

Agreed conclusions

A. From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Investment (Agenda item 4a)

The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission,

Noting with concern that investment flows have not yet recovered to their pre-crisis levels and have declined significantly in many developing regions, particularly in the most vulnerable ones,

Also noting the importance of private investment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the role of investment promotion agencies and outward promotion agencies in channelling investment to Sustainable Development Goals-related sectors,

Acknowledging the cost-effective support of UNCTAD for such efforts, including through its programme on investment promotion and facilitation, based on its Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue its support for capacity-building on strategies, policies, tools and practices to promote investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the UNCTAD global action menu for investment facilitation;
2. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue supporting the exchange and dissemination of best practices in investment promotion, including through the awards for promoting investment in the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Expresses* its satisfaction for the presentation by the secretariat of the most recent global trends and policies in the area of investment and enterprise for development; and calls on the secretariat to continue reporting and monitoring these trends and their impact on development;
4. *Looks forward* to the forthcoming *World Investment Report 2018*; and requests that the findings of the report continue to be incorporated into the ongoing capacity-building work of UNCTAD and feed into intergovernmental deliberations, as well as policy discussions of other relevant policymaking forums, including the UNCTAD World Investment Forum in 2018;
5. *Commends* the programme of investment policy reviews, including for the conclusion of its first regional investment policy review; and congratulates The Gambia and the South-Eastern Europe region on their successful reviews;
6. *Acknowledges* the role of the investment policy reviews and the follow-up implementation as an essential tool to support countries' progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the application of the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development; and requests the secretariat to continue presenting the reviews, upon the request of the member States, in an intergovernmental context to further the exchange of best practices; and encourages partner countries to financially support the programme;

7. *Encourages* the secretariat to further disseminate the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, including through technical assistance, capacity-building and consensus-building, including at the national and regional levels,

B. From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Enterprise and information and communications technology (Agenda item b)

The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission,

Reiterating that entrepreneurship, as one of the most important drivers of job creation and economic growth, has a pivotal role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that entrepreneurship development requires the proactive role of Governments, and a systemic approach,

1. *Acknowledges* the relevance and usefulness of the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework for the assessment, review and promotion of entrepreneurship policies in member States; and recommends its wide dissemination as a contribution to policy formulation and capacity-building, in accordance with its mandate;

2. *Welcomes* the development of entrepreneurship development strategies targeted to special population groups, such as women, migrants and youth, as well as the implementation of related capacity-building programmes, including the Empretec and Business Linkages programmes;

3. *Commends* the valuable contribution of the UNCTAD business facilitation programme; and invites the secretariat to continue its exchanges of best practices in the development of online platforms of regulations and administrative procedures, as well as investment attraction tools that can facilitate investment in the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Reaffirms* the critical role of technology, including information and communications technology, and innovation in trade and development, and as one of the more important drivers of change for achieving inclusive and sustainable development;

5. *Recognizes* that science, technology and innovation, including new and emerging technologies, open new possibilities for solving long-standing problems in many areas of concern addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals, and that science, technology and innovation-driven entrepreneurship, in particular, can provide a means to create employment opportunities and empower women and youth; and further recognizes that fast technological change presents particular challenges to developing countries that lack sufficient technological capabilities to fully benefit from technological change and innovation;

6. *Notes* with appreciation the opportunity to consider practical experiences that illustrate how entrepreneurship and innovation can be complementary and mutually reinforcing elements in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Expresses* its satisfaction for the quality of the policy dialogue that took place concerning the role of public policies in supporting the emergence and development of innovative entrepreneurship that contributes to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development;

8. *Recognizes* the need to expand UNCTAD discussions on the matter of science, technology and innovation for development, so as to address, inter alia, new policy

frameworks that leverage science, technology, and innovation for more inclusive and sustainable development, including in the context of the policy and technical cooperation work of UNCTAD;

9. *Welcomes* the new role of UNCTAD as co-leader of the Inter-agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and encourages the delivery of practical outcomes by the Task Team, to support developing countries in the field of science, technology and innovation for development;

10. *Welcomes* the collaboration of UNCTAD with the newly established Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and encourages the secretariat to cooperate with the Bank in the areas relevant to its mandate and expertise;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to facilitate the exchange of experiences and mutual learning about science, technology and innovation policies for inclusive and sustainable development; to keep the Commission informed of evolving best practices in the field of science, technology and innovation policy for inclusive and sustainable development; in this respect, to continue cross-fertilization with its work for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; and to incorporate such best practices in technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in science, technology and innovation policy.