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Useful background, very informative, good analysis. (*Investment Policy Review on Uganda*)

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Title: **FDI in Least-Developed Countries at a glance**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
1			

Comments:

- Very informative and good analysis.

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Title: **Positive Agenda and Future Trade Negotiations**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
1	1		

Comments:

- Good analysis on trade negotiations, which in turn is very useful for future negotiations.
- Should have a wider coverage, especially on new trade-related issues.

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Title: **Policy Issues in International Trade and Commodities Series**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
2	2		

Comments:

- Good analysis.
- Informative background, good analysis (no. 12, *Post-Uruguay Round Market Access Barriers for Industrial Products*)
- Very good articles, especially those on the implementation of the Uruguay Round.
- A very good coverage of topics, practical uses for policy makers.

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Title: **Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Procedures: Use or Abuse**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
		1	

Comments:

- Could have been much more balanced, presenting some of the proper uses of anti-dumping procedures. Many African countries expressed interest in learning more about the proper use of these procedures.

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Title: **Subsidies, countervailing measures and developing countries: with a focus on the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Well-organized analysis with good examples including interesting questions with pending answers.
- On rules and regulations under WTO agreements, it would be helpful to provide interpretation of legal matters in a simpler manner to facilitate understanding.

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Title: **Regional Trade Agreements and Developing Countries: the case of the Pacific Islands' proposed Free Trade Agreement**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Informative. Could have a wider coverage of issues.

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Title: **Industrial Policy and the WTO**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Informative and lucid survey of the problem.

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Title: **Ways to enhance the Production of Expert Capacities of Developing Countries of Agriculture and food Products, including Niche Products, such as Environmentally Preferable Products**

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Good analysis. Practical use for policy-making, both for government and business sector.

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Title: E-Commerce and Development

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
1	1		

Comments:

- Very informative and good quality. It has been sent to the capital, and was put to practical use, both in terms of the analysis of the situation and the projection of the future.
- Should be slimmed down.

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Title: Review of Technical Cooperation Activities of UNCTAD

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
	1		

Comments:

- Nicely prepared.

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Title: Press Reviews on LDC III (Vol. I and II)

Usefulness (the number of replies given each assessment):

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
			1

Comments:

- Waste of resources.