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Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Executive summary

Each year, UNCTAD submits a report to the Trade and Development Board on its activities in support of Africa, for consideration at one of the Board's executive sessions. This year's report provides an overview of UNCTAD's activities for the period from July 2010 to April 2011. In line with past reports, the activities are described in terms of UNCTAD's three main pillars, namely research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. The report highlights partnerships that were forged or strengthened between UNCTAD and relevant national, regional and multilateral institutions. The report also provides an assessment of the impact of UNCTAD's activities at the national and regional levels.

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Introduction

1. The activities undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in support of African countries are aimed at accelerating the continent's long-term sustainable economic development. The contributions of UNCTAD in this regard are centred around promoting development in the specific areas of trade, investment, finance, science and technology, and environmental sustainability, consistent with its mandate. Furthermore, the activities of UNCTAD are meant to complement efforts undertaken by African national authorities, African regional institutions and other development partners to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in Africa. In that regard, UNCTAD collaborates closely with national governments, development partners, and regional as well as international organizations to build synergies around its interventions, for more effective development results.

2. Through its activities, UNCTAD directly and indirectly contributes to achievement of the development goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as set out by the African Union (AU).

3. Each year, UNCTAD is required to submit a report to the Trade and Development Board on its activities in support of Africa, for consideration at one of the Board's executive sessions. The present report, as in previous years, provides an overview of UNCTAD's activities according to its three pillars, namely research and policy analysis, consensus-building, and technical cooperation.

4. Most of UNCTAD's activities contain elements of each pillar, and the three pillars are not necessarily mutually exclusive. UNCTAD's three pillars form an organic whole and are inherently interlinked. UNCTAD's technical assistance and capacity-building activities are the medium through which the Organization's research and analysis and development-policy consensus, which arise from intergovernmental deliberations, are utilized to build capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to achieve more effective development results. In turn, the insights gained from technical cooperation activities enrich and inform UNCTAD's research and analytical work and intergovernmental consensus-building.

5. The present report complements and updates the information in document TD/B/EX(50)/2 that was submitted to the fiftieth executive session of the Board in July 2010.

I. Research and policy analysis

6. During the period under review, UNCTAD made significant contributions to policy design, formulation and implementation in Africa (a) by tracking economic performance and progress; (b) by stimulating and shaping debates on policy issues affecting Africa's development; (c) by means of national policy reviews; and (d) by means of data collection and analysis.

A. Tracking economic performance and progress

7. As in previous years, UNCTAD contributed to track economic performance and progress in African economies through its annual flagship publications. For instance, the *World Investment Report 2010: Investing in a Low-Carbon Economy* devoted a section to analysis of foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in Africa. It showed that after almost a decade of uninterrupted growth, FDI flows to Africa had declined by 19 per cent in 2009. The decrease was mainly due to a contraction of global demand for – and prices of –

African export commodities. Although the decline was moderate, especially when compared to other developing regions, it still had major repercussions on a region where FDI flows account for about a fifth of gross capital formation. UNCTAD expects FDI flows to Africa to recover gradually in the future once global economic and financial conditions improve and commodity prices rebound. The *Trade and Development Report 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development* devoted a section to analysing employment trends and how policies have affected labour market outcomes in the region.

B. Stimulating and shaping debates on policy issues affecting Africa's development

8. UNCTAD prepared a series of papers, reports and policy briefs which put forward fresh thinking and perspectives on economic issues and challenges facing African countries, with a view to contributing to policy design and formulation in the region.

9. The *Economic Development in Africa Report 2010 – South–South Cooperation: Africa and the New Forms of Development Partnership* centred on the role that South–South cooperation could play in furthering the integration of Africa in the global economy and in addressing the region's development challenges. The report contains a list of policy recommendations for African countries and their development partners and for regional and multilateral organizations. Among other things, the report recommends that African countries (a) mainstream South–South cooperation in their national development strategies; (b) take a proactive approach to the partnership process; (c) ensure that cooperation with developing countries complements existing partnerships with developed countries; and (d) strengthen efforts to develop productive capacities. It also calls for the developing-country partners of Africa to support regional integration in Africa more strongly. The findings and policy recommendations of the report were presented in nine African countries and to member States at the Trade and Development Board meeting in September 2010, and were received positively.

10. The *Technology and Innovation Report 2010: Enhancing Food Security in Africa through Science, Technology and Innovation* focused on the challenges of improving agricultural performance in Africa and the role of technology and innovation in raising agricultural production and incomes for all farmers. The report argues for strengthening the innovation capabilities of African agricultural systems as a means of addressing poverty, improving food security, and achieving broader economic growth and development. The report was presented, inter alia, to stakeholders in Nairobi in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre, at an Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expert meeting in November 2010, and at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The report contains several policy recommendations that can be used by African policymakers. Examples of the recommendations include: (a) putting smallholder farmers at the centre of policy so that agricultural research, development and extension services meet the real needs of small-scale farmers; and (b) reinforcing agricultural innovation systems by focusing on the enabling environment and by linking national, regional and international research to innovation.

11. The *Least Developed Countries Report 2010: Towards a New International Development Architecture for LDCs* highlighted a number of policy recommendations for LDCs, including African LDCs, on the issue of how to address their structural weaknesses and build resilience to shocks. The report argues for a New International Development Architecture (NIDA) to be put in place. The NIDA calls for reforms of the global economic regimes that directly affect development in LDCs, and increased South–South development cooperation. The *Least Developed Countries Report 2010* was featured at the sixth Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade, held in Kigali,

Rwanda in October and November 2010; and as a follow-up activity, a regional workshop was held in Addis Ababa in April 2011, targeting African LDCs, to discuss various issues raised in the report. The workshop was attended by more than 60 senior policymakers from African LDCs. It provided a forum for in-depth discussion of these countries' main development challenges, including the post-crisis recovery, as part of the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV).

12. UNCTAD's *Information Economy Report 2010* put the spotlight on how improved access in low-income countries to information and communications technology (ICT) – especially to mobile phones – can impact on development and poverty. This report presents several concrete cases from Africa, such as vendors selling mobile phones and related equipment and services in the Gambia; mobile money services in Kenya; village phone ladies in Ghana and Uganda; PC/Internet-related microenterprises, and women weavers, in Nigeria; and farmers in the United Republic of Tanzania. The *Information Economy Report 2010* was presented at official launches and press seminars in six African countries.

13. The *Creative Economy Report 2010: A Feasible Development Option* highlighted successful creative industries in Africa, notably hotel spa culture in Morocco, the production of local commercial television programmes in South Africa, the film industry in Egypt and Nigeria, and artistic events on the continent designed to promote African arts and artists. The report makes policy recommendations on how countries can harness creative industries for economic development.

14. As part of a project on commodities funded by the Government of Sweden and the Common Fund for Commodities, UNCTAD conducted case studies on horticulture for Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia. The publication arising out of the project presents lessons learned and policy recommendations that are highly relevant for improving African countries' growth prospects in the area of horticultural exports. A previous project had resulted in a publication on export competitiveness and development in the least developed countries (LDCs) that was accompanied by nine national case studies in Africa. These studies led to policy conclusions on how to expand exports in traditional and non-traditional sectors that are of direct relevance to African countries, particularly LDCs. These case studies were deliberated on at an UNCTAD expert meeting held in Kampala, Uganda, in October 2010. More than 66 national and international experts from 37 countries, United Nations agencies and other international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector extensively reviewed the case studies. Experts adopted summary recommendations for action at national, regional and international levels. The outcomes of the expert meeting fed into regional meetings on progress in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs and on the preparatory processes for LDC-IV. At the fifty-first executive session of the Trade and Development Board held in November 2010, member States actively debated the synthesis of the case studies. There was appreciation and growing interest among member States for case-based analysis and synthesis in order to draw practical lessons from the successful and less successful experiences of LDCs.

15. African countries are concerned about consolidating regional integration processes with a view to accelerating the formation of the African common market and economic community as foreseen in the Abuja Treaty. Regional integration is seen as a priority as part of efforts to adjust to the impact of the global crisis by balancing externally driven and domestic-demand sources of growth. These issues were discussed at the sixth session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade. At the request of – and in collaboration with – the African Union Commission, UNCTAD prepared a paper entitled "Trade liberalization and economic integration in African regional economic communities towards the African common market". The paper was presented at the above-mentioned ministerial meeting, and informed deliberations on consolidating and accelerating African economic integration.

UNCTAD received a letter of appreciation from the African Union Commission after the event for the quality of its substantive inputs at the meeting.

16. As part of UNCTAD's support to African countries for responding to the financial crisis, papers with policy recommendations were prepared by UNCTAD. These included a paper entitled "Africa and the financial crisis: turning challenges into opportunities" which was published in the *Commonwealth Finance Ministers Reference Report 2010*, and "Africa and the global financial and economic crisis: impacts, responses and opportunities" which was published in *The Financial and Economic Crisis of 2008–2009 and Developing Countries* – a joint publication of UNCTAD and the Berlin University of Applied Sciences.

C. National policy reviews

17. As part of its support to Africa in mobilizing investment, UNCTAD completed investment policy reviews for Burundi and Sierra Leone, and initiated them for Congo, Djibouti and Mozambique. Out of the total of 30 investment policy reviews completed so far, 19 have been prepared for African countries. Implementation reports were finalized for Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania, which had demonstrated a strong record of implementation and an increased interest in investment opportunities and investment flows by African countries. Investment guides, which provide potential investors with objective and up-to-date information on key emerging investment opportunities in a country, were finalized for Benin, Comoros, Morocco and Zambia. Namibia received assistance for drafting a new investment code.

Support for science, technology and innovation policy

18. UNCTAD published science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews for Lesotho and Mauritania, and contributed, at the request of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to the design of Lesotho's strategic development plan for 2013–2016 on the basis of the *STIP Review of Lesotho*. The *STIP Review of Ghana* is being prepared, and the work undertaken in preparing the review has been used as a basis for action by the Ghanaian authorities on STI development in the country. During 2010, UNCTAD finalized its first ICT policy review, for Egypt. The review is being considered by Egypt's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

D. Data collection and analysis

Capacity-building for data collection on investment

19. UNCTAD continued to provide assistance to African countries in collecting quality data on FDI and transnational corporation (TNC) activities and in building related institutional capacities. Four capacity-building workshops were organized in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC) regions, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Swaziland, on improving the collection of statistics on FDI and TNC activities. Assistance is ongoing in relation to developing a harmonized system for measuring, collecting and reporting statistics on FDI and the activities of TNCs in the COMESA region.

II. Consensus-building

20. UNCTAD promotes the building of consensus among African countries, and between African countries and their development partners, through its intergovernmental conferences and meetings. Such meetings also contribute towards stimulating economic

debate on various challenges and the means to address them. For instance, the Trade and Development Board executive session, the theme of which was “the financial crisis, macroeconomic policy and the challenges of development in Africa”, contributed to sensitizing African countries on their need to position themselves for post-crisis recovery and to ensure that policy responses to the crisis did not lead to medium- and long-term problems of debt sustainability. The session also stimulated debate on how countries should respond to the crisis, the role of the State, and effective partnerships in helping the region confront crisis situations.

African Oil, Gas and Minerals Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition

21. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the private sector, held the fourteenth African Oil, Gas and Minerals Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition in November 2010, on value creation and retention in natural resources development. The objectives of the conference were (a) to provide a platform to share experiences, tools and best practices on how to create linkages between the hydrocarbon and mining sectors and the country’s development agenda; and (b) to strengthen intra-African cooperation, and collaboration between Africa and other regions, in the energy and mining sectors. A major outcome was a resolution recommending that a task force be set up by African governments “to work on the methods and evaluation criteria of the local content in the area of natural resources in general”. The references to be used by the task force fall within the framework of the Africa Mining Vision already established by the AU.

Africa Carbon Forum

22. UNCTAD supported the organization of the second Africa Carbon Forum in Nairobi to improve the level of participation by African countries in the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. The forum brought together more than 1,000 participants representing private- and public-sector stakeholders to tap the potential of greenhouse gas emission offset projects in the continent. The event was organized with other partners such as UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-Risoe, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, and the International Emissions Trading Association. A side-event was organized by UNCTAD for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa, during which an e-learning course on climate change and the carbon market was presented to assist African countries in seizing trade and investment opportunities arising from climate-change policies, particularly through the Clean Development Mechanism. It addressed specific needs of Designated National Authorities and project developers in those countries.

World Investment Forum

23. The World Investment Forum 2010, held in China during September, carried the theme “Investing in sustainable development”. The Forum attracted 2,000 investment stakeholders, with over 200 from Africa including the Prime Minister of Mozambique, the Vice-President of Ghana, and ministers with delegations from 16 African countries. The Namibian and Zambian ministers in charge of investment showcased investment opportunities to Chinese and international investors. The Mauritius Board of Investment was one of the winners of UNCTAD’s Investment Promotion Awards 2010 for excellence in the promotion of green investment.

Sustainable tourism for development

24. The International High-level Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development in the Least Developed Countries was held in Caen, France, in October 2010. The outcome of the event is shown in the Caen Conclusions, with 18 specific points recognizing sustainable tourism as one of the key tools for poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for LDCs. These inputs were considered an important contribution to the preparatory process for LDC-IV.

Global Commodities Forum

25. The Global Commodities Forum was organized by UNCTAD and co-sponsored by the Common Fund for Commodities and the Government of Switzerland. It was attended by more than 500 participants, including ministers and other policymakers from Africa, commodity producers, academics and other experts. The discussions centred on issues of relevance for the region such as instability of commodity markets, problems with commodity policies, sustainability of commodity supply chains, access to commodity finance, and logistics. There were around 50 presentations, contributing to an important debate on commodity production, markets, trade, finance and other issues, including how to face challenges for further development of the global commodity economy.

East Africa Organic Conference

26. UNCTAD supported the East Africa Organic Conference 2010, held in December in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference brought together key actors from the public and private sectors of seven East African countries to share recent developments and plan South–South cooperation on enhancing organic-agriculture production and trade. A highlight was the signing at the conference of a \$2 million project on organic agriculture in East Africa, to be implemented by Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) partner the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). The conference was co-organized with the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network and the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre and IFOAM. UNCTAD's support to the development of the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Policy included support to the preparation of its first draft and first national stakeholders' consultation in Nairobi. South–South cooperation was facilitated by the participation of other African governments in the consultation, notably that of Uganda, where the CBTF supported national consultations and finalization of the draft Ugandan organic agriculture policy. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network are working hand in hand to develop the policy. This cooperation is a direct result of earlier CBTF activities.

III. Technical cooperation

27. UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities continued, during the reporting period, to enhance the capacities of African countries in the areas of trade, human resource development, agriculture and commodities, environmental sustainability, investment, finance, enterprise development, and science and technology. These activities consisted of advisory services and capacity development.

Enhanced Integrated Framework

28. In terms of facilitating trade policymaking, UNCTAD supported Mali in the preparation of a Trade Development Strategy backed by a policy action matrix, and Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in updating their Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies. In all three countries, UNCTAD provided training on issues related to trade and development. Furthermore, the Government of Mali requested assistance in

carrying out two research projects on (a) the impacts of the economic partnership agreements (EPAs) on the Malian economy, and analysis of the available policy options at the national and regional level; and (b) a price analysis of the export potential of given products, and an impact assessment on gross domestic product (GDP). A first draft of the first study has been sent to the Government of Mali. Support was provided in undertaking analysis on the issue of progress towards the full implementation of duty-free quota-free market access for LDCs.

29. In Sierra Leone, a trade policy project financed from the Integrated Framework trust fund was implemented. A regional workshop benefiting five French-speaking African countries in Africa, namely the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Niger, was held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) secretariat, UNDP, and the United Nations Office for Project Services. The workshop aimed, among other things, at facilitating trade mainstreaming in national development plans, strengthening capacities in trade policymaking, sharing experiences among participant countries, identifying best practices, and making recommendations on how to assist these countries in further enhancing their EIF processes and providing tools for fostering national ownership of the EIF. In their workshop evaluation survey, participants rated the workshop very positively, and stated that the sharing of experiences was of great benefit for the participating countries. Another workshop, held in Guinea-Bissau, resulted in (a) the Government requesting technical assistance from UNCTAD to strengthen its trade and investment policymaking capacities; and (b) in Guinea-Bissau finalizing its Integrated Framework project for submission to the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Madagascar and Senegal have been able to formulate projects under the EIF and/or implement their Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies with assistance from UNCTAD.

Support to trade negotiations

30. The impact of EPAs between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU) on African regional integration is a major concern for African countries. In assisting African countries on consolidating regional integration, UNCTAD also assists them in assessing and addressing the proposed EPAs. In 2010, UNCTAD contributed to various consultative events at national and regional levels organized by the ACP Secretariat, AU, ECA and Commonwealth Secretariat, to advise countries on EPA matters. These events included the Southern African Development Community (SADC) EPA Working Group on Services and Investment (Johannesburg, South Africa, 10–14 May); the EPA Negotiations Coordination Meeting (Abuja, Nigeria, 20–21 May); the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement Technical Working Group on Services and Investment (Gaborone, Botswana, 30 August–3 September); and the EPA Negotiations Coordination Meeting (Lusaka, Zambia, 7–8 October). UNCTAD also produced a report entitled *Economic Partnership Agreements: Comparative Analysis of the Agricultural Provisions*.

31. UNCTAD assisted African countries in elaborating national services policies, developing regional services frameworks, and enhancing their participation in services negotiations with the EU under the ACP–EU EPAs and in the WTO Doha Agenda negotiations on services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In this regard, UNCTAD prepared a study entitled *Towards SADC Services Liberalization* and conducted a National Services Policy Review of Uganda. Technical advice was provided on such issues as the temporary movement of natural persons supplying services, trade in labour-intensive services, skills development, and the building of services supply capacities. UNCTAD supported a training workshop on trade in services, in collaboration with Botswana's Ministry of Trade and Industry, in May–June 2010, as well as a pan-

Commonwealth workshop on multilateral trade negotiations on services and trade in services, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, in April 2010.

32. In particular, UNCTAD assisted SADC, the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and COMESA in undertaking assessments of trade in services, and national services case studies, with a view to developing regional services frameworks and enhancing expertise and knowledge in services negotiation. UNCTAD contributed to various national and regional consultative meetings and technical workshops, such as COMESA's Second Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Services (Harare, Zimbabwe, 19–21 May); SADC's Trade in Services Regional Workshop for Sectoral Technical Experts (Johannesburg, South Africa, 7–9 June); and the fifteenth SADC Trade Negotiating Forum–Services meeting (Johannesburg, South Africa, 10 June).

33. Technical assistance and customized support, including specialized training, was extended to policymakers and negotiators from the African Group at WTO and from SADC and COMESA in defining national and regional strategies and policies to build services supply capacities, and in preparing for GATS and other trade negotiations with respect to both market access and rule-making negotiations. With respect to the latter, UNCTAD assisted Geneva- and capital-based trade negotiators and policymakers in their preparations for participation in the WTO Doha Agenda multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA), as well as on services, trade facilitation, rules, the Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, and development issues including Aid for Trade. Substantive support was provided to ministerial and other high-level meetings of regional groupings. These included a high-level meeting on trade capacity for African LDCs to take advantage of India's duty-free tariff-free scheme (Lusaka, Zambia, 10–12 May); a workshop on NAMA negotiations for African countries (Nairobi, Kenya, 12–14 April); and a trade policy workshop for parliamentarians of the EAC (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 27–28 May).

34. In the framework of the joint UNCTAD/ITC project in Guinea, activities were organized that led to the establishment of a team of qualified trainers from several ministries and national institutions on trade-related negotiations. A workshop was organized on theories and techniques of international negotiations, in particular on trade-related issues, in which 32 officials were trained who are now able to support Guinea in international negotiations.

Building capacities in trade logistics and trade facilitation

35. UNCTAD provided technical assistance in the Comoros to port authorities. This was aimed at improving cooperation among the different institutions involved in port operations, namely by raising their capacity to achieve collective effectiveness by sharing information and resources, and by implementing joint actions. Two port-related clusters were created, supported by action plans. The implementation of some of the identified actions has started.

36. In cooperation with the Dublin Port Company and Irish Aid, UNCTAD held the second Training of Technical Tutors for English-speaking Port Communities, in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in June 2010. The last four modules of the Modern Port Management course were delivered in the African countries of the network, namely, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. New training cycles of the Modern Port Management course were organized for the port communities of Cotonou (Benin), Douala (Cameroon), and Dakar (Senegal). The port of Djibouti started its first implementation of the UNCTAD Port Training programme in January 2010, which is scheduled to last two years. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Marseille Fos Port Authority (France) and UNCTAD in order to strengthen the relationship which has been developed since 1996 to support the French-speaking port communities of Africa. Four seminars were

organized in cooperation with the Port of Luanda, Angola, on “Modern port management”. These were attended by a total of 30 Portuguese-speaking participants, namely officials from national ports and from port-related entities. A total of 27 African participants were granted UNCTAD Port Certificates.

37. Regarding customs automation, in 2010 the latest release of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) software was made operational in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Zimbabwe, covering the full customs clearance process. Many African countries have adopted the latest ASYCUDA system in order to get the full benefit from Internet-based developments and enhanced functional capabilities. 2010 saw the last migrations from the few remaining ASYCUDA version 2 systems, installed in the 1980s and still operational. Liberia successfully started live operation of the ASYCUDA system in less than six months.

38. A regional workshop entitled “Improving trade flows in and from the East African Community: Overcoming logistics challenges” was held, with the participation of representatives of the five member countries of the EAC. This was the first joint UNCTAD/Commonwealth of Nations collaborative project, following a memorandum of understanding signed by the two organizations. UNCTAD provided inputs with regard to institutional capacity constraints in multimodal transport and on supply-chain security.

39. A regional workshop for West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) member States, targeting capital-based and Geneva-based delegates, was held for two days to analyse issues related to the current WTO trade facilitation negotiations. This allowed delegates to exchange views on how to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination amongst UEMOA member States. The workshop permitted the identification of possible future activities to be conducted under UNCTAD/UEMOA cooperation. Capacity-building workshops were organized in Benin and Senegal for a group of trade facilitation experts and stakeholders from the private and public sectors. UNCTAD also provided advisory services and facilitated a workshop in Botswana to enhance the operation of the national coordination working group on trade facilitation.

TrainForTrade

40. Under the TrainForTrade programme, a total of 469 participants from 20 African countries benefited from 20 TrainForTrade activities. In partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), TrainForTrade organized a training programme for national directors of commerce on “International trade financing” and on the difficulties faced by African exporters. As a result, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo submitted a request to TrainForTrade in order to benefit from national trainings on the subject. At the launching of UEMOA’s Regional Trade Promotion programme in Abidjan, the TrainForTrade representative was invited to share his expertise and knowledge on the subject of capacity-building. As a result of this meeting, TrainForTrade worked in partnership with UEMOA’s trade experts to develop a regional training programme on trade-related capacity-building to be implemented in 2011. Training was also given on the use of UNCTAD trade databases and analytical tools (such as the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS)) in Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mainstreaming gender in trade

41. UNCTAD is undertaking four country case studies in Africa (in Angola, Cape Verde, Lesotho and Rwanda) as part of the wider “Mainstreaming gender in trade policy” initiative. These studies will analyse how women have benefitted or otherwise from trade liberalization and market opening policies. The results from the analyses will be developed into a training module and publication that countries can use for putting in place coherent

trade policies that promote women's empowerment, inclusive development and poverty reduction.

Support for policymaking in the area of competition

42. As part of the Africa Competition Programme (AFRICOMP), UNCTAD provided assistance in the preparation, amendment and adoption of competition laws in Botswana, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Sudan and Swaziland. Other activities in the area of competition law included (a) the organization of training courses and national competition seminars in eight African countries, targeting stakeholders such as parliamentarians, sector regulators, business communities and consumer associations; (b) assistance towards the establishment of competition agencies in Botswana, Madagascar and Mauritius; and (c) support to institution-building in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. Studies on competition issues in different sectors were carried out in Malawi (on tobacco), Lesotho (on transport) and Zambia (on the petroleum industry). In Angola, a seminar on consumer protection was held to raise awareness on the importance of consumer protection and on the need for regulation to ensure law enforcement and to facilitate market monitoring. Following the recommendations of the seminar, UNCTAD is currently assisting the Angolan Government in drafting regulations for the Angolan consumer protection law.

Human resource development

43. The UNCTAD Virtual Institute (Vi) contributed to the strengthening of trade- and development-related teaching and research at African universities. Nineteen African universities are members of the Vi. Major achievements of the Vi include (a) the provision of advisory and curriculum support to trade-related master's programmes in Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania; (b) support in upgrading teaching materials for a graduate course in Egypt, and upgrading teaching materials for Vi members on various issues of particular relevance for the region; (c) supporting the Vi member in Senegal to adapt teaching content on commodities to the Senegalese/West African context; (d) supplying African universities with publications for their libraries, and subscriptions to international journals; (e) organizing study tours to Geneva-based international organizations for African students; (f) organizing professional development workshops for African academics; (g) providing Vi fellowships to five African academics (from Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) to work on specific research projects in Geneva; (h) co-funding the attendance of participants from nine African countries in an online course organized by Spanish universities; and (i) organizing six short courses in 2010 and three courses in March–May 2011 for African delegates at Geneva-based permanent missions on topical international economic issues.

44. Advisory assistance was provided to the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), by participating in its global faculty meeting aimed at enhancing TRAPCA programmes in terms of knowledge and skills to understand trade policy issues in African LDCs.

Agriculture and commodities

45. In 2007, the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme was launched, as an initiative of the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat. The main objectives of the programme include reducing poverty by improving and stabilizing the revenues and living conditions of agricultural commodity producers. To achieve this objective in Africa, UNCTAD planned a number of activities in collaboration with other United Nations organizations, which were aimed at tackling obstacles faced by African commodity-dependent countries.

46. Under this programme, four workshops were organized in collaboration with national government authorities. One workshop was held in Côte d'Ivoire in July 2010, in collaboration with the Cotton and Cashew Nut Regulation Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, to validate a study commissioned by UNCTAD on creating a guarantee fund for the cotton sector in Côte d'Ivoire. Another workshop was held in Cameroon in October 2010, in collaboration with the National Cocoa and Coffee Board of Cameroon and the Ministry of Commerce, to examine the outcomes of a study commissioned by UNCTAD on the theme "Value chain finance for coffee and cocoa in Cameroon". A third workshop was held in September 2010 jointly with the Ghana Securities and Exchange Commission, which aimed at sensitizing key policymakers on the need for a commodities exchange and a warehouse receipt system in Ghana and at discussing how to speedily create such institutions and associated policies in Ghana. A fourth workshop was held in Accra in December 2010, in partnership with the Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa and the permanent inter-State committee for the fight against drought in the Sahel, on improving the functioning of the cereals markets in West Africa, including building capacity among stakeholders on warehouse receipt systems, inventory credit mechanisms, and commodity exchanges.

47. The major outcomes of these four workshops include (a) outlining an action plan for developing a cotton guarantee fund in Côte d'Ivoire; (b) identifying the main constraints on financing cocoa and coffee marketing in Cameroon, and examining ways to improve access to credit by stakeholders involved in the cocoa/coffee chain; (c) establishing a set of priority actions for developing warehouse receipt systems/warrantage and commodity exchanges in the region; and (d) establishing actions, to be supported by UNCTAD, for developing the necessary enabling legal and regulatory environment towards the creation of a commodity exchange and warehouse receipt system in Ghana.

48. Within the context of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative – a joint programme between UNCTAD and the International Institute for Sustainable Development, activities were implemented in relation to a sustainability assessment of the coffee sector in the United Republic of Tanzania and of the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire. A needs assessment was conducted for the United Republic of Tanzania on sustainable commodity production and business management.

Support to organic agriculture

49. A number of activities in support of the development of organic agriculture in Africa were carried out under the framework of the UNEP–UNCTAD Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). UNCTAD also co-organized "Africa Symposium@Biofach 2010: Markets as Motors for Sustainability" at the Biofach organic trade fair in February 2010. This event gave a boost to the development of African organic exports. Organic agriculture has been included for the first time ever in the outcome of the African Union meeting of agriculture ministers.

Capacity-building on climate change issues

50. In Angola, under the four-year UNCTAD TrainForTrade project funded by the European Commission, a first course on "Climate Change and the Carbon Market" was delivered in two phases: a distance learning component, and a face-to-face workshop. It was attended by 40 participants from several ministries (environment; energy and water; oil; agriculture, rural development and fisheries; commerce), as well as from civil society organizations and other institutions. This activity improved the capacity of participants to implement the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in Angola.

BioTrade initiatives

51. UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative continued to provide technical assistance and advisory services to BioTrade programmes and partners in Uganda. Technical assistance was provided to the UNDP country office in Uganda on BioTrade and value chain development, and to several African countries on the EU Novel Food Regulation, particularly on topics related to clarification of definitions and traditional use.

Support to sustainable tourism for development

52. A new training cycle on sustainable tourism for development was launched in Angola, encompassing – among other things – institutional support to enhance national policy dialogue, and a sector-wide study to identify opportunities and weaknesses in the tourism sector. A study tour to Senegal was organized for two government representatives of Benin's tourism sector, which resulted in the preparation by the Beninese stakeholders of several project proposals in the field of sustainable tourism. A joint UNCTAD TrainForTrade/UEMOA training cycle on sustainable tourism was launched in October 2010, with the organization of a regional seminar for 22 high-level tourism representatives from member States and regional institutions. As a result of the training activity, key stakeholders at the national level now share a common vision on sustainable tourism and on the need for harmonizing discussions on the regional UEMOA legal framework. A regional capacity-building project on sustainable tourism issues was formulated, capitalizing on the regional Tourism Act adopted by UEMOA in February 2010.

Capacity-building in investment

53. Benin successfully installed the "i-track" system, which is a new tool aimed at managing applications for investment licences online and at enabling investment promotion agencies to track investors throughout their investment cycle. UNCTAD's e-Regulations system – a turn-key, configurable e-government system – is already operational in six African countries now, following its launch in Cape Verde in May 2010 and in Comoros in November 2010. During the reporting period, ad hoc assistance was provided to Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco and Rwanda in simplifying procedures and implementing e-government solutions. Fund-raising assistance was provided to a further five African countries requesting installation of the e-Regulations system.

54. With a view to improving the technical capacity of African countries to participate effectively in international negotiations on investment treaties, and to implement them accordingly, UNCTAD continued to provide ad hoc assistance to a number of requesting countries. Advisory services were provided to the SADC secretariat offering analysis/comparison between the EC EPA negotiating text on services and investment and the analogous SADC EPA negotiating text, and on bilateral investment treaties. In addition, a workshop was carried out on these issues. Ad hoc assistance was also provided to individual African countries to help them modernize their treaty content and to address the challenges arising from investor-State dispute settlements, including through the implementation of dispute prevention policies. Countries such as Rwanda were invited to participate in the Joint Symposium on International Investment Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution, organized by UNCTAD and by Washington and Lee University.

55. In the area of investment promotion and facilitation, three workshops and a seminar were organized for developing countries (including a regional workshop for French-speaking countries held in Morocco) on issues related to investor targeting and aftercare, business linkages, and the role of diplomats in attracting FDI.

Intellectual property

56. In the area of intellectual property, UNCTAD continued to provide research-based advisory assistance on intellectual property and development issues. A new series of “Development Dimension of Intellectual Property” reports – which examine the policy, legal, and institutional framework of intellectual property in developing countries and LDCs – was launched in Uganda. UNCTAD continues to provide assistance to the COMESA Secretariat on the elaboration of an intellectual property policy for COMESA States. In April 2011, a conference on local pharmaceutical production in Africa was co-organized with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), with funding from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The objective of the conference was to give a comprehensive picture of key issues in the promotion of local pharmaceutical production in Africa to improve access to essential medicines.

Support to debt management

57. UNCTAD’s Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme actively participated in several components of the World Bank’s Debt Management Facility (DMF) initiative. The DMF is a multi-donor grant facility which aims at strengthening debt-management capacity and institutions, to the benefit mostly of low-income countries. It has three main components: (a) the implementation of debt-management performance assessment (DeMPA) missions in requesting countries; (b) the organization of country-led application of a toolkit for formulating and implementing a Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy; and (c) the design of debt-management reform plans. During the reporting period, the DMFAS Programme participated in or was scheduled to participate in DeMPA missions to Burkina Faso and Zambia, in a DMF Reform Plan mission to the Gambia, and in a DeMPA training event in Namibia. The DMFAS Programme has renewed the posting of one of its staff members in Bamako, Mali, for an additional year commencing November 2010, as part of its continued support to French-speaking countries. In parallel, the Programme received financial backing during the reporting period from France to support its activities in the region benefiting seven African countries. At the country level, the Programme provided direct technical assistance, during the reporting period, from Geneva to 22 African countries. Additional and specific country activities have so far included a first-time installation of the new version of the DMFAS software in Egypt (Central Bank); as well as capacity-building missions to Djibouti (advanced debt recording, debt reporting), Sudan (DMFAS training and debt portfolio analysis), Egypt (DMFAS training), Côte d’Ivoire (debt statistics) and Mali (debt statistics).

Support to enterprise development

58. The Empretec programme, which aims at promoting entrepreneurship in developing countries, operates in 15 African countries. To facilitate consensus and exchange of best practices among African countries in the area of entrepreneurship, two meetings of the Empretec Africa Forum initiative were convened during the reporting period. Furthermore, support was provided for African Empretec centres’ participation in global events such as the annual Empretec directors’ meeting, and Global Entrepreneurship Week which was held in November 2010. A total of seven Empretec training workshops were organized in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Zambia, which targeted over a hundred suppliers participating in the Business Linkages programmes. As part of the same programme, the ongoing activities for Mozambique, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia are providing advisory services and have organized several workshops.

59. As part of the “Strengthening SMEs’ competitiveness in the tourism sector of six African developing countries of the ECOWAS subregion” project, technical assistance was

provided to SMEs and included the provision of pedagogical tools and guides, a free software system, and training for over 200 high-level public officials and private stakeholders on e-tourism issues.

Mainstreaming gender in innovation and entrepreneurship

60. UNCTAD is undertaking analytical work, based on 50 firm-level case studies in six different countries, that will identify specific impediments encountered by women entrepreneurs in the field of innovation, and will delineate policy responses to remove such impediments. Uganda is one of the six countries.

Insurance

61. UNCTAD continued to provide advisory services and technical assistance to the African insurance sector, including through collaboration with the African Insurance Organization and the African Centre for Catastrophe Risks. Work continued on a capacity-building project for strengthening SMEs' development and access to financing and insurance in Morocco and Tunisia. In this context, UNCTAD published two advisory reports entitled "Strengthening access of Moroccan SMEs to insurance products" and "Improving access of SMEs to finance in Morocco". In addition, several capacity-building workshops, seminars and round tables were organized.

ICT development

62. UNCTAD's Network of Centres of Excellence, which targets capacity-building in Africa, held 11 training sessions during the reporting period. In 2010, the project included a training session on cybersecurity in Tunis, Tunisia, where 12 participants from African countries (including one woman) benefited from skills upgrading on cybersecurity issues. UNCTAD also contributed to an ECA expert group meeting in November 2010 entitled "Harnessing knowledge to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", where it provided an overview of its experience with STI in African countries, based mainly on the five STIP reviews that UNCTAD had prepared for African countries. In October 2010, UNCTAD – in collaboration with ECA – held a training course in Addis Ababa for French-speaking African countries, on measuring ICT use in enterprises and the ICT sector. In November 2010, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union and the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies, UNCTAD held a workshop in Tunis on "Measuring ICT indicators to achieve the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) objectives in Africa". As major outcomes, the workshop analysed the present situation in measuring ICT indicators in Africa, discussed the achievements of the WSIS objectives in Africa through an analysis of the various ICT indicators, and considered recommendations to enhance the role of ICT indicators as a lever for development in the region.

63. During 2010, UNCTAD also provided advisory services to (a) the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies, on its ICT measurement mechanisms; and (b) the EAC, for harmonizing cyberlaws. In May 2010, the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Transport, Communications and Meteorology of the EAC adopted the framework for cyberlaws that had been prepared with the assistance of UNCTAD. In March 2011, 35 members of the EAC task force on cyberlaws from national and regional institutions met in Mombasa, Kenya, along with representatives from UNCTAD, ECA, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to discuss the next phase of cyberlaw implementation in EAC member States.

IV. General impact assessment

64. In evaluating the impact and effectiveness of UNCTAD's activities on Africa, it should be noted that UNCTAD is one of the many agencies providing research and capacity-building support to the region. Consequently, it is challenging to disentangle the impact of its activities from those of other agencies. Furthermore, UNCTAD's activity report is an annual report, whereas the impact of these activities can only be fully observed and captured over a medium- to long-term timeframe. Nevertheless, there are indications that UNCTAD's work has had impact in the region. For example, in a letter dated 6 December 2010, the African Union Commission expressed its appreciation for UNCTAD's contributions to the work of the Commission. Highlights of some of the key areas where UNCTAD's activities have had an impact in the region include:

65. *Contribution to policy design, formulation and implementation*

- (a) The *Economic Development in Africa Report 2010 – South–South Cooperation: Africa and the New Forms of Development Partnership* stimulated debate on Africa's growing partnerships with non-African developing countries and provided fresh ideas on how they could be managed for better development results. The ideas emanating from the report will be used for capacity-building activities. As a result of the report, one of the main Southern partners contacted UNCTAD to discuss ways to improve the impact of its activities in Africa.
- (b) The national policy reviews conducted by UNCTAD have made direct contributions to policy formulation in several African countries. For example, Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania have implemented key recommendations arising from UNCTAD's investment policy reviews. Furthermore, the work carried out as part of the *STIP Review of Ghana* has been used as a basis for action by Ghanaian authorities on STI development in the country.
- (c) UNCTAD's support to Africa in the area of trade has helped countries in the region to participate more effectively in trade negotiations, particularly in crucial phases of the EPA negotiations, and has supported the consolidation of regional integration processes.

66. *Building capacities of government officials, institutions, the private sector and civil society*

- (a) UNCTAD has provided support to African countries under the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Participants who took part in the workshops organized under the EIF stated in their evaluations that they had found the assistance provided to be very useful. Furthermore, in Sierra Leone, a post-conflict country, a trade policy project financed from the IF Trust Fund was implemented.
- (b) As part of AFRICOMP, UNCTAD provided assistance in the preparation, amendment and the adoption of competition laws in Botswana, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Sudan and Swaziland.
- (c) The support provided by UNCTAD in the area of organic agriculture gave a boost to the development of African organic exports. Furthermore, as a result of the support provided by UNCTAD and other agencies, African policymakers are now taking the issue more seriously, as evidenced by the fact that organic agriculture was included for the first time in the outcome of the African Union's meeting of agriculture ministers.

- (d) As a result of the support provided in the area of sustainable tourism, key stakeholders at the national level share a common vision on sustainable tourism and on the need for harmonizing discussions on the regional UEMOA legal framework. A regional capacity-building project on sustainable tourism issues was formulated, capitalizing on the Regional Tourism Act adopted by UEMOA in February 2010.
- (e) UNCTAD's work has also contributed to improving customs administration. The latest release of the ASYCUDA software system has been made operational in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, many African countries have adopted the latest ASYCUDA system in order to get the full benefit from Internet-based developments and enhanced functional capabilities. 2010 saw the last migrations from the few remaining ASYCUDA version 2 systems, installed in the 1980s and still operational. Liberia, a post-conflict country, successfully started live operation of ASYCUDA system in less than six months.

67. *Facilitating consensus on issues of interest to Africa*

- (a) The fiftieth executive session of the Trade and Development Board stimulated debate on the links between financial crises, macroeconomic challenges, and development in Africa. It also highlighted policy responses that African countries need to adopt in order to build resilience to shocks and revive growth.
- (b) UNCTAD supported the organization of the second Africa Carbon Forum, which aims at improving the level of participation by African countries in the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa benefitted from an e-learning course on climate change and the carbon market, which will assist them in seizing trade and investment opportunities arising from climate change policies, particularly through the Clean Development Mechanism. The specific needs of Designated National Authorities and project developers in those countries were addressed.
- (c) A major outcome of the Africa Oil Gas and Mines Conference was a resolution recommending that a task force be set up by African governments "to work on the methods and evaluation criteria of the local content in the area of natural resources in general". The references to be used by the task force fall within the framework of the Africa Mining Vision already established by the African Union.