The UNCTAD Investment and Enterprise Division is the focal point within the United Nations system for investment and enterprise development. As a global centre of excellence, the Division conducts leading-edge policy analysis, provides technical assistance and builds international consensus among the 194 United Nations Member States.

Reflecting our mission to promote “investment and enterprise for sustainable and inclusive development”, the Division has developed two policy tools for beneficiary countries based on decades of experience and best practice:

- UNCTAD’s Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development consists of a set of core principles for investment policymaking, guidelines for national investment policies, and guidance for the design and negotiation of international investment agreements (IIAs);
- UNCTAD’s Entrepreneurship Policy Framework focuses on the promotion of a dynamic entrepreneurship culture and the facilitation of new business start-ups in developing countries and transition economies.

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF INVESTMENT STAKEHOLDERS, THE DIVISION FOCUSES ON 2 FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS 7 OTHER CORE SERVICES.

TWO FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS

The World Investment Forum (WIF). The forum is a high-level, biennial, multi-stakeholder gathering designed to facilitate dialogue and action on the world’s key and emerging investment-related challenges. It is recognized by governments and business leaders as one of the most important events for the international investment community, providing an opportunity and platform to interact with global leaders, senior policymakers, corporate executives, investors, international experts, investment promotion agencies, academia, and civil society representatives from countries around the world. The first WIF was held in Accra, Ghana, in connection with UNCTAD XII in April 2008. The second UNCTAD World Investment Forum took place in Xiamen, China, in September 2010, and the third WIF took place in Doha, Qatar in April 2012, in conjunction with UNCATD XIII. The 2012 forum brought together 1,400 investment stakeholders from 145 countries, to participate in 15 events, and received extensive regional and international press coverage.

The World Investment Report (WIR). The report provides leading-edge research and policy analysis on investment for development. It is recognized as the authoritative reference document for investment-development stakeholders, in particular for policymakers, including Heads of State and Ministers. The Report includes comprehensive data on investment and TNCs, an assessment of global investment trends and policy developments, as well as a thematic section on a contemporary investment for development issue.

The dissemination of the Report is integrated with a number of capacity building activities to ensure that the research and findings are effectively taken up by the target audience. For example, the President of Tunisia requested that the 2012 report be used to support the country’s investment policy review, and the report was also used in a technical meeting of SADC to support their regional investment agreement negotiations.

The WIR generates extensive global media coverage with thousands of articles being published in over 100 countries. The WIR2011 recorded over 115,000 downloads within six months in almost 160 countries, including 20 LDCs, 17 LLDCs and 26 SIDS; the WIR2012 generated over 30,000 downloads in the first month of its release.
INVESTMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
Developing countries, particularly the least developed (LDCs), often face problems formulating development-oriented investment policies due to the unreliability of their data reporting systems. The Division addresses these problems through its analysis and dissemination of FDI statistics, and by enhancing the capacity of government agencies to collect and report FDI and TNC data themselves.

The Division maintains one of the largest global databases on FDI and TNC activities: it contains information on more than 200 economies over a period of 40 years, and has acquired a reputation as the most authoritative international source on FDI/TNC data. The system also comprises other analytical and statistical tools that support both country policymakers and investors. These include the World Investment Prospects Survey (WIPS), a leading source of information on FDI and TNC operations; the Investment Potential, Performance and Contribution Indices; and the FDI Country Profiles and Country Fact Sheets (available for 188 economies) that feature the latest data on FDI flows and stocks, mergers and acquisitions, largest TNCs, and regulatory changes.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT TRENDS AND POLICY MONITORS
To help policymakers formulate development-oriented investment policies, the Division regularly monitors the level, structure, and evolution of global investment, as well as latest developments in investment policymaking at the national and international levels. These new e-based products have, from the outset, been recognized as valuable resources by the international investment community and the media, generating an average of 400 press clippings per issue, including the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Reuters, Le Figaro, Kyodo News, the Economic Times, and The Economist. The monitors are used by the G20 for its monitoring of global investment policy developments.

INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEWS (IPRS)
The reviews improve the investment policies and strategies of developing countries and economies in transition and help them attract higher levels of FDI whilst ensuring greater development benefits. The IPR is a process which includes the review and follow-up activities to support countries’ implementation of the review’s recommendations. The key findings of the reviews are usually discussed at cabinet meetings, and their recommendations are integrated into national development strategies and implemented with UNCTAD’s technical support. Beneficiary countries of IPRs have seen improvements to their investment climate and a reduction in the volatility of FDI flows upon implementation of IPR recommendations. Among the 38 top reformers in the World Bank’s Doing Business indicators between 2005 and 2011, 16 of them were beneficiaries of UNCTAD IPRs.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS (IIAS)
The Division is the global focal point for all matters related to international investment agreements (IIAs) and their development implications. The negotiation and implementation of IIAs remain a major challenge for developing countries, in particular LDCs, as they work to integrate IIAs into their development policies.

The Division analyzes the latest trends and key emerging issues in the IIA regime, which currently consists of 6,100 investment treaties. The Division builds the capacity of developing countries to negotiate and implement investment treaties that are effective at fostering responsible investment, through research and policy analysis, and capacity building activities (the IIA issues series and international investment policy series and IIAs databases). More than 90% of participants in IIA training sessions indicated that the courses contributed to improving their understanding of key issues and implications of IIAs. An independent evaluation carried out in 2007 highlighted the impact generated by the programme and its cost-effectiveness “in comparison to programmes run by other agencies”.

INVESTMENT FACILITATION COMPACT (IFC)
The compact consists of several services for developing countries to help strengthen private sector investment. Its services especially target investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and other institutions that facilitate and promote investment at the regional, national and sub-national levels. The programme provides advisory services and training packages for IPAs and diplomats, organizes investment promotion and networking events, and produces the Investment Advisory Series on Investment Promotion and Best Policies Practices. So far, over 150 countries and organizations have benefited from the services, which include, for example, the e-Regulations system that helps developing countries promote good governance through transparency and the simplification of rules and procedures. The system has been installed in over 20 countries and is currently generating requests for implementation in 15 more countries. Another service, the Investment Guides, provide up-to-date information on the business and investment climate in countries with often unfamiliar investment environments and under-reported opportunities for investment.
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Division's fosters entrepreneurship and enterprise in developing countries through its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, the Business Linkages programme, and the Empretec programme. Installed in 33 countries, the Empretec Programme trained over 1200 entrepreneurs in 2011, bringing the total number of beneficiaries of the programme since its inception to 245,000. To take one example, training by Empretec Jordan generated 3 new jobs per trained participant and an increase in sales by 30 per cent for established firms. Empretec also provides coaching, mentoring, and special training to women and youth, as well as its Women in Business Awards and scholarship programme that run every two years.

Business Linkages is another product offered by the Division which assists suppliers in achieving successful partnerships with large enterprises operating in their countries. In Mozambique, the Programme has developed sustainable business relationships between SMEs and transnational corporations in the barley production industry, working with SAB Miller. The suppliers in the programme, mainly small farmers, have doubled sales and increased their productivity by 150%. In Uganda, SMEs participating in the programme grew by up to 460%, employment increased by 100% and productive efficiency increased by 25%. In the area of enterprise development, the Division also runs capacity-building programmes on insurance and e-tourism for LDCs.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (ISAR)

The Division's work on corporate transparency and accounting provides services to ISAR, the unique intergovernmental working group devoted to corporate transparency and accounting issues. The Division disseminates best practices through technical guidance on various aspects of corporate transparency and disclosure. Areas of work include: International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) implementation, accounting by SMEs, corporate governance disclosure, corporate responsibility reporting, environmental reporting and research and events on sustainable stock exchanges.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISION

In addition to the above flagship products and core services, the Division has developed several other initiatives which aim to support responsible and sustainable investment and enterprise.

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT (PRAI)

The Principles initially grew out of the Division's research into investment in the agriculture sector that formed the substantive topic of the 2009 World Investment Report. Developed in collaboration with FAO, IFAD, and the World Bank, the overall objective of the PRAI is to promote sustainable development in agriculture through economically, socially, and environmentally responsible investment. Principles for responsible agricultural investment were initially requested by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and subsequently the PRAI has received widespread support and endorsement from the G20, G8 and African Union, as well as Governments and business. Tools for supporting Governments in policies towards responsible investment in agriculture have been devised and piloted in several developing countries. The next stage will involve a full-scale operationalization of the principles.

SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO G20 WORK.

UNCTAD is a key partner with the G20 in the area of investment and development. The Division supports the work of the G20 in several areas, including joint UNCTAD, WTO and OECD reports to the G20 Summits on investment and trade policy measures. It also coordinates among agencies (World Bank, ILO, OECD, UNIDO, UNDP) to provide substantive support to the “Private Investment and Job Creation” pillar of the G20’s Development Action Plan, including the development of indicators to measure the development and employment impact of investment, and promoting standards for responsible investment. More recently, the G20 requested UNCTAD, in collaboration with the WTO, to work on Global Value Chains and their development implications. UNCTAD’s contributions have been widely appreciated and acknowledged by the G20, as reflected in their Summit outcomes.
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAC)
The IAC is a platform for high-level consultations between business and government leaders on key and emerging investment issues and sustainable development. Established during the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC-III) in May 2001, the IAC is a partnership between UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The initiative provides Heads of State and government leaders, CEOs of global companies, and heads of international organisations with an informal and flexible framework for discussing and exploring practical ways of attracting international investment and benefiting from it. Outcomes of the most recent sessions typically include the launch of international initiatives such as “investing in the poor, with the poor and for the poor”, and concrete country-level commitments from major TNCs to consider investing in LDCs.

SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES (SSE)
The SSE aims to explore how stock exchanges can work together with investors, regulators, and companies to enhance corporate transparency and performance on ESG issues (environmental, social and corporate governance), and encourage responsible long-term approaches to investment. Named by Forbes magazine as one of the “World’s Best Sustainability Ideas”, this initiative was developed in cooperation with the Global Compact Office, the Principles for Responsible Investment and UNEP. Following the third meeting of the SSE, held in June 2012 in advance of the United Nations Earth Summit (Rio+20), six stock exchanges (including the NASDAQ) representing roughly 10,000 companies listed in developed and emerging markets have signed up to promote sustainable development in their markets.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR DEVELOPMENT
The Division’s Intellectual Property and Development program helps developing countries to participate effectively in international discussions on intellectual property rights and to help ensure that their intellectual property policies are in line with development objectives. The Division has three focus areas: (i) access to medicines and investment in local pharmaceutical production in developing countries; (ii) research and analysis on the interface between intellectual property and efforts to preserve and promote the sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; and (iii) advisory technical assistance on harmonizing intellectual property policies with development goals. The program is recognized as a collaborative partner in the WIPO Development Agenda, and the 2008 WHO Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.