



# MAIN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

INVESTMENT

AND ENTERPRISE

DIVISION

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Investment and a dynamic private sector are the building blocks of economic development and social progress. They are also increasingly important as the global community seeks to eradicate poverty over the next generation, as well as combat pressing challenges such as climate change.**

The UNCTAD Investment and Enterprise Division is the focal point within the United Nations system for all issues related to investment and enterprise development. As investment currently does not have any global institutional arrangement to oversee its governance (unlike trade or finance), the Division plays a valuable role supporting the international investment community.

A global centre of excellence, the Division conducts leading-edge policy analysis, provides technical assistance and builds international consensus among the 193 United Nations Member States on investment and enterprise, as well as promoting their contribution to the goal of sustainable and inclusive development.

“The post-2015 sustainable development goals will require a scaling up of investment – we need a global ‘New Deal’” – **Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

**To meet the needs of the growing global community of investment stakeholders, the Division's work is structured across two flagship products and seven core services.**

## TWO FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS



**The World Investment Forum:** The forum is a high-level, multi-stakeholder event designed to facilitate dialogue and action on the world's key and emerging investment-related challenges. The forum shapes the future agenda for policymaking on investment for development and serves as a launch pad for major international initiatives in this field. 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, CEOs, investors, sovereign wealth fund executives, parliamentarians, capital market executives, investment treaty negotiators, investment promotion agencies, academia, and civil society representatives from countries around the world. The 2014 forum, in Geneva, Switzerland, brought together 3,000 investment stakeholders from 150 countries to participate in 50 events, and was organized in collaboration with 35 partner organizations.

## WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT

**World Investment Report:** The report provides leading-edge research and policy analysis on investment for development. It is recognized as the authoritative reference for investment-for-development stakeholders, in particular for policymakers, including Heads of State and ministers. The report includes comprehensive data on investment and transnational corporations (TNCs), an assessment of global investment trends and policy developments, as well as a thematic section on contemporary investment for development issues. The *World Investment Report* generates extensive global media coverage with thousands of articles published in over 100 countries. The report records average annual downloads of over 150,000 in 190 countries.



## SEVEN CORE SERVICES

### 1 Global investment information and research – An authoritative data source

**Core data products and services:** UNCTAD addresses countries' data needs through its analysis and dissemination of foreign direct investment (FDI) statistics, and by enhancing the capacity of government agencies to collect and report FDI and TNC data. The organization maintains the largest global databases on FDI and TNC activities, containing information on more than 200 economies covering 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, including the bilateral FDI database on flows and stocks, and the FDI Country Profiles and Country Fact Sheets (available for 188 economies) that feature the latest data on mergers and acquisitions, largest TNCs, and regulatory changes.

**Global Investment Monitors:** To help policymakers formulate development-oriented investment policies, UNCTAD regularly monitors the level, structure, and evolution of global investment and investment policies. The online product has, from the outset, been recognized as a valuable resource by the international investment community and the global media, generating an average of 400 press clippings per issue. Moreover, UNCTAD prepares monitoring reports for specific regional groupings and global summits, such as the Reports on G20 Investment Measures.

### 2 Investment policies and treaties – Improving the investment climate

**Investment Policy Reviews:** These reviews assess the investment policies and strategies of developing countries and economies in transition to help them attract higher levels of FDI while ensuring greater development benefits. All reviews are conducted using UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, which ensures that all recommendations are in line with sustainable development principles. Among the 40 beneficiary countries, many have seen improvements to their investment climate as well as increased and less volatile FDI inflows.

**International investment agreements (IIAs):** UNCTAD is the global focal point for all matters related to IIAs and their development implications. This work includes analysing latest trends and key emerging issues in IIAs, building the capacity of developing countries to negotiate and implement investment treaties that can foster sustainable investment, and providing a platform for universal, inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement on these issues. UNCTAD has also been at the forefront of efforts to reform the international investment regime and has provided valuable backstopping to this process.

### 3 Investment promotion and facilitation – Strengthening local institutions

**Investment promotion:** UNCTAD's services in this area target investment promotion agencies and other institutions that facilitate and promote investment at the regional, national and subnational levels. The programme provides advisory services and training packages for investment promotion agencies and diplomats, and organizes investment promotion and networking events. The programme especially encourages green investment through capacity-building activities, the exchange of best practices, strategic advice and special tools, such as its online green FDI platform. The UNCTAD annual Investment Promotion Awards also recognize outstanding achievements in promoting FDI in sustainable development.

**Business facilitation:** UNCTAD has developed a series of e-government systems to help developing countries and countries in transition improve their investment and business climate through transparency, simplification and automation of rules and procedures relating to enterprise creation and operations. The eRegulations system is a turnkey solution allowing administrations to publish their procedures online, helping developing countries promote good governance. The Global Enterprise Registration Portal benchmarks countries' company creation and registration processes and provides direct access to online platforms. eRegulations and eRegistration systems have been installed in more than 30 countries.

**Investment guides:** The online iGuides provide up-to-date information on the business and investment climate in countries with often unfamiliar investment environments and under-reported opportunities for investment. iGuide installations are key capacity-building projects for developing country investment authorities, enabling them to autonomously monitor changes in their investment climate and to reflect them in their investor communications.

### 4 Responsible investment – Mainstreaming sustainable and inclusive principles

**Corporate social responsibility and the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative:** The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative examines how stock exchanges can work together with investors, regulators, and companies to enhance corporate transparency and encourage responsible long-term approaches to investment. Named by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the "world's best sustainability ideas", 20 stock exchanges (including the NASDAQ and LSE), representing roughly 17,000 listed companies with a market capitalization of \$36 trillion, have signed up to promote sustainable development in their markets.

**Principles for responsible agricultural investment:** The principles on agricultural investment seek to promote sustainable development in agriculture through economically, socially, and environmentally responsible investment. The principles have been endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and subsequently have received widespread support and endorsement from the G20, G8 and African Union, as well as governments and business.

**Intellectual property for development:** UNCTAD's Intellectual Property Programme 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 programme is recognized as a collaborative partner by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Health Organization.

## Enterprise development – Inspiring entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises

**Entrepreneurship Policy Framework:** UNCTAD promotes entrepreneurship in developing countries and economies in transition through its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and implementation guidance. This provides the basis for a comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship and the formulation and implementation of national entrepreneurship strategies and policies.

**Empretec and Business Linkages technical assistance programmes:** Installed in 36 countries, the Empretec programme has trained over 360,000 entrepreneurs since its inception in 1988. The Business Linkages programme is operational in eight developing countries and assists local suppliers to partner with large enterprises operating in the country, ensuring that value chains benefit the development of local productive capacities and a competitive small and medium-sized enterprise sector. In the area of enterprise development, UNCTAD also runs capacity-building programmes on insurance.

## Accounting and reporting – Promoting high-quality reporting and corporate transparency

**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR):** UNCTAD is the United Nations focal point on accounting and reporting issues, which are both critical for attracting investment and promoting financial stability. It conducts research and analysis on related issues, as well as servicing ISAR, an intergovernmental working group devoted to improving quality and international comparability of financial reporting and non-financial disclosure, such as environmental issues, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. Technical assistance is also provided by UNCTAD on capacity-building in this area based on its Accounting Development Tool.

## The World Investment Network – Connecting with the global investment-for-development community

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development strives to create an inclusive community of investment-for-development stakeholders. Through the World Investment Network, the Investment and Enterprise Division maintains contact and disseminates its work to a community of over 16,000 investment professionals. It also promotes discussion and engagement through its investment policy hub website. Additionally, UNCTAD has in recent years built links to new stakeholders through the creation of academic networks, and partnerships with new constituencies such as capital market regulators and regional groupings such as the G20, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Southern African Development Community.

### Pro-poor investment for inclusive development

The poorest countries and communities have specific needs with regards to investment and enterprise development: the investment climate in these contexts may be very different and investor knowledge of these markets may be lacking. One way UNCTAD has tried to overcome this knowledge gap is through its programme Business Schools for Impact. The programme seeks to change mindsets in business schools, develop new curricula, and expose students to the opportunities of investing in frontier markets.

### Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the Division's work

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development undertakes research on TNCs and gender and the differential impacts of value chains on women, and has launched a global research project on gender and investment. In the area of enterprise development, the UNCTAD Women in Business Awards and the organization's contribution to the first TEDx held at the United Nations in Geneva highlights the importance of women's entrepreneurship. A United Nations General Assembly resolution on "Entrepreneurship for development" also recognized the importance of the United Nations work in this area.

### Investing in the sustainable development goals

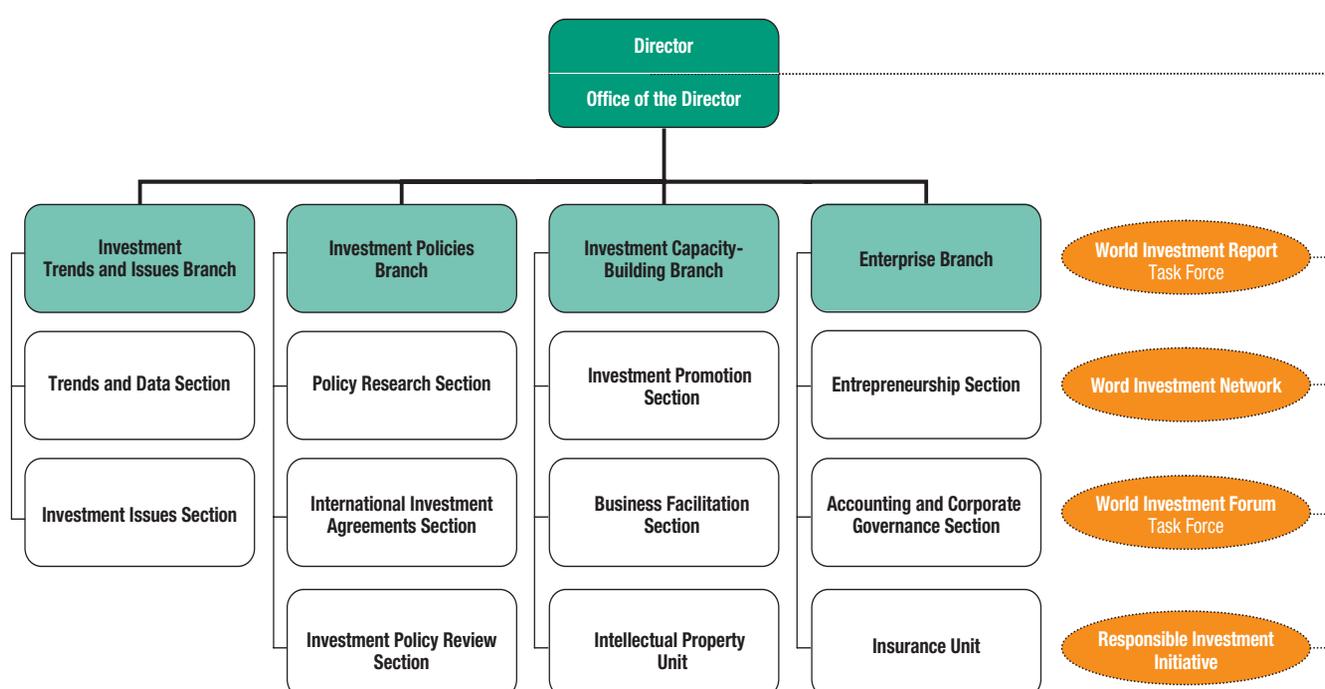
Faced with common global economic, social and environmental challenges, the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) require a significant scaling up of investment. A transformative agenda has been proposed by UNCTAD for investment in the SDGs that can mobilize and channel investment into SDG sectors and maximize its impact. The agenda comprises the **Action Plan on Private Investment in the SDGs** and the **UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development**, consisting of a set of core principles for investment policymaking, guidelines for national investment policies, and guidance for the design and negotiation of IIAs. Together they represent a new generation of investment policies.

## IN FIGURES

Each year, the Division:

- Produces over 90 publications, including books, manuals, reviews, reports, and issues papers;
- Organizes and services the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and ISAR, and provides on-demand servicing to other regional and global meetings, such as the G20 and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as some 40 other conferences, symposia, expert meetings and workshops;
- Delivers an average of 60 training activities;
- Carries out 60 advisory, fact-finding and other missions;
- Maintains seven specialized databases.

## DIVISION ORGANIGRAM



## CONTACTS

- More information about the Division can be found on our website, including links to the World Investment Forum and all our databases and publications: <http://www.unctad.org/diae>
- Follow us on Twitter for the latest news on global investment and enterprise, as well as information about our meetings, publications and activities: **@unctadwif**



- Join the World Investment Network. Sign up for one of our newsletters targeting your specific area of interest, at: <http://unctad-worldinvestmentforum.org/>
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel to watch the latest investment and enterprise presentations and speeches: **UNCTAD Investment**

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