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Progress report on the implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to key trade and development issues

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

Paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord stipulates that the role of Commissions is to, inter alia, promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD – consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance. To assist the Trade and Development Commission in this task, the secretariat has prepared this progress report on its implementation in 2011 and early 2012 of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to trade and development issues, namely paragraphs 89, 90, 94–106 and 170. The report highlights the work embarked upon in research and analysis, consensus-building, and technical cooperation activities during the period since the third session of the Trade and Development Commission, broken down under each of these Accra Accord paragraphs.

1. Paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord stipulates that the role of the Commissions is to, inter alia, promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD – consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance. To assist the Trade and Development Commission in this task, the secretariat has prepared progress reports on its implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord relating to trade and development issues and presented these reports to the Commission at its first, second and third sessions.¹ The present progress report is the fourth of this series, and wraps up the Commission’s task of strengthening synergies through assessment of the implementation of the Accra Accord. The work pursuant to these paragraphs of the Accra Accord remains of interest, particularly given that the outcomes of UNCTAD XIII reaffirm and build upon the Accra Accord, which remains valid and relevant (para 17, Doha Mandate).

2. Paragraph 89 of the Accra Accord states:

“UNCTAD’s contribution on trade and development should continue through analytical, consensus-building and technical assistance work in the areas of international trade in goods, services and commodities and the international trading system as provided below. UNCTAD should enhance its work on the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. UNCTAD should continue to cooperate closely with other international organizations and foster coordination of system-wide United Nations activities in the area of trade and development.”

Paragraph 90 (a) states:

“UNCTAD should: Continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective, and in particular analyse issues of concern to developing countries, placing greater emphasis on practical solutions.”

Paragraph 96 (d) states:

“UNCTAD should also: Strengthen its work on the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction and gender equality.”

3. Several events were organized or supported in connection with preparations for and during UNCTAD XIII that assessed the interface between trade and inclusive growth and sustainable development against the backdrop of current and emerging challenges and opportunities (trade policy, competition and consumer policies, multilateral and regional trade, services, South-South trade, trade financing, non-tariff measures, green economy and sustainable development, job creation, women’s empowerment and global supply chains). These can impact upon the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and included the following:

(a) Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications (Geneva, 8–10 November 2011);

(b) Policy Dialogue: Redefining the Role of the Government in Tomorrow’s International Trade (Geneva, 26–27 March 2012);

(c) Competition law enforcement in the Gulf region: Challenges and perspectives (Special event, Doha, 16–18 April 2012);

¹ See respectively documents TD/B/C.I/3, TD/B/C.I/9 and TD/B/C.I/17. A more detailed review of the secretariat’s activities throughout this period is provided in the *DITC Activity Report 2008–2011* (forthcoming).

- (d) Global Services Forum (Doha, 19 April 2012);
- (e) African Trade Ministers Meeting (Doha, 20 April 2012);
- (f) Support to the Annual meeting of the Global Network of Export Import Banks and Development Finance Institutions (Doha, 20 April 2012).
- (g) Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) High-Level Meeting (Doha, 23 April 2012);
- (h) High-level Ministerial Round Table 3 on “Strengthening all forms of cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation” (Doha, 24 April 2012);
- (i) Reflections on the international trading system and inclusive development (special event, Doha, 24 April 2012);
- (j) The future international agenda on non-tariff measures (special event, Doha, 25 April 2012);
- (k) The United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (information session, Doha, 25 April 2012);
- (l) Mainstreaming sustainability into trade and development policies: Towards Rio+20 (special event, Doha, 25 April 2012);
- (m) Competition and consumer policies for development: UNCTAD and Switzerland capacity-building programmes support for Latin America (Doha, 25 April 2012);
- (n) High-level Policy Dialogue on the Creative Economy for Development (Doha, 26 April 2012).

4. Each year, the United Nations General Assembly discusses progress and issues in international trade and development. In support of such deliberations, UNCTAD prepares the annual United Nations Secretary-General’s report on International Trade and Development. The 2011 report (A/66/185) focused on uncertainties that the multilateral trading system is facing regarding the prospect of the closing of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, the acceleration of growth of intermediate goods linked to the spread of international production and the need for trade to contribute to more inclusive development paths. UNCTAD serviced the relevant discussions of the General Assembly (sixty-sixth session) and the negotiations by Member States that resulted in the adoption of a resolution on international trade and development (A/RES/66/185).

5. The fifty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board (12–23 September 2011) reviewed the evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective. It considered in particular the role of the agricultural sector and agricultural trade in growth and development, and the contribution of the international trading system to agriculture-based development strategies in addressing poverty. The deliberations were facilitated by substantive background documentation prepared by the secretariat.

6. The third session of the Trade and Development Commission, (6–10 June 2011) expressed concern over the uneven trade and economic recovery from the global economic crisis; continuing high levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment in many countries (in particular developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs) and other groups of countries with special needs, as well as countries with economies in transition); and both new and persistent protectionist measures and the risk of double-dip recession. It emphasized as important aspects in enhancing economic resilience building services supply capacities; continuing to make substantial efforts for an early and successful conclusion of

the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round of trade negotiations, with an ambitious, comprehensive, balanced and development-oriented outcome; South-South trade which offers important opportunities for trade and development; and the relationships between trade and a range of issues, including the integration of developing countries into global supply chains.

7. UNCTAD work on international trade fosters dialogue and builds consensus among member States on policies, institutions and strategies to enhance the participation of developing countries in international trade and the trading system in a manner that also results in development gains and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNCTAD contributed to raising awareness of successful strategies and trade policies to address the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on international trade, poverty alleviation, employment creation and economic recovery.

8. With respect to the MDGs, UNCTAD substantively contributes to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG) of the United Nations Secretariat. The Group prepared the Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 and the United Nations Secretary-General's annual report to the General Assembly (A/66/126), Accelerating progress towards the MDGs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. UNCTAD, in close collaboration with WTO and the International Trade Centre (ITC), continuously provides data and analysis for the update of MDG indicators on market access, namely, indicator 8.6 (proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duty) and indicator 8.7 (average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries).

9. UNCTAD provided analytical and statistical inputs to the United Nations MDG GAP Task Force Report 2011 entitled "Millennium Development Goal 8: The Global Partnership for Development: Time to Deliver". The report described the significant results achieved by a strengthened global partnership for international development cooperation, but noted that there still exist many important gaps between expectations and delivery.

10. Several analytical reports on emerging trade and trading system issues and their development impact were produced, including:

(a) *Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Cape Verde? A gender perspective* (UNCTAD/OSG/2011/2);

(b) *Measuring the relative strength of preferential market access* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/48);

(c) *New and traditional trade flows and the economic crisis* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/50);

(d) *Employment Dimension of Trade Liberalization with China: Analysis of the Case of Indonesia with Dynamic Social Accounting Matrix* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/4), jointly prepared by UNCTAD and the International Labour Organization (ILO);

(e) *Potential Supply Chains in the Textiles and Clothing Sector in South Asia: An Exploratory Study* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/3), a joint Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCTAD study;

(f) *A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis*, jointly produced by UNCTAD and WTO.

11. UNCTAD continued to chair the Trade Cluster of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations comprising UNCTAD, the Department

of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and regional commissions. The cluster shares information on work on trade implemented by cluster members and encourages synergies among them. It initiated work on a joint publication on trade and development aspects of the green economy. The publication will be produced with the United Nations University.

12. Paragraphs 90 (b), (c), (f), (g) and (j) of the Accra Accord state: “UNCTAD should: ...

“(b) Continue its work on developments in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries;

“(c) Help develop capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish their own negotiating priorities, and their capacity to negotiate and implement bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements;

...

“(f) Promote coherence and consistency of regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system;

“(g) Support and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms;

...

“(j) Assist structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies in their efforts to integrate into the multilateral trading system and to address their exposure to internal and external economic shocks.”

13. In pursuance of these mandates, UNCTAD assisted Geneva- and capital-based trade negotiators and policymakers from developing countries in their preparations for multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round, particularly on modalities for agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA), non-tariff measures, services, trade facilitation, rules, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and development issues including aid for trade. Capacity-building support was extended to developing countries, contributing to their greater preparedness and technical capacities with regard to the Doha Round. Similar assistance was provided to regional groupings, including African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, African countries, LDCs and member States of the Islamic Development Bank. For example, on a regular and continuous basis, Geneva-based trade negotiators of ACP Group of States were supported, either individually or collectively, through their membership to the African Union (AU), LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and small and vulnerable economies in various areas of the Doha negotiations. Such support was often provided in cooperation with organizations such as the ACP Secretariat, the AU Commission, regional commissions such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Commonwealth Secretariat. UNCTAD also organized, during UNCTAD XIII, a panel discussion on Reflections on the international trading system and inclusive development (24 April 2012).

14. UNCTAD also participated in and contributed – on trade and development issues – to regular meetings of WTO bodies. These included the General Council, the Goods Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Services Council, the TRIPS Council, the Committee on Trade and Development including in terms of its work on aid for trade, the Subcommittee on LDCs, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, Working Parties on WTO accession, and the Trade Policy Review Body.

15. Substantive support was provided in various high-level and ministerial events, and technical and capacity building events on the development aspects of trade negotiations for regional groupings (such as the African Group, LDCs including in the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC IV) preparations, ACP Group of States, Commonwealth States) and countries, especially preparatory events of developing countries for the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference (November–December 2011). Trade negotiation capacities of countries were also built through the provision of training courses (on negotiations) organized under paragraph 166 courses and the Virtual Institute, including regional courses for (a) Asia and the Pacific (Singapore, 29 November–2 December 2011); and (b) Latin America and the Caribbean (Medellín, Colombia, 25–29 July 2011).

16. UNCTAD continued to provide analytical, advisory and operational support to ACP States in ACP-European Union (EU) negotiations for economic partnership agreements, including in close collaboration with the ACP Group of States and the ACP Group Secretariat. These included support for events such as the ACP Strategic Brainstorming on Non-Tariff Trade Barriers (Geneva, 3 February 2011); the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Committee on Trade in Services (Manzini, Swaziland, 3–6 May 2011); and the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Workshop on Regional Trade Integration in Pacific (London, 26 September 2011).

17. Paragraph 90 (d) of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should intensify its trade and trade-related technical cooperation and capacity-building activities. It should strengthen its contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP).”

18. UNCTAD trade and trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities cover four thematic areas: (a) capacity-building for trade policy, trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy; (b) trade analysis capacities and information systems; (c) competition policy and consumer protection; and (d) trade, environment and development. Expenditures on technical cooperation under the four areas in 2011 amounted to \$3,335,000, representing 8.5 per cent of total UNCTAD expenditure for that year. More complete reporting is available in the report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, “Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing” (TD/B/WP/243; TD/B/WP/243/Add.1; TD/B/WP/243/Add.2). In addition, UNCTAD contributes to the implementation of the Enhanced Integrated Framework in selected LDCs.

19. Paragraph 90 (e) of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should: Continue to provide and strengthen technical support to and cooperation with developing countries, according to their level of development, particularly LDCs and countries with economies in transition, prior to, during and in the follow-up to their WTO accession process.”

20. UNCTAD assisted 22 out of 30 countries that were negotiating or preparing their WTO accession, including all acceding LDCs. Technical cooperation and capacity-building support was provided through, inter alia, training activities for countries’ negotiating teams in the WTO Working Party sessions and with trading partners, as well as advisory missions on the substance and process of WTO accession. Advisory services, field missions and capacity-building activities were undertaken in or provided to, for example, Afghanistan (26 August–2 September 2011), Algeria (10–14 October 2011), Azerbaijan (24–30 July 2011), Bosnia and Herzegovina (23–25 January 2011), Cape Verde (22–25 February 2011 and 27–29 July 2011), Lao People’s Democratic Republic (16–20 May 2011), Seychelles (14–16 May 2011), Sudan (17–18 April 2011) and the Syrian Arab Republic (11–16 July and 4–5 December 2011) as well as for Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen. UNCTAD also provided support to the preparation of analytical studies for acceding

countries, including an impact assessment of WTO accession on the industrial sector in Algeria and a study on non-agricultural market access for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

21. In implementing these activities, UNCTAD worked and maintained close cooperation with the WTO secretariat, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ITC and UNDP, as well as with national trade institutions and trade policymakers, and with donors. For example, in 2011, UNCTAD participated in the first WTO seminar dedicated to accessions for countries from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus region, and contributed to the WTO/JVI Workshop on WTO Accession (Vienna, 12–14 July).

22. Paragraph 90 (h) of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should: Examine ways of improving the utilization of trade preferences and of making preference schemes more predictable, and continue its work on the issue of erosion of preferences.”

23. UNCTAD continued to promote enhanced awareness among developing countries on ways to better utilize the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other preferential schemes through regular provision of information on a dedicated website, administrative support on certificate of origin, collection of data, publication of handbooks on the GSP schemes and newsletters, and technical cooperation and capacity building support.

24. UNCTAD ensured the dissemination of relevant information through updating and revising GSP Handbooks of individual GSP schemes, such as:

- (a) Japan (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.42/Rev.4);
- (b) Switzerland (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.28/Rev.2);
- (c) Handbook on Rules of Origin for the European Community (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.25/Rev.3/Add.1).

25. UNCTAD further ensured such dissemination by preparing related studies and issuing GSP newsletters covering recent developments in the schemes. It continued updating the UNCTAD GSP database based on the data submitted by GSP donor countries. UNCTAD also contributed to international policy discussion regarding GSP and other trade preferences, particularly for LDCs (Beyond Istanbul – Challenges after the UNLDC IV and Trade Preferences for LDCs, Geneva, 28 June 2011).

26. Paragraph 90 (i) of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should: Assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, in integrating trade and development concerns into their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.”

27. Support was provided to Angola and Jamaica in reviewing their national trade policies with a view to modernizing them and enhancing their development impact. Assistance was also provided to Mexico in reviewing its policy on agriculture development and trade. Further, as part of UNCTAD XIII pre-events, UNCTAD organized a policy dialogue on redefining the role of government in tomorrow’s international trade.

28. UNCTAD intensified work on better mainstreaming labour market considerations into national trade policy frameworks as a key aspect of the promotion of inclusive development. As a member of the multi-agency International Collaborative Initiative on Trade and Employment comprising, inter alia, ILO, OECD, the World Bank and WTO, UNCTAD participated in and contributed substantively to the International Conference on Trade Negotiations, Inclusive Growth and Employment (Manila, 18–19 April 2011); the OECD Global Forum on Trade and Employment (Paris, 8–9 November 2011); and the High-Level Conference on Trade and Employment (Tunisia, 22–23 September 2011).

29. Paragraph 94 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should strengthen its comprehensive work on services, trade and development by:

“(a) Enhancing its analysis of the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to increase their participation in global services production and trade;

“(b) Assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in establishing regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness;

“(c) Providing support in national services assessment and policy reviews;

“(d) Examining issues relating to the liberalization of trade in services and its development impact, including at the regional level;

“(e) Giving attention to multilateral rule-making in services, taking into account the interests and concerns of developing countries;

“(f) Fostering recognition of qualifications and standards;

“(g) Providing support to multilateral and regional negotiations on services;

“(h) Strengthening services data and statistics.”

30. Customized support, including specialized training and advisory services, on multilateral and regional trade negotiations pertaining to trade in services was provided to policymakers and negotiators in developing countries and country groupings, particularly LDCs and African countries, and small and vulnerable economies. Such assistance supported countries and the regional groupings concerned in pursuing their trade and development objectives in multilateral and regional services negotiations. UNCTAD assistance included the preparation of technical background material and the provision of technical advice and analysis on (a) national and regional strategies for services negotiations at the multilateral and regional levels while enhancing positive coherence between various negotiations; (b) negotiations of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) in the area of temporary movement of natural persons supplying services (Mode 4),² trade in labour-intensive services, and skills development and recognition of qualifications; (c) development of services supply capacities; and (d) promotion of services policy formulation at the sectoral level and in overall terms.

31. The third session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension (6–8 April 2011) stressed the importance of integrating the development of infrastructure services into a comprehensive, integrated and coherent strategy. It also underlined the role of enhanced trade and regulatory cooperation, including through South–South efforts and exchange of national experiences, in order to expand investment and development in the sector. The fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting (23–24 February 2012) addressed ways to maximize the contribution of infrastructure services to inclusive and sustainable development.

32. UNCTAD conducted National Services Policy Reviews for Rwanda and Lesotho. The review provided the beneficiary countries with the data and analysis necessary for making informed policy decisions for promoting a national services economy. National

² The GATS has four modes of supply, i.e., four ways in which a service can be trade. Mode 4 is defined as the supply of a service “by a service supplier of one Member, through presence of natural persons of a Member in the territory of any other Member” (GATS Article 1).

stakeholder consultations were held at the National Workshop for Training of Trade Officials in Trade in Services (Lesotho, 9–10 May 2011 and 22–25 September 2011) and the National Stakeholders Workshop on Trade in Services (Rwanda, 26–27 September 2011).

33. UNCTAD extended technical support on development impacts of trade in services to regional configurations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and COMESA. UNCTAD provided demand-based technical and advisory support to the Secretariats of SADC and COMESA and to their member States. Such support was also provided to COMESA's Committee on Trade in Services (Swaziland, 3–6 May 2011). UNCTAD contributed to a Workshop on Services organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit/International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty/International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Nairobi (14–16 November 2011). The support provided by UNCTAD helped to enhance expertise and knowledge in services negotiation and services assessments and preparations for regional negotiations with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade, participation in WTO GATS negotiations and addressing the challenges associated with parallel negotiations, such as between SADC and the EU on economic partnership agreements.

34. UNCTAD participates in the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, with OECD, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Tourism Organization and WTO. It contributed to the Task Force, including its meeting in Paris (10 November 2011).

35. UNCTAD also organized, as an UNCTAD XIII pre-event, the first Global Services Forum. During the forum, the Arab Coalition of Services Industries was launched.

36. Paragraph 95 of the Accra Accord states: "Without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums and in cooperation with other organizations, UNCTAD, within its mandate and in relation to the contribution of migrants to development, should conduct research and analysis on the potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad."

37. Paragraph 170 states: "Without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums and in cooperation with other organizations, UNCTAD, within its mandate, should continue to analyse the potential of migrants' remittances to contribute to development. It should focus on ways to expand the access of migrants to financial services, maximize the benefits derived from such remittances and minimize the cost through appropriate policies, while respecting their character as private funds."

38. UNCTAD actively promotes coherence and global understanding by offering strategic policy analysis and options on the nexus between migration, trade and development, including through expert meetings and key publications. UNCTAD also provides advice and technical assistance to policymakers, trade negotiators and regulators.

39. UNCTAD collaborated with international organizations and member States on migration issues, particularly as a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG). UNCTAD participated in, inter alia, the following:

- (a) GMG working group meeting on mainstreaming migration into development (6 September 2011);
- (b) Workshop on Economic Cycles, Demographic Change and Migration (16 October 2011) under the International Organization for Migration's International Dialogue on Migration;
- (c) Meeting of GMG Principals (15 November 2011).

40. UNCTAD also contributed to the GMG Symposium Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development (17–18 May 2011) and to the General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development on 19 May 2011, organized by the President of the General Assembly. UNCTAD further participated in the meetings for and at the fifth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2011, organized by Switzerland, and in a series of smaller and action-oriented meetings around the world.

41. UNCTAD also continued its work on maximizing the development impact of remittances, building upon the findings and outcomes of an ad hoc expert meeting held on the topic (February 2011). It stressed the potential of migrants' remittances for contributing to development, for example, by better channelling remittances into productive investment, including by expanding migrants' access to financial services and improving financial integration.

42. Paragraph 96 (a) of the Accra Accord states: "UNCTAD should also: Help strengthen the participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of world trade."

43. In 2011, UNCTAD published two policy-oriented reports on the creative industries which are among the major dynamic export sectors. These reports were (a) *Strengthening the Creative Industries for Development in Mozambique*, and (b) *Strengthening the Creative Industries for Development in Zambia*. They aimed at putting in place the analytical basis for solid sustainable strategy for the creative economy. Both countries established an interministerial committee for the articulation of cross-cutting policies and concrete initiatives for enhancing their creative economies, following the recommendations of their respective reports. A study entitled "Strengthening the Creative Industries" was also prepared and submitted to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, a Creative and Cultural Economy Policy Dialogue was organized in London in March 2012 and a High-level Policy Dialogue on the Creative Economy for Development was held during UNCTAD XIII (Doha, 26 April 2012). In response to the success of its second edition of the "Creative Economy Report 2010: A feasible development option", UNCTAD co-organized and/or participated in events in different parts of the world to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the report at the request of several governments and academia. In 2011, UNCTAD launched the Creative Economy Academic Exchange Network bringing together nearly 100 academic institutions to provide a platform for academia, creative professionals, artists and civil society to promote international cooperation, networking and advocacy.

44. Based on the national diagnostic study for Peru on new and dynamic exports prepared by UNCTAD, a national workshop and other meetings were held in Lima (May 2011) which brought the private sector, the Government and the potential markets (e.g., the Republic of Korea) for the fishery and fruits exports from Peru. This multi-stakeholder workshop identified new export opportunities and led to an undertaking of follow-up action in 2012 to facilitate Peruvian anchovy exports to the Korean market.

45. Paragraph 96 of the Accra Accord states: "UNCTAD should also:

...

"(b) Address the trade and development impact of non-tariff barriers;

"(c) Further improve and disseminate its analytical tools, such as the Trade and Development Index, and databases and software, such as TRAINS/WITS."

46. UNCTAD, with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and ITC, launched the Transparency in Trade Initiative in 2011. This initiative is a step forward in achieving broader data coverage on non-tariff measures and, therefore, contributing to more effective

trade negotiations and policy formulation. UNCTAD held a special event during UNCTAD XIII in Doha on the future international agenda on non-tariff measures (25 April 2012).

47. UNCTAD updated the data elements of the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) accessible through the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS). TRAINS can be compared to a specialized library containing books on trade-related topics on tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, and international trade flows. The number of new requests for access to TRAINS/WITS continued to increase in 2011. About 6,000 of the approximately 18,000 licences issued to users of WITS were issued in 2011. The use of TRAINS, particularly in the publications of other international organizations such as WTO, the World Bank and IMF, attests to its value. In addition, the database has continued to furnish tariff and trade data to the Agricultural Market Access Database, which is in turn often referenced as an information source in many publications on trade in agriculture.

48. Paragraph 97 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should promote and support economic cooperation among developing countries, including through the exchange of experiences and institution-building. It should upgrade its data and analytical tools on South-South trade and strengthen related technical assistance programmes. It should also continue its support for the revitalization and greater utilization of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries and other initiatives that stimulate South-South trade.”

49. UNCTAD has been fully involved in supporting the processes of strengthening African regional economic integration and boosting intra-African trade. It contributed to an AU Retreat on Intra-African Trade (Addis Ababa, 25–27 October 2011). The Retreat finalized the documents feeding into the ministerial preparatory process for the adoption by the eighteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23–30 January 2012) of a “Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area.” UNCTAD was represented at the eighteenth session and is coordinating with the AU Commission and ECA with respect to the UNCTAD contribution to implementation of the Action Plan. UNCTAD has also discussed within the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity on the overall United Nations contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan. UNCTAD also organized, in collaboration with the AU Commission, an African Trade Ministers’ meeting on 20 April 2012 as a pre-event of UNCTAD XIII to discuss the implementation of the Plan. UNCTAD and the AU Commission provided, in a joint study, an analytical report on Trade Liberalization, Investment and Economic Integration in African Regional Economic Communities towards the African Common Market (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/2).

50. UNCTAD supported GSTP participants in holding a GSTP high-level meeting in Doha during UNCTAD XIII (23 April 2012). A joint communiqué of the Committee of Participants of GSTP called for further enhancing of the value of GSTP for their economies as a platform for South–South trade cooperation.

51. As part of UNCTAD XIII, a high-level ministerial round table, “Strengthening all forms of cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation”, was held (Doha, 24 April 2012). Deliberations during this meeting pointed out approaches to international cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including South–South cooperation. Deliberations also reflected, inter alia, the need for (a) further participation of developing countries in global value chains, (b) promoting regional integration and further strengthening new South–South cooperation opportunities, such as the creation of an all-ACP trade agreement, and (d) strengthening multilateralism in trade.

52. Paragraph 98 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD’s work on energy-related issues should be addressed from the trade and development perspective, where relevant in the context of UNCTAD’s work on commodities, trade and environment, new and dynamic sectors, and services.”

53. Paragraph 99 states: “UNCTAD should continue its work under the Biofuels Initiative, striving to maximize trade and development gains for developing countries and countries with economies in transition while minimizing the potentially adverse environmental and social aspects of the biofuel option.”

54. The UNCTAD BioFuels Initiative continued to assist developing countries in their policy analysis and decision-making process on whether biofuels is an option for them in achieving energy security and sustainable development goals. It continued collaboration with the Government of Mexico in assessing the biofuel option, including the evaluation of policy implementation and analysis of developments in biofuels markets, especially with regard to issues related to sustainability certification. The assessment was finalized and submitted to the Government of Mexico for its consideration. An analytical study was also prepared on the State of South–South and Triangular Cooperation in the Production, Use and Trade of Sustainable Biofuels (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/10). It also contributed to international discussions on biofuels policy and regulatory issues.

55. Paragraph 100 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD, within its mandate and without duplicating the ongoing work of other organizations, should consider climate change in its ongoing work of assisting developing countries with trade- and investment-related issues in development strategies.”

56. UNCTAD continued to assist developing countries and the global community with economic analysis and in building consensus on the conditions necessary for their engagement and enhancement of climate policies. It provided substantive input to preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by organizing and/or participating in, inter alia, the following:

(a) UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on The Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications (Geneva, 8–10 November 2011), in collaboration with DESA and UNEP;

(b) Second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (New York, 7–8 March 2011);

(c) WTO Public Forum on “Preparing for Rio 2012: Trade opportunities and challenges in a Green Economy” (Geneva, 21 September 2011);

(d) Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment, OECD (Paris, 16 December 2011); and

(e) UNCTAD XIII event on Mainstreaming sustainability into trade and development policies: Towards the Rio+20 summit (25 April 2012).

57. UNCTAD further provided substantive input in this area by preparing the following documents and publications: (a) Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective (DESA/UNEP/UNCTAD), July 2011; (b) Green Economy: Why a green economy matters for the Least Developed Countries (UNEP/UNCTAD/Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), May 2011; (c) The Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/5); (d) The Road to Rio +20: For a development-led green economy (Second Issue) (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/6); and Are there downsides to a green economy? (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/3). UNCTAD also prepared an analysis of

the product space (and a product space methodology) and the policy space of the green economy for providing tailored advice to individual countries and promoting common understanding on trade measures which are acceptable in the pursuit of green economy objectives. UNCTAD also supported, with other collaborating agencies, the organization of the Third Africa Carbon Forum (Marrakech, 4–6 July 2011). UNCTAD also participated in and contributed substantively to global conferences, meetings, seminars and round tables on making the transition to a green economy fair and equitable.

58. Paragraph 101 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on issues at the interface between trade and environment, such as market access, agriculture, the transfer of environmentally sound technology, environmental goods and services, environmentally preferable products, and standards, including issues concerning eco-labelling and certification costs, and follow up on trade-related issues contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.”

59. Throughout 2011, UNCTAD undertook and participated in activities on issues at the interface between trade and environment, such as:

(a) AU inception workshop to develop the African Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative, as a follow-up to the AU Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming (Kenya, May 2011);

(b) Joint EU-AU Workshop on Organic Farming (Brussels, July 2011);

(c) Preparations for and participation in the second African Organic Conference, held in May 2012 in Lusaka (Zambia) on the theme “Mainstreaming Organic Agriculture into the African Development Agenda”.

60. UNCTAD support also ensured that the African organic perspective was represented in discussions with GLOBALGAP and the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements secretariat on organic good agricultural practice (GAP). Moreover, under the United Nations Chief Executives Board Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (UNCTAD, UNIDO, United Nations Office for Project Services, ITC, ILO), work commenced on a national project in Lao People’s Democratic Republic. UNCTAD further prepared a report entitled “WTO negotiations on environmental goods: selected technical issues” (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/1).

61. UNCTAD also continued its conceptual work and consultative activities for the launching of a United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards. A briefing session on the initiative was held during UNCTAD XIII.

62. Paragraph 102 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to build on its experience to enhance its Biotrade Initiative, which gives support to the growing market for biodiversity products and services produced in a sustainable manner. The Biotrade Initiative should continue to support the creation of an enabling policy and environment to foster private sector engagement in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, while acknowledging the social, cultural, legal and economic complexity of this issue.”

63. UNCTAD, through its BioTrade Initiative and BioTrade Facilitation Programme, continued to assist developing countries in strengthening the institutional capacity of the national BioTrade programmes in developing policy frameworks in support of biotrade and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to BioTrade programmes and partners in Colombia, Indonesia and Viet Nam, for instance.

64. UNCTAD also continued to implement activities under biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and, for example, became one of the drivers of the Global Platform on Business and

Biodiversity. In addition, UNCTAD also supported the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Within this scope UNCTAD further prepared, for example, a study titled “Linking to Peace: Using BioTrade for biodiversity conservation and peace-building” (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2011/1).

65. Furthermore, UNCTAD created the BioTrade Impact Assessment System (BTIAS) virtual group for the dissemination of information guidelines and other technical materials to partners involved in BTIAS and BioTrade.

66. As part of efforts to increase awareness and understanding of BioTrade issues among public and private stakeholders, UNCTAD organized and/or participated, for instance, in the (a) International Expert Workshop in support of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 20–24 June 2011); and (b) Sustainable Foods Summit (Amsterdam, 23–24 June 2011).

67. Paragraph 103 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should further promote and support cooperation, including by facilitating voluntary consultations among member States and regional groupings, in line with section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, adopted by the General Assembly in 1980 and reaffirmed in the São Paulo Consensus and at the Fifth Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set, held in 2005.”

68. Paragraph 104 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD is the focal point on the work on competition policy and related consumer welfare within the United Nations system. It provides to its member States a forum for intergovernmental policy dialogue and consensus-building in the area of competition laws and policies. It should continue to carry out research and analysis in this area for, and/or in collaboration with, its member States and international networks on competition policy. UNCTAD should continue to be a forum to discuss competition issues on the multilateral level, with close linkages to existing networks of competition authorities, and to promote the use of competition law and policy as tools for achieving domestic and international competitiveness. UNCTAD work in this area should promote competition law regimes that take into account the prevailing conditions in the developing countries. Accordingly, future action by UNCTAD in this area needs to focus on:

“(a) Preparation and implementation of national and regional competition law and policies and measures appropriate to developing countries’ development needs and their consumers’ welfare;

“(b) Research and deliberations regarding anti-competitive practices in different sectors, their effects on consumer welfare and global markets and developing countries’ markets in particular, and mechanisms to address such effects;

“(c) Examining all issues relating to the interface between competition, privatization and innovation and their impacts on trade and development, including at the regional level;

“(d) Providing support to regional and South–South cooperation on competition policies;

“(e) Supporting developing countries in the formulation and implementation of competition laws;

“(f) Voluntary peer reviews of competition policy in UNCTAD should be extended to a wider group of developing countries and their regional economic organizations; and

“(g) Facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices in capacity-building in different regions, including programmes like the technical assistance programme on competition and consumer protection policies for Latin America (COMPAL), which should be strengthened.”

69. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy (IGE) is a standing body of UNCTAD that brings together each year top competition experts and other representatives. It holds consultations on competition issues of common concern to member States and fosters informal exchange of experiences and best practices, including through voluntary peer reviews on competition regimes of countries or regions, as well as international cooperation and collaboration. The eleventh session of the IGE (19–21 July 2011) underlined the promotion of competition policy as a development tool, the importance of establishing appropriate foundations for an effective competition agency as a necessary condition for the effective implementation of competition law and the importance of coherence between competition and other government policies, as well as international cooperation in competition cases. Consultations on updating the Model Law on Competition were held, leading to its partial revision. The effectiveness of UNCTAD capacity building extended to young competition agencies was also discussed. The eleventh session also undertook a voluntary peer review of competition law and policy in Serbia on the basis of an UNCTAD report.

70. The twelfth session of the IGE (9–11 July 2012) discussed the following topical issues: competition policy and public procurement; knowledge and human resource management for effective competition law enforcement; challenges for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in cross-border anti-competitive practices. In addition, voluntary peer reviews on competition law and policy were presented during this IGE session: a tripartite peer review of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and a peer review of Mongolia. This IGE session also held discussions on the revised versions of chapters III (Restrictive agreements and arrangements) and VIII (Some possible aspects of consumer protection) of the UNCTAD Model Law on Competition Legislation. UNCTAD furthermore prepared a Handbook on Competition Legislation, Consolidated Report 2011–2012 (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/HANDBOOK);

71. UNCTAD supports developing countries in building a culture of competition, including through the technical assistance programme on competition and consumer protection policies for Latin America (COMPAL) and the competition programme for Africa (AFRICOMP).³ Recent activities carried out under these programmes included:

- (a) Implementing technical assistance to countries benefiting from COMPAL such as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru;
- (b) First international forum on consumer protection (Guayaquil, March 2011);
- (c) Technical assistance to countries benefiting from AFRICOMP such as the Congo, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Tunisia;
- (d) UNCTAD XIII event on Competition and Consumer Policies for Development (25 April 2012). This seminar showcased the successful experiences and positive impact of COMPAL in Latin America and served as a forum to explore how COMPAL activities can be expanded to other interested countries;

³ Further details are available in the UNCTAD secretariat report, Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing (TD/B/WP/243, TD/B/WP/246/Add.1, TD/B/WP/243/Add.2).

(e) Regional workshop on competition law enforcement in the Gulf region: challenges and future perspectives (16–18 April 2012).

72. UNCTAD activities helped to raise awareness of the role of competition and promote a culture of competition. In this regard, for example, a national workshop was organized in Sierra Leone (February 2011) to make Government officials and representatives of the business community and civil society aware of the benefits of competition law and policy for the national economy.

73. Within the framework of efforts to help countries draft and/or review their competition legislation, UNCTAD provided, for example, assistance to the Gambia in reviewing their competition law and application guidelines. UNCTAD also provided recommendations to the Government of Ghana on appropriate provisions to be incorporated into its draft competition bill.

74. Within the framework of training activities for competition case handlers, several training workshops were organized in 2011. For example, one regional training workshop on mergers for prosecutors was organized in San Salvador (February 2011) and a regional training workshop on collusive practices in Bogota (March 2011). UNCTAD conducted a fact-finding mission to the Indonesian competition authority as part of its work in developing the cartel detection and investigation manual for the Indonesian competition authority (July 2011). The manual will be used to train officials working with the competition authority in Indonesia. A validation workshop of the manual adapted to Indonesian competition law and policy was conducted in Jakarta in October 2011. Furthermore, a training session on competition policy was organized by UNCTAD for competition officials of Sierra Leone in order to equip them with adequate skills to enforce their Competition Policy and Law (19–21 July 2011).

75. UNCTAD backing for countries that have adopted national competition legislation, as well as newly established competition agencies, includes activities in support to institution-building. In this area, UNCTAD organized and/or participated, for instance, in:

(a) Bilateral consultations with the Government of Tunisia on the training of judges and for the establishment of the training centre on competition law and policy, in accordance with the recommendations of the peer review of their competition policy (March 2011);

(b) Study tour to the Dutch competition authority and the International Competition Network Cartel Workshop for competition officials from Armenia, Malaysia and Serbia, including to support the establishment of the Malaysian competition authority (October 2011).

76. With regards to consumer protection issues, UNCTAD helped Angola, Bhutan, Seychelles and Sierra Leone to draft consumer laws. Thanks to COMPAL, UNCTAD also assisted Nicaragua and Peru in the preparation of their consumer laws.

77. Paragraph 105 of the Accra Accord states: “Taking into account the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Development Agenda and without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums, UNCTAD, within its mandate, should continue to undertake research and analysis on trade and development aspects of intellectual property, including on the protection of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore and fair and equitable sharing.”

78. UNCTAD provided training for government officials, lawyers and trade negotiators, academics, legal practitioners, lawyers representing trade associations, corporations and law firms, and business people from developing countries, inter alia, on the WTO dispute settlement system as regards international trade in goods, services and intellectual property. For example, a workshop was held on contemporary issues in investment arbitration

challenges and opportunities for Asia's growth and development, in collaboration with the City University of Hong Kong (21–22 November 2011, Hong Kong, China). UNCTAD contributed to the analysis and assessment of development implications of various technical issues and facilitated legal and policy advice to developing countries, especially LDCs, African countries and small and vulnerable economies, on negotiations in TRIPS-related issues in WTO.

79. Paragraph 106 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to play an important role in developing and implementing projects under Aid for Trade. UNCTAD should continue to provide focused support to developing countries, in building their capacity to meaningfully participate in, and benefit from, the international trading system and to address the opportunities and challenges that this system offers.”

80. UNCTAD continued to contribute to the Aid for Trade initiative. It participated in the Aid for Trade Advisory Group of the WTO Director-General and in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in its consideration of the Aid for Trade issues. UNCTAD provided case stories for the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade in 2011 and participated in the Review. It also contributed to a preparatory event for the Global Review organized by developing countries, such as the ACP Group of States. UNCTAD also provided inputs to the OECD-WTO publication on Aid for Trade at a Glance 2011.

81. The Global Network of Export-Import Banks and Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID) cooperation with UNCTAD was formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Geneva on 19 September 2011. The MOU encourages enhanced cooperation among both partners in support of trade – financing facilities/agencies from developing countries and economies in transition. On that occasion, a G-NEXID seminar on “Enhancing South–South Cooperation: Promoting SMEs Finance” was organized with UNCTAD support. Following the seminar, on 20 September 2011, the G-NEXID Steering Committee meeting was organized and it agreed, *inter alia*, to hold its annual 2012 meeting as a pre-event to UNCTAD XIII.

82. Based on its integrated trade and development approach, UNCTAD is uniquely positioned within the international community to facilitate national, regional and international efforts to address current development challenges through international trade. Over the period reviewed, UNCTAD has provided active support, and in an integrated and synergistic manner, in various areas under its three pillars for the mobilization of international trade and trade policy for promoting inclusive and sustainable development. A platform and analytical research basis has been provided for informed and open exchanges of experiences and views among governments and other stakeholders on key national and international issues, at different levels and degrees in terms of broad policy outlook or technical detail. This has facilitated the search for common ground on persistent and emerging development challenges and opportunities. Developing countries, particularly LDCs, have been aided in formulating and implementing trade-related policies and strategies to enhance beneficial integration into the international trading system. The implementation of the Accra Accord has thus been undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-seventh session,⁴ which encouraged the secretariat to bear in mind, *inter alia*, the need in the research and analysis pillar to continue to assist developing countries to address key trade and development and other interrelated issues and challenges and their implications and lessons learned; in the consensus-building pillar, to continue to improve the functioning of the intergovernmental

⁴ See the Report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-seventh session (TD/B/57/8): Evaluation and review of UNCTAD implementation of the Accra Accord – Agreed outcome 503 (LVII).

machinery in an evolutionary, informal and constructive manner, in order to build a stronger consensus on trade and development issues; and in the technical cooperation pillar, to ensure that its work is firmly based on UNCTAD research and analysis, as well as the consensus reached in the consensus-building pillar. A good foundation has therefore been laid for further work within the framework of the UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate towards inclusive trade-related growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.
