

# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**UNCTAD** 



# Activities Report 2000

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UNCTAD/ITE/Misc. 38/Rev.1 GE.01 - 50471 The Division promotes understanding and consensus building on issues relating to investment, enterprise development and technological capacity building, and assists governments to formulate and carry out policies, strategies and programmes in these areas.

#### Contents

DITE - OVERVIEW
DITE ACTIVITIES
Intergovernmental Meetings
Parliamentary Documentation
Ad hoc Expert Meetings (Listing)
Publications
<i>Recurrei</i> www.unctad.org/en/subsites/dite 13
Non-reci 15
Specialised Databases
Technical Co-operation Activities
Conferences, Committees, Fora and Workshops
Facilitation of Treaty Negotiations
Training
Major missions and Events Attended by the Division
Projects and Programmes
Investment
A. FPI
B. FORINVEST
<i>C. IIAs</i>
D. IPR
<i>E.</i> Needs assessment to attract Asian FDI into Africa
<i>F. Portfolio investment and capital market development</i> 32
<i>G. STAMP</i>
H. UNCTAD/ECA project on African capital market
development
I. UNCTAD/ICC project: "Investment guides and
capacity-building for LDCs"
Accounting
A. ISAR – Environmental Accounting Workshops
B. ISAR – Co-operative Initiatives to Raise the Level of
Accounting and Auditing Practices
Insurance
Technology
Entrepreneurship and SME Development
A. CIED
B. Empretec
<i>C. Mediterranean 2000</i>
D. Women Entrepreneurs
APPENDIX

	benefited from DITE's technical co-operation activities	50
3.	Calendar of intergovernmental and expert meetings,	
	technical co-operation and other events organised	
	and serviced by DITE	51
4.	List of publications prepared by DITE	
	I. Parliamentary documentation	55
	II. Recurent publications	56
	III. Non-recurent publications	
5.	Press releases	

### Our web site: www.unctad.org/en/subsites/dite

The Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development (DITE) of UNCTAD was established in October 1996. It is a combination of the former United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (established in 1974), the former United Nations Centre on Science and Technology, the former UNCTAD Division on Technology, and the former subprogramme on enterprise development. In February 2000, the Division received additional mandates from UNCTAD X in its traditional areas of work, i.e. investment, technology and enterprise development. In addition, some other activities (portfolio investment, banking and insurance and micro-finance) were re-deployed from other Divisions to DITE.

Following UNCTAD X, DITE was charged with implementing paragraphs 113-128 and 154-155 of the Bangkok Plan of Action (*Appendix 1*). In doing so, DITE continues to build on its comparative advantage as the United Nations focal point on all matters relating to international investment, technology and enterprise internationalisation. In particular, the Bangkok Plan of Action called upon DITE to advance its research and technical co-operation activities with a view towards disseminating state-of-the-art information on trends and best practices in international investment, identifying policy options, and strengthening human and institutional capacity-building.

The overarching objective of the Division is the promotion of development goals within the areas of its competencies. More specifically, the Division seeks to (1) improve the understanding of developing countries and economies in transition of policy choices in international investment, technology transfer and enterprise internationalisation; (2) strengthen their abilities to formulate and implement policies, measures and action programmes in these areas; and (3) promote understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements for the purpose of attracting and benefiting from foreign direct investment (FDI), enhancing technological capacity and promoting enterprise development in a globalising world economy.

DITE takes the lead role in servicing the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues in matters related to investment and technology. In addition, the Division contributes to the substantive servicing of the Trade and Development Board, in its considerations of international investment, enterprise internationalisation and technology transfer; the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in dealing with technology issues; the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, in dealing with enterprise development issues; and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR). Indeed, the Division is responsible for servicing two-and-a-half of UNCTAD's four commissions and half of UNCTAD's intergovernmental expert meetings.

Furthermore, the Division prepares one of UNCTAD's three flagship publications – the *World Investment Report* series ? and undertakes a number of core activities dealing with, for example, international investment arrangements, Investment Policy Reviews, investment promotion, and EMPRETEC, to name a few. The Division also contributes to various cross-sectoral issues within UNCTAD, especially as regards women, least developed countries and Africa. To implement its new mandate, DITE undertook a re-organisation of its structure and staff lines of responsibility. In particular, two branches focusing on investment were established, one dealing with research and policy analysis and the other concentrating on capacity- and consensus-building. Work on technology and enterprise development internationalisation is concentrated in the third branch. More specifically:

- ?? The **Investment Issues Analysis Branch** is responsible for research and policy analysis on international investment. It is in charge of producing the *World Investment Report* annual series, the FDI/TNC and the BIT/DTT databases and the *World Investment Directory* series, the *Transnational Corporations* journal and analytical studies on various subjects, including foreign portfolio investment and insurance. The *Investment Trends Section* is responsible for documenting and analysing global and regional trends in FDI. The *Development Issues Section* focuses on the impact of international investment on development. The *Investment Policy Issues Section* is responsible for identifying and analysing global, regional and national developments in investment policy. The branch's work on portfolio investment is carried out by a separate unit.
- ?? The **Investment Policies and Capacity-building Branch** covers all work related to international investment and technology agreements, policy reviews, policy advice in the area of investment promotion, and South-South cooperation in the area of investment. More specifically, the *International Arrangements Section* is responsible for implementing the UNCTAD work programme on international investment agreements, inclusive of the issue of the operationalisation of technology-transfer clauses in existing international agreements. The *Policy Reviews Section* is in charge of implementing policy reviews, and the *Investment Promotion Section* implements the technical co-operation work of the Division in the area of investment, for example, through FORINVEST and STAMP projects.
- ?? The **Technology and Enterprise Development Branch** covers all work related to technology and enterprise internationalisation. The *Technology for Development Section* services the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and conducts the technology-transfer work of the Division, including the work undertaken in response to specific mandates received from the CSTD and UNCTAD X. The *Enterprise Internationalisation Section* focuses on integrating trade, investment and micro issues, particularly those affecting enterprise competitiveness, supply capacity and linkages between transnational corporations (TNCs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It also undertakes institution-building activities through the EMPRETEC programme, including Mediterranean 2000. Finally, it includes work on international accounting issues and services ISAR.

Within this structure, special attention is paid to cross-Branch cooperation in specific areas in which the interplay of policy analysis, capacitybuilding and consensus-building is particularly important.

The work programme of the Division is reflected in the UNCTAD section of the UN Medium-term Plan for the period 2002-2005, as well as the Programme Budget for the 2000-2001 biennium and the 2002-2003 biennium as approved by the Trade and Development Board.

The demand for the Division's research, policy analysis and technical cooperation programmes continues to increase. During the reporting period, DITE's capacity to deliver has been strengthened as a result of its restructuring, extrabudgetary resources, and improved efforts to utilise effectively different regular budget and extra-budgetary resources. Furthermore, the Division has broadened its outreach activities to include participation in conferences and seminars and contributions to publications of academic and international institutions.

During the reporting period, DITE's activities were financed primarily from regular budget resources. Extrabudgetary resources were provided to the Division by various governments (see inset) and by international organizations such as UNDP, the World Bank and the European Commission. Investment-related programmes were also supported by contributions from the General Trust Fund on Transnational Corporations. This Fund allows for a high degree of flexibility - particularly in responding to urgent requests by least developed countries - and makes it possible to support a small team of specialised advisors. This has given DITE considerable in-house expertise, enhancing its ability to react swiftly and professionally to requests for technical assistance. To improve its technical co-operation activities, the Division established, in 1997, with the financial support

Extra-budgetary resources -Countries Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom

of the Government of Switzerland, the Quick Response Window facility. It allows relatively quick responses to requests for technical assistance concerning the creation of an enabling environment for attracting investment to a selected number of countries.

Junior Professional Officers financed by Finland, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands contribute to the Division's work. Furthermore, the Division benefits from the support of numerous experts, scholars, consultants and interns, many of whom contribute without compensation for their work.

All of these contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

<b>Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development</b> Karl P. Sauvant, Director karl.sauvant@unctad.org							
Investment Issues		Investment Policies		Technology and			
Analysis Branch		and Capacity-		Enterprise			
Chief Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen anh-nga.tran-nguyen@unctad.org		<b>building Branch</b> Chief Khalil Hamdani khalil.hamdani@unctad.org		Development Branch Chief Lorraine Ruffing lorraine.ruffing@unctad.org			
Investment Trends Section Development Issues	F	International Arrangements Section Policy Reviews		Technology for Development Section			
Section Investment Policy Issues Section Portfolio Investment Unit		Section Investment Promotion Section		Enterprise Internationalisation Section			

### **Summary of Activities**

#### "In an age of information, the capacity to better use information, that is, knowledge, more effectively thus becomes the key to economic success in the market place; indeed, this strategic tool - a lever to expand reach and capacity - can be even more important than capital, cheap labour and natural resources."

Rubens Ricupero - (Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD X)

UNCTAD is an institution devoted to the generation and dissemination of action-orientated knowledge. DITE's niche in this regard is in the areas of international investment, enterprise development and technological capacitybuilding. These areas are at the heart of development.

Whilst the Division was involved in many activities during the period under review it needs to be stressed that quantity is not the prime assessment criterion, but rather quality and effectiveness. This applies particularly to assisting developing countries to be more adequately prepared in order to compete in an environment of increasing globalisation and rapid technological advancement.

In order to promote understanding of the issues, the Division's research develops policy options and then disseminates its findings and knowledge. To achieve these ends during the reporting period, the Division:

- ?? Organised and serviced over 70 (more than one per week) conferences, symposia, meetings and/or workshops, including some 22 training activities.
- ?? Attended events organised by other institutions and undertook 7 advisory missions.
- ?? Produced over 50 publications including books, manuals, reviews, reports, issue papers, booklets and Internet publications (the Division's flagship publication, the *World Investment Report*, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary).
- ?? Maintained 4 specialised databases.
- ?? Issued 39 press releases or notes.
- ?? Managed 19 projects and programmes.

# Further detail on most of the activities is provided in this document for information and reference purposes.

These activities were achieved through the contributions and efforts of the Division's staff. What is not documented here is the Division's commitment to further training and development and its continued striving for internal efficiencies, communication and co-operation.

Thank you to everyone, internally and externally, who contributed in any way to our work, thereby assisting us in our efforts to advance the cause of development within our sphere of influence.

# **DITE ACTIVITIES**

#### Between the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Investment (4-8 October 1999) and its 5<sup>th</sup> session (12-16 February 2001)

# **Intergovernmental Meetings**

#### **Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues**

For the fourth session of the Commission, the Division prepared a number of background documents. They included a note on recent developments in FDI trends and work undertaken in this area (TD/B/COM.2/21), a report of the expert meeting on international investment agreements

TD/B/COM.2/EM.5/3), and a report of the Division's activities.

Two Investment Policy Reviews - Egypt (UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/Misc.11) and Uganda (UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/Misc.17) - were presented at the fourth session of the Commission. It was the first time that the Commission had participation at ministerial level. Member countries recognised the importance of country examinations as a novel form of intergovernmental discussions at UNCTAD "for understanding the diversity of development experiences and contributing to the deliberations and to the dissemination of best practices in investment policy".

# **Pre-UNCTAD X High-level Policy Dialogue on International Investment Policies**

A pre-UNCTAD-X seminar was organised in co-operation with the German Federal Government Development Policy Forum and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). The report of this meeting was input for UNCTAD X.

#### Participation in Servicing UNCTAD X,

Including organisation of parallel events: WAIPA conference; signing of bilateral investment treaties; FDI in Africa; FDI in Latin America; knowledge for development; parallel event: special roundtable on TNCs, SMEs and development; panel on empowering entrepreneurs; EMPRETEC Programme stand;

Programme launch; young entrepreneurs; co-operation with civil society.

#### Expert Meeting on Mergers and Acquisitions

The Expert Meeting on Mergers and Acquisitions: Policies Aimed at Maximising the Positive and Minimising the Possible Negative Impact of International Investment

Over 100 experts and delegates from 49 member states, intergovernmental organisations, specialised agencies,

and non-governmental organisations participated in the meeting. Based on an issues note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/COM.2/EM), experts discussed factors leading to crossborder M&As and their impact on host economies, as well as policy implications therefrom. The meeting identified a number of possible positive and negative effects. It agreed that the economic policy framework and a country's level of development were key in determining the impact of particular cross-border M&As. Other crucial factors were whether they occurred under normal or under exceptional circumstances (such as privatisation programmes or financial crises); the motivation of the investor and of the acquired enterprise; and the availability of alternatives as regards modes of entry of investment. Experts examined different types of policy responses, notably with respect to impact on employment, privatisation and sales under exceptional circumstances, and market structure and competition. Competition policy was identified as the key policy area and, in this connection, experts considered that national competition policy frameworks needed to be established and international co-operation on merger reviews be

Berlin, Germany 11-12 January 2000

Bangkok, Thailand 12-19 February 2000

Mediterranean 2000 ciety.

Geneva 19-21 June 2000

Geneva 4-8 October 1999

(TD/B/COM.2/17

strengthened. Policy responses to cross-border M&As should be derived from a clear longterm developmental perspective. Furthermore, the Meeting identified issues for further research, such as patterns of FDI inflows subsequent to M&A entry, policy implications for development at the international level, and the impact of various types of cross-border M&As on market structure and key areas of economic development. The report of the EM is contained in the document TD/B/COM.2/EM.7/3.

#### **Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

- ?? Expert Panel on Capacity-building in Biotechnology
- **??** Expert Panel on Legal and Regulatory Issues in Biotechnology
- **??** Expert Panel on Public Awareness and Participation in Science Policy-making in Biotechnology

**Background:** The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established to provide the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-quality advice on relevant issues through analysis and appropriate policy recommendations or options in order to enable those organs to guide the future work of the United Nations, develop common policies and agree on appropriate actions. In this context, the Commission acts as a forum for:

- ?? the examination of science and technology questions and their implications for development;
- ?? the advancement of understanding on science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries; and
- ?? the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system.

Since July 1993, the UNCTAD Secretariat has been responsible for the substantive servicing of the Commission. The fifth session of the CSTD is scheduled to take place in Geneva, from 28 May-1 June 2001.

#### **Coordination of UN Science and Technology Activities**

At its 54<sup>th</sup> session in 1999, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on science and technology for development (A/RES/54/201). It emphasized the need to enhance the capability of UNCTAD to address relevant issues in this field. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to strengthen coordination of activities on science and technology within the United Nations system. UNCTAD responded to this request in a practical way by building an electronic network and information exchange system for science and technology for development. A report of the Secretary General (A/55/96-E/2000/84) containing proposals for strengthening the co-ordination of the mechanisms on the CSTD within UNCTAD with the objective of promoting the complementation of activities within the United Nations system has been submitted through ECOSOC to the General Assembly at its 55<sup>th</sup> session. The report also contained a brief description of the **Science and Technology for Development Network (STD.Net).** 

The aim of the STD.Net is to improve:

- a) Information-sharing, by providing access to the latest and relevant information on science and technology for development as well as linkage to information on science and technology activities of relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions.
- b) Knowledge-diffusion, by providing information and identifying best practices with respect to mechanisms, strategies and channels needed to promote technology transfer, diffusion, adaptation and development of technological capabilities in developing countries. News and reports containing information and case studies on science and technology will be posted in the form of on-line documents.
- c) Generation of ideas, by getting feedback with ideas on how to enhance the capability of UNCTAD and CSTD to address relevant issues in the field of science and technology for development.

A subsequent report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of GA resolution A/RES/54/201 was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

#### CSTD Inter-sessional work programme, 1999-2001

The Commission selected as the substantive theme for the inter-sessional period 1999-2001 "National capacity-building in biotechnology", with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment. The theme includes: human resource development through basic science education, research and development, as well as their interdisciplinary aspects; the transfer, commercialisation and diffusion of technology; increasing public awareness and participation in science policy-making; and bioethics, biosafety, biodiversity, and the legal and regulatory matters affecting these issues to ensure equitable treatment.

A first meeting of CSTD members on biotechnology was convened in conjunction with the International Conference on Biotechnology in the Global Economy, organised by the Harvard University Centre for International Development (CID) and held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 2-3 September 1999. At that meeting, the CSTD Bureau discussed the work programme of the inter-sessional period 1999-2001 and decided to convene three panels, each of which is made up of CSTD members, as well as experts in the field of biotechnology. The Commission at its fifth regular session will consider the findings and recommendations to emerge from these panels. For each of these panels, an issue paper and a comprehensive report were prepared.

#### CSTD Panel on Capacity-building in Biotechnology

**<u>Purpose</u>**: To identify key steps and priorities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build their own indigenous capacity to:

- ?? monitor and assess the impact of biotechnology applications and assure their safety;
- ?? manage and regulate biotechnology; and
- ?? generate knowledge for the development of biotechnology by developing human resources through interdisciplinary education, training and research.

The panel identified a number of areas of core capacities and addressed a wide range of issues, including facilitating information-sharing, identifying problems and setting priorities, monitoring and assessment, compliance with biosafety standards, managing and regulating biotechnology and addressing public concerns in order to build capacity for the proper use of biotechnology for food production. The report is contained in document E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 1.

#### **CSTD** Panel on Legal and Regulatory Issues in Biotechnology

**Purpose:** To address intellectual property protection systems and look at the protection and commercialisation of indigenous knowledge and to examine issues related to biodiversity, the transfer and diffusion of biotechnology in agriculture, nutrition, biosafety, health and the environment.

Geneva 3-5 July 2000

The panel addressed legal and regulatory issues in biotechnology and discussed issues related to biosafety and other matters relevant to the transfer and diffusion of biotechnology in agriculture, nutrition, health and the environment. The report is contained in document E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 2.

# CSTD Panel on Public Awareness and Participation in Science Policy-making in Biotechnology

**Purpose:** To create a process for building public awareness and dialogue among scientists, the biotechnology industry, policy makers and the public on the potential benefits and possible risks of biotechnology. The panel should serve as a

Tunisia, Tunis 14-16 November 2000

Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran 11-13 April 2000 catalyst in raising public awareness and improving understanding on biotechnologyrelated issues of food production and food security.

The panel addressed ways and means on how to create a transparent process for building public awareness and dialogue among proponents and opponents of biotechnology, i.e. scientists, the biotechnology industry, policy makers and the public on the potential benefits and hazards of biotechnology. The panel also discussed institutional arrangements needed to address and manage concerns associated with biotechnology. The report is contained in document E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 3.

#### ISAR (17<sup>th</sup> session)

The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and *Reporting (ISAR)* focused on identifying accounting obstacles

faced by SMEs. The experts agreed on the essential characteristics of a financial accounting and reporting framework for these enterprises which would meet the information needs of multiple users, including SMEs themselves, creditors, investors and government authorities. The session decided to establish a virtual group to develop a financial accounting and reporting framework for SMEs and present it to the 18<sup>th</sup> session for consideration. Environmental accounting and disclosure and sustainability reporting noted as the areas requiring further work (TD/B/COM.2/25 were TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/10).

#### **Contribution to the High-level segment of the TDB on Regional Integration and the Global Economy**

The Division organised a well-attended session on "Investment provisions and regional integration: a new feature in regional integration agreements". Featuring prominent speakers from the business world and academia such as Michael Porter from

the Harvard Business School, Daniel Chudnovsky from Argentina and Mr. Khaya Ngqula, CEO, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, Ltd., the session provided an opportunity for ministers and other delegates to reflect on policy issues regarding FDI within regional integration schemes. A background note was prepared by the secretariat to facilitate discussion and debate during the high-level segment.

#### **Expert Meeting on Home Country Measures**

The Plan of Action of UNCTAD X draws attention to the role that home country measures play in promoting FDI flows to developing countries, and indeed encouraged such measures. To shed further light in this issue, UNCTAD was requested "to

study existing home country measures that could be considered in programmes to support efforts of developing countries to attract FDI and benefit from it" (Plan of Action, paragraph 123) and to "identify and disseminate information concerning existing home country measures that encourage transfer of technology in various modes to developing countries, in particular least developed countries" (Plan of Action, paragraph 118). The expert meeting was organised in pursuance of this mandate. It discussed a range of issues relating to existing country measures used by both developed and developing countries to promote outward FDI, including the transfer of technology. The discussion covered international best practices in home country measures and highlighted a number of measures that can enhance outward investment, especially by SMEs and promote investment to developing countries, including those that are least developed (TD/B/COM.2/EM.8/3).

#### Expert Meeting on the Relationships between SMEs and TNCs to **Ensure the Competitiveness of SMEs**

60 experts from developing and developed countries and from economies in transition; representatives of TNCs with global supplier networks, such as Nestlé, Intel and Unilever;

Geneva 27-29 November 2000

entrepreneurs from SMEs and SME support agencies and such international bodies as

Geneva

8-10 November 2000

Geneva 15 October 2000

Geneva 3-5 July 2000 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Commonwealth Secretariat participated in an expert meeting focusing on the relationships between SMEs and TNCs to ensure the competitiveness of SMEs in the rapidly changing global economy. The participants exchanged concrete experiences of and practical approaches to mutually beneficial TNC-SME linkages, analysed best practices in this area suitable for replication and identified effective support measures to promote "partnership readiness" among SMEs. The report of the Meeting is contained in the document TD/B/COM.3/EM.11/3.

#### **Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development**

The Commission held its fifth session in January 2001. It considered the results of a Roundtable on TNC-SME linkages, held in Bangkok during UNCTAD X; an International Workshop on Technological and Managerial Upgrading of

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises through Linkages with Transnational Corporations, organised jointly by UNCTAD and Intel in Penang, Malaysia, in August 2000; and UNCTAD's Expert Meeting, held in November 2000. These activities focused on various ways and means to deepen the quality of FDI and the development impact of TNCs. TNCs, through their investment activities, can transfer technologies and improve the technical capabilities and the organisational and managerial skills of their business partners in host countries, enhancing the competitiveness of domestic firms. The Commission agreed upon policy options to promote positive linkages suggested by the Expert Meeting and explored further work in this area, particularly practical actions that could ensure that SMEs in developing countries were able to forge linkages with TNCs.

# Symposium Partnership for Development: The Role of the Private Sector in Enhancing Productive Capacity in LDCs

The symposium was organised jointly by UNCTAD and the Government of Norway as part of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs, to be held in Brussels in May 2001. Participants included some 150

representatives of LDC and developed country governments, international organisations and the private sector. The objective of the symposium was to provide an opportunity for LDC governments, their development partners and representatives of the private sector to discuss the role of the private sector both domestic and foreign, in LDC development. The underlying theme of the symposium was the creation of a lasting partnership underpinned by on-going dialogue linking all stakeholders in the quest for development. The participants exchanged concrete experiences of and practical approaches to attracting productive investments to LDCs and strengthening and financing domestic enterprises. The report of the Symposium constituted a substantive contribution to the LDCs Plan of Action for this decade.

#### **Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues**

The fifth session of the Commission considered three substantive items (a) "Impact on international investment flows on development: M&As – policies aimed at maximising the positive and minimising the possible negative impact on

international investment" (TD/B/COM.2/L.12); (b) "International policy issues: home country measures"; and (c) "IPRs: exchange of national experience". The Commission endorsed the report of the seventeenth session of ISAR whilst the Division made presentations on its activities between sessions of the Commission and on the work of CSTD. The final report of the session is contained in document TD/B/48/4.

Oslo, Norway 29-30 January 2001

Geneva

12-16 February 2001

Geneva 22-26 January 2001

# **Parliamentary documentation**

Fourteen papers, including summary reports and issue papers, were compiled during the reporting period between the 1999 and the 2001 sessions of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. The list of papers with reference numbers appears in *Appendix 4*.

# **Listing of Ad hoc Expert Meetings**

From time to time, the UNCTAD Secretariat convenes meetings to seek the advice of experts on specific issues:

- ?? Regional *WIR* expert meeting "Foreign Direct Investment and Privatisation in Central and Eastern Europe", together with the Austrian Central Bank (Vienna, 2-3 March 2000).
- ?? Regional (Asia) *WIR* expert meeting "Cross-border M&As and Sustained Competitiveness in Asia: Trends, Impacts and Policy Implications", together with the Government of Thailand (Bangkok, 9-10 March 2000).
- ?? Ad hoc consultations on the co-operative initiative by UNCTAD and the International Forum on Accountancy Development (IFAD) to strengthen national accounting and auditing capacity in developing countries and countries in transition (Geneva, 22-24 March 2000).
- ?? Expert group meeting on Women Entrepreneurs and Development (Geneva, 15 May 2000).
- ?? Global Seminar (together with the German Foundation for Development) on M&As and development on *WIR* 2000 (Geneva, 22-23 June 2000).
- ?? Preparatory Activities 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on LDCs Seminar on Integrating LDCs in the global economy organised within the Geneva 2000 Forum on integrating LDCs in the global economy. Roundtable on women entrepreneurs learning from experiences (Geneva, 28 June 2000).
- ?? The 4<sup>th</sup> International EMPRETEC Directors Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Technical Experts Meeting (Curitiba, Brazil, 19-21 September 2000).
- ?? A decade of *World Investment Reports* and the challenges ahead (Geneva, 17 October 2000).
- ?? UN High-level Event on Financing for Development: Preparation of the UN Secretary-General's Report on Financing for Development. UNCTAD contribution: Chairing the Working Group on FDI and other International Private Capital Flows (New York, 24 July and 28 September 2000).

In preparation for the High-Level Event scheduled to take place in Mexico in March 2002, five inter-secretariat working groups were established, the function of which was to help develop concrete, action-oriented policy proposals on the different issues that fall within the agenda adopted by the Preparatory Committee. UNCTAD was asked to chair two working groups, one of which concerned international private flows and was within the competence of this Division. This Working Group, in which UN agencies as well as the Bretton Woods institutions participated, considered the following issues: facilitating private flows, especially longer-term flows; expanding FDI to a much larger number of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, as well as expanding FDI in a larger number of economic sectors; enhancing the developmental impact of investments of TNCs in developing countries; improving measures in destination and source countries to reduce risks of excessive international financial volatility; capacity-building and technical assistance. The Working Group formulated concrete proposals on these issues. The consolidated Report of the Secretary-General, A/AC.257/12 dated 18 December 2000, was released by the United Nations in New York and drew attention from policy makers as well as from the media.

# **Publications - Recurrent**

### World Investment Report 2000

The *World Investment Report (WIR)* is one of UNCTAD's three flagship reports. The United Nations began publishing its annual *World Investment Report* series in 1991. It was

Sales No. E.00.II.D.20, ISBN 92-1-112490-5, August 2000

prepared by the then United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in New York until 1993 and has since been prepared by UNCTAD. Every year, *WIR* provides state-ofthe-art data and analysis on trends in global FDI, along with an in-depth examination of selected themes related to TNCs. From its inception in 1991, the *Report's* overreaching objective was to offer useful empirical information and policy analysis for decision-makers in government, business and researchers in academia alike.

**World Investment Report 2000: Cross-border Mergers and Acquisitions and Development** reported on the continued growth in international production, with global FDI, measured as inflows, increasing by 27 per cent over the previous year, reaching \$865 billion, of which \$208 billion went to developing countries. The *Report* provided an analysis of the trends and patterns of FDI flows and TNC activity in each region and discussed key issues of regional relevance.

As its special theme, *WIR 2000* covered the highly topical issue of M&As, as an increasing share of FDI is in the form of cross-border M&As. The *WIR 2000* presented emerging trends in cross-border M&As and discussed their impact on the performance at the firm level. It focused on the impact of M&As on external financial resources and investment, technology, employment and skills, export competitiveness, and market structure and competition, and analysed policy options to respond to each of these concerns. – With a view to widely disseminating the *WIR 2000*, the Division also published an *Overview* summarising the findings, which is available in the six official UN languages, and can be found on the Internet.

The preparation of the *WIR* had benefited from interactions with local officials and academia during two regional seminars. A Seminar on "Foreign Direct Investment and Privatisation in Central and Eastern Europe" took place in Vienna (2-3 March 2000), hosted by the Austrian National Bank. The principal objective of the seminar was to generate empirical material and new ideas on the development impact and policy implications of FDI as related to privatisation. The seminar brought together about 30 national experts, policy makers and academics from some 7 CEE countries as well as countries of Western Europe, and representatives of international organisations and of the Austrian banking community.

A seminar on "Cross-border M&As and Sustained Competitiveness in Asia: Trends, Impacts and Policy Implications" took place on 9-10 March 2000 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, in co-ordination with the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand. More than 40 people from the business and public sectors attended the seminar. The workshop identified issues of particular interest for Asian countries, including the question of fire sales during financial crises; M&As in Asia as a region and in selected Asian countries; and industry experiences. The legal frameworks for M&As in Asia in general and in Thailand in particular were discussed extensively.

In order to alert policy makers world-wide to its findings, the *WIR 2000* was launched in 64 (58 in 1999) locations simultaneously (80 in total including special dissemination). It had unprecedented media coverage: 592 (478 in 1999) press articles were collected, and it was covered on live global television (CNN international business news; BBC world business report; Bloomberg TV) and radio (BBC regional programmes).

In co-operation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, UNCTAD contributes to WESS in analysing FDI trends and relevant policy issues. In 2000,

drawing on the work of *WIR 2000*, the analysis stressed the importance of M&As as a mode of entry for FDI and provided the most recent information and estimates of FDI trends.

#### World Investment Directory: Asia and the Pacific

World Investment Directory series

To provide the foundation for the work on the annual *World Investment Reports*, UNCTAD periodically compiles FDI directories on a regional basis. These provide a better understanding of the character, pattern and trends of FDI

for the formulation and monitoring of policies relating to FDI and TNCs at the level of individual countries and regions. Thus, at UNCTAD X in Bangkok, the *World Investment Directory: Asia and the Pacific*, Volume VII, Parts 1 and 2, were published. It covers 41 economies of the Asian and the Pacific region, and provides statistical data, collected and organised in a unique form, based on information available as of December 1999. It begins with an examination of the most important features of FDI trends in the region, followed by a review of developments in bilateral and multilateral investment agreements, a technical note highlighting the methodological issues related to FDI statistics and country profiles. For each country profile, a detailed definition of FDI as well as a brief description of investment trends and the investment policy and legal framework are provided. Inward and outward flows and stocks with industrial and geographical breakdown are presented. Activities and basic financial data on the largest TNCs by sector are given.

#### TNC Journal – 5 issues

Transnational Corporations Journal.

Targeting mainly policy makers and the academic community, the journal publishes policy-related research on emerging issues. Volume 8, number 1 featured articles on

Vol. 8, UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/12 Vol. 9, UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/21 ISSN 1014-9562

E.00.II.D.37, ISBN 92-1-

112506-5. November 2000

foreign portfolio and direct investment, as well as on Japanese investment in Europe and on corporate social responsibility. Number 2 was a special issue devoted to the forty years of international business scholarship, with contributions by leading scholars on foreign investment such as Dunning, Vernon, Rugman, Cantwell and Safarian. Number 3 featured studies on local linkages in Malaysia and divestment by Italian TNCs. Volume 9, number 1 deals with localised clusters and the eclectic paradigm of FDI, privatisation and FDI in Central and Eastern Europe and inward FDI and economic growth in developing countries. Volume 9, number 2 deals with trade orientation and productivity gains from international production, a study of overseas operations of United States TNCs; the third wave of FDI from developing countries, Latin American TNCs in the 1990s; and economic determinants and institutional frameworks, FDI in economies in transition.

#### Advanced Technology Assessment System Bulletin - ATAS XII:

The Role of Publicly Funded Research and Publicly Owned Technologies in the Transfer and Diffusion of Environmentally Sound Technologies ATAS has in the past analysed the implications of new UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/9, Sales No.

ATAS has in the past analysed the implications of new developments in areas ranging from biotechnology, new materials, energy, information technology to new

approaches to science and technology capacity-building and co-operation. It has examined problems arising both from technologies as well as opportunities emerging for different societies at their specific levels of development. In keeping with previous Bulletins, *ATAS XII* addresses policy makers, bilateral and multilateral co-operation agencies and their counterparts, government agencies and civil society at large. With this issue, *ATAS* returns to an important topic it has dealt with before, namely environmentally sound technologies (ESTs), but with a particular focus – understanding the role that publicly funded research and publicly owned technologies can play in the

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/17 Vol. VII, Part 1 and 2, Sales No. E.00.II.D.11, ISBN 92-1-112481-6, September 2000

Sales No. E.00.II.C.1, ISBN 92-1-109136-5, July 2000

transfer and diffusion of ESTs world-wide, with particular attention to developing countries. The publication of *ATAS XII* benefited from the generous and greatly appreciated support of the Republic of Korea.

#### **International Accounting and Reporting Issues:**

**1999 Review** - This volume contains the proceedings of the sixteenth session of ISAR, held in February 1999 in Geneva. The main item on the agenda was a guideline on the requirements for the qualification of professional

accountants. It also contains a study on the role of accounting disclosure on the recent Asian financial crisis. The accounting and reporting practices of 90 of the largest Asian banks and corporations were presented in their audited annual reports are examined.

# **Publications - Non-Recurrent**

#### The Social Responsibility of Transnational Corporations

As international agreements are providing more rights to firms to operate internationally, this publication looks at the consequent increase in corporate responsibilities and the

concerns of how business enterprises relate to, and impact upon, society's needs and goals.

#### The UNCTAD Series on International Investment Agreements

This series of technical papers on issues in international investment agreements (IIAs) was launched in February 1999. The central purpose of the project is to make issues in IIAs more accessible to policy-makers and other stakeholders concerned with the flow of FDI to developing countries. Each paper examines a key concept and issue relevant to IIAs, dealing in particular with the way a concept is defined, how it has been used in IIAs and options for developing countries. The overreaching objective of UNCTAD's work in the area is to maximise the developmental impact of IIAs.

#### Trends in International Investment Agreements: An Overview

This paper reviews the significant changes in national and international policies on FDI over the past decades. These changes have been both cause and effect in the ongoing integration of the world economy and the changing role of

FDI in it. They have found expression in national laws and practices and in a variety of international instruments, bilateral, regional and multilateral. In particular in the 1980s, a series of national and international developments radically reversed the policy trends prevailing until then, with an immediate impact both on national policies regarding inward FDI and on regional and world-wide efforts at establishing international rules on the subject. Now at the end of the 1990s, host countries are seeking to attract FDI, by dismantling restrictions on its entry and operations and by offering strict guarantees, both national and international, against measures seriously damaging the investors' interests. The tone and direction of international legal discourse has significantly changed. Debate among policy makers is now centred on the most efficient ways of attracting FDI and deriving benefits from it rather than on questions of jurisdiction. This is also reflected in the emerging international rules and principles, of diverse form and origin, differing in strength and degree of specificity.

#### Lessons from the MAI

This paper considers the factors that contributed to the decision of the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to discontinue the negotiations on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment

(MAI), and draws lessons that could be of use for future negotiations of IIAs. The MAI negotiations, especially in the latter stages, attracted considerable attention in the public

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UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/Misc.21, November 1999

UNCTAD/ITE/EDS/8, Sales No. E.99.II.D.27, ISBN 92-1-112467-0, November 1999

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/Misc.22, Sales No. E.99.II.D.26. ISBN 92-1-112466-2, Dec.1999 and private sectors, as well as civil society. These discussions are likely to have an effect on future negotiations of IIAs and, therefore, the paper aims to enhance the understanding of the issues involved in, and the lessons from, the MAI negotiations.

#### Taking of Property

The taking of private assets by public authorities raises significant issues of international law, when such takings involve the assets of foreign private investors. This paper examines the concept of "takings" in the context of

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/15, Sales No. E.00.II.D.4, ISBN 92-1-112471-9, February 2000

international law and IIAs. The focus of the analysis is twofold. First, different categories of takings are distinguished, addressing in particular the problem of the distinction between governmental measures that involve interference with the assets of foreign investors, yet do not require compensation, and those that do require compensation. Second, the requirements for a taking to be lawful are discussed, in particular the issue of the standard for compensation. The paper highlights the challenges that remain when considering the takings clause in IIAs, and discusses policy options relative to defining a "taking" when drafting the clause. It also illustrates some drafting models. Drafting provisions that adequately addresses the issues of the protection of the foreign investor and the ability of a host State to govern its economy can pose a challenge. Although IIAs have sought to list the regulatory measures the exercise of which will not amount to takings, the compilation of an exhaustive list is a difficult if not impossible task. Instead, the takings clause could be drafted to reflect the formulation of a certain relationship that can accommodate both the concerns of foreign investors and national policy makers. This paper provides policy makers with a blend of policy options that could strike a balance between the level of investment protection, on the one hand, and the level of discretion retained by the host State in adopting measures that affect foreign investments, on the other hand.

#### Taxation

The paramount issue underlying all international tax considerations is how the revenue from taxes imposed on income earned by the entities of a transnational corporate system is allocated among countries. The resolution of this

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/16, Sales No. E.00.II.D.5, ISBN 92-1-112472-7, May 2000

issue is the main purpose of international taxation agreements, which seek, among other things, to set out detailed allocation rules for different categories of income. While international tax agreements deal foremost with the elimination of double taxation, they also serve other purposes such as the provision of non-discrimination rules, the prevention of tax evasion, arbitration and conflict resolution. The process of globalisation, including growing transnational investment and trade, has however increased the potential for conflict between tax jurisdictions. At the heart of jurisdictional conflict lies the issue of the jurisdiction to tax. There are no restrictions under international law to a legislative jurisdiction to impose and collect taxes. In most countries, the jurisdiction to tax is based on the domestic legislative process, which is an expression of national sovereignty. States apply their jurisdiction to tax, based on varying combinations of income source and residence principles. This, together with mismatches in definition, accounting and income recognition rules, may result in double taxation or, in some cases, in a jurisdictional vacuum. The arising jurisdictional conflicts can be, and often are, relieved unilaterally under both IIAs and double tax treaties (DTTs). However, taxation is also dealt with by a host of multilateral comprehensive or specific tax agreements, or bilateral agreements not dealing specifically with taxation. Tax provisions do not typically form a principal part of IIAs, partly owing to the existence of the tax-specific DTTs. One reason for the limited role of taxation provisions in IIAs is that the inclusion of taxation matters can sometimes unduly complicate and draw out IIA negotiations and decrease the chances of successful conclusion. There nonetheless exists a wide range of models of tax provisions in IIAs, ranging from an exclusion of such issues from a treaty to the inclusion of very specific tax issues, notably the use of taxation as a means of administrative expropriation; as an incentive for investors from other countries that are members of a regional economic integration organisation formed among developing countries; as a general statement of the responsibility of TNCs in the area of taxation; and as the basis for a taxation regime for regional multinational enterprises or supranational business associations.

#### Employment

The inclusion of employment issues into IIAs is a relatively new phenomenon. On the other hand, the development of international labour standards has a long pedigree dating back to the establishment of the International Labour

Organisation (ILO) in 1919. The main employment issues considered in this paper are those specifically developed in international instruments in relation to TNCs. The most important of these instruments are the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and the Chapter on Employment and Industrial Relations of the OECD Guidelines on Investment and Multinational Enterprises. Following what is covered by these instruments, the main issues concern general employment (including employment promotion, equality of opportunity and treatment, and security of employment), as well as human resources development, conditions of work and life, and industrial relations practices. In addition a category of emerging issues is covered, namely issues related to core labour standards and efforts to reflect these in international agreements through a "workers' rights" or "social" clause. The paper points to a number of options regarding clauses concerning employment that may be included in IIAs.

#### **Admission et établissement** The French translation of Adm

The French translation of *Admission and Establishment* 

#### Flexibility for Development

The basic challenge that developing countries face when concluding and/or negotiating IIAs is how to achieve the goal of creating the appropriate stable, predictable and transparent FDI policy framework that enables firms to

advance their orporate objectives, while, at the same time, retaining the margin of freedom necessary to pursue their particular national development objectives. This paper on "flexibility" outlines a concept that can help bridge these two objectives by defining ways in which IIAs can be adapted to the particular conditions prevailing in developing countries on the one hand and to the realities of the economic asymmetries between these countries and the developed countries on the other. Through a detailed examination of examples in the objectives, structure and modes of participation, substantive provisions and applications of existing IIAs, the paper develops an overview of the possibilities that exist in this area.

#### Environment

Environmental issues cover a broad scope of activities and are dealt with in a wide spectrum of instruments beyond those specific to FDI. This paper concerns itself with the interface between the environment and FDI. Since few IIAs

actually contain provisions that refer directly to the environment or environmental protection, this paper also cites environmental agreements with direct reference to FDI or TNCs, as the relevant provisions are useful to IIA negotiators. This is all the more important as future IIA negotiators may well need to be familiar with environmental concerns. The key issues addressed are the general protection of the environment through general references to the desirability of safeguarding the environment; preserving national regulatory space for environmental protection and/or avoiding to attract FDI through a lowering of environmental standards; and the transfer of environmentally sound technology and management practices.

#### Transfer of Funds

While all of the existing multilateral agreements that liberalise and protect investment contain transfer provisions, the features of these transfer provisions vary, depending on

the overall purpose of the agreement and the scope of the other obligations that the agreement establishes. Given their economic significance, the features of provisions dealing with the transfer of funds are the subject of considerable scrutiny when an IIA is negotiated or interpreted. This paper discusses the treatment of transfers under existing international agreements and, in that context, identifies issues that are of particular relevance in the consideration of IIAs.

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UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/23. Sales

No. E.01.II.D.3, ISBN 92-1-112513-8, February 2001

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/17 (Vol. II), Sales No. E.00.II.D.10, ISBN 92-1-212274-4, June 2000

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/18, Sales No. E.00.II.D.6, ISBN 92-1-

112473-5, October 2000

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/19, Sales No. E.00.II.D.15, ISBN 92-1-112485-9, May 2000

#### UNCTAD's Work Programme on International Investment Agreements. From UNCTAD IX, Midrand (1996), to UNCTAD X, Bangkok (2000).

This booklet informs about the Secretariat's activities undertaken in response to the mandates received in Midrand in the area of international investment agreements, and, specifically, the work programme UNCTAD inaugurated in 1997. This work programme consisted of the preparation of a series of *Issues in International Investment Agreements* papers and the organization of regional symposia, Geneva-based seminars, civil society events and bilateral investment treaty negotiation rounds. This work is being continued within the framework of UNCTAD's Division on Investment. Technology and Enterprise Development and its Investment Policies and Capacity-building Branch.

#### Empretec - the First Ten Years. Empowering Entrepreneurs for the

**21<sup>st</sup> Century** reviews the Empretec programme, how it evolved over the past 10 years and discusses its relevance for the next decade.

UNCTAD/ITE/EDS/Misc.17 January 2000

#### Handbook on Outward Investment Agencies and Institutions

This booklet provides an overview of institutions that support enterprises interested in investing abroad. This assistance varies from information services on investment conditions and opportunities to facilities that provide investment financing

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/8, Sales No. E.99.II.D.22, November 1999

and insurance. It is based on an UNCTAD survey undertaken in 1999 of 74 institutions that promote and facilitate foreign investment, or else play a role in assisting developing countries and economies in transition in attracting FDI. The booklet distinguishes between outward investment promotion agencies, development finance institutions and investment guarantee schemes, as each responds to a different need of enterprises seeking to identify and realize overseas investment projects. An update, "Directory of Outward Investment Agencies and Institutions", was issued in February 2001.

#### **Development Strategies and Support Services for SMEs (2 volumes)**

VOLUME I contains a selection of papers that were presented at four intergovernmental expert meetings, held by UNCTAD between 1997 and 1999. They include the latest ideas,

UNCTAD/ITE/EDS/Misc.18 Vols. 1 and 2, March 2000

theories, approaches and case studies in the field of development strategies and support services for SMEs in developing countries. The collection is divided into four parts: Part I -Promoting policy coherence, Part II - Enhancing inter-firm co-operation, Part III -Developing SME clusters, and Part IV - Providing services to SMEs. The selection of national case studies presented in each section complements the theoretical papers and serves as a reminder that, between theory and practice, there is often a wide gulf. In addition, it illustrates the great diversity among developing countries and their situations and problems, and shines light on why something that is successful in one specific cultural and socio-economic context may perhaps fail in another. The result of this diversity is a very wide spectrum of policy options, requiring careful research and policy analysis in order to ascertain their suitability to particular national contexts.

VOLUME II focuses exclusively on the issue of financial and non-financial services for SME development. The collection challenges the common belief, which holds that access to finance is all entrepreneurs need to succeed. The emphasis on non-financial services argues instead that finance is necessary for SME development, but not sufficient, and that non-financial services, if correctly provided, can play a key complementary role. Section (i) of the volume analyses the set of core principles that have recently emerged in the international donors community around what should be considered the basic goals and performance criteria of business development services interventions. Section (ii) analyses the most efficient ways to encourage the development of SME loan capital, new innovative mechanisms and instruments to meet SME credit and equity needs, and how to improve existing financial institutions ability to construct profitable SME lending programmes.

#### FDI Determinants and TNC Strategies: The Case of Brazil

The study analyses the factors that shape FDI decisions by TNCs. This is done at three levels: i) Analysis of the global patterns and characteristics of FDI, as these indicate the nature of the phenomenon and the opportunities it entails. ii)

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Investigation of the strategies of TNCs and especially the key factors moulding their strategic choices. iii) Discussion of the implications of the patterns of FDI and TNC strategies for Brazil and other host countries, taking into account the views of corporate managers.

#### International Investment Instruments: A Compendium, Vol. IV: Multilateral and Regional Instruments International Investment Instruments: A Compendium, Vol. V:

# Regional Integration, Bilateral and Non-governmental Instruments

This Compendium contains a total number of 143 IIAs. The

Some are designed to provide an overall general framework for FDI and cover many aspects of investment relations. Other instruments deal with particular aspects and issues concerning FDI. The collection has been prepared to make the texts of IIAs conveniently available to interested policymakers, scholars and business executives. The need for such

UNCTAD/DITE/2 Vol. IV, Sales No. E.00.II.D.13, ISBN 92-1-112484-0, May 2000

UNCTAD/DITE/2 Vol. V, Sales No. E.00.II.D.14, ISBN 92-1-112483-2, May 2000

a collection has increased in recent years as negotiations on bilateral, regional and multilateral instruments dealing with various aspects of FDI have intensified.

#### Integrating Environmental and Financial Performance at the Enterprise Level: A Methodology for Standardising Eco-efficiency Indicators

This report presents the results of ISAR's work to extend the conventional accounting model and to link environmental performance with financial results of an enterprise. A method

is presented whereby environmental and financial performance indicators can be used together to measure an enterprise's progress in attaining eco-efficiency or sustainability. It is expected that, by developing a method for producing internally consistent environmental and financial information, the quality of environmental reporting and stakeholder satisfaction with it will improve.

#### **Investment Regimes in the Arab World: Issues and Policies**

This publication is based on the outcome of the Regional Workshop on Policies for Attracting Investment in the Arab World, held in Beirut on 28 to 30 September 1998. The publication includes four case studies on the legal and regulatory regimes for FDI in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and

Saudi Arabia. It also includes an overview of the regulatory and institutional framework for investment in the Arab world as a whole. The publication presents a comprehensive treatment of the subject countries' investment laws, including those related to the establishment, tax, labour, and dispute settlement. The individual country case presentations conclude with specific recommendations with a view to improve that country's FDI climate.

#### The Competitiveness Challenge: Transnational Corporations and Industrial Restructuring in Developing Countries

This report provides information and analysis on the impact of FDI on industrial restructuring and competitive performance, the development of human resources, of technology and organisational knowledge, and the

UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/Misc.20, sales N0. E.00.II.D.35, ISBN 92-1-112503-0 October2000

strengthening of local suppliers. Based on firm-level interviews and in-depth literature analyses, it traces the international trends and developing country performance in the

UNCTAD/ITE/TED/1, Sales No. E.00.II.D.28, ISBN 92-1-112499-9, September 2000

UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/Misc.21.

sales No. E/F.00.II.D.32,

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September 2000

garments, colour television and automotive industries as well as in natural resourcebased production in ten developing countries. It extensively analyses interlinkages between trade, industrial and FDI policies, and is an illustration of the importance of a developmental vision if FDI is to be tapped for industrial restructuring and trade competitiveness. The publication of this report was undertaken within a project funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

# **TNC-SME Linkages for Development: Issues - Experiences - Best Practices**

Research on SMEs continues to be an area of particular focus in the Division. The publication reflects proceedings of the Special Round Table on TNCs, SMEs and Development, UNCTAD X, 15 February 2000.

UNCTAD/ITE/TEB/1, October 2000

#### Strategies for Diversification and Adding Value to Food Exports: A Value Chain Perspective

The study analyses the investment and trade nexus and examines the prospects for developing countries to diversify and add value in food industries by changing production and

processing systems and linking into international marketing networks. The study was published jointly by DITE and DITC.

#### **Investment Policy Review: Uganda**

The IPR underscores the Government's objectives to promote private sector development and the heightened foreign interest in the on-going privatisation programme. Uganda has the essential conditions to attract additional FDI - the

investment policy framework is of exemplary standards, and ample opportunities are provided by a diversified natural resource base as well as a growing regional market. But tapping these opportunities will require continued public efforts to improve the environment in which firms operate. Inadequate transport, electricity and telecommunications facilities are weak spots.

Recommendations:

- ?? To modernise the Investment Code and re-orient the Uganda Investment Agency firmly towards FDI promotion.
- ?? To promote FDI into core infrastructure and services that provide a better functioning environment for business based on a clearer structure in the regulatory framework as suggested by the Review.
- ?? To promote investment into natural resource -based industries for domestic, regional and international markets and, in the near term, to build a promotional strategy while taking into account the poor infrastructure and services.
- ?? To adopt a "Big Push" strategy to ensure speedy implementation of projects on the ground and to implement innovative ways to overcome institutional and structural obstacles.

#### **Investment Policy Review: Peru**

The review focuses on a forward-looking strategy and on the analysis of the country's investment opportunities. Due to its privatisation programme, Peru jumped into the top ten developing countries receiving FDI. Privatisation also has generated significant sequential investment flows. Attention

UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/Misc.19, Sales No. E.00.II.D.7, ISBN 92-1-112474-3 November 2000

www.unctad.org/en/pub/investpolicy.en.htm

should now turn to new strategies that will sustain and accelerate the existing investment flows. From a long-term perspective, there is a need to upgrade FDI to build industries into industrial clusters. Among the main hub industries, the review emphasises agro-industry, mining and tourism because of their high potential to attract FDI. Recommendations:

# www.unctad.org/en/pub/investpolicy.en.htm

UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/Misc.17, Sales No. E.99.II.D.24, ISBN 92-1-112464-6, March 2000

de nexus and UNCTAD/ITE/Misc.20-UNCTAD/DITC/COM/TM/1 14 November 2000

- ?? Improve legal stability agreements and reform the fiscal regime.
- ?? Develop technology and education policies that will enhance innovation in the productive sector.
- ?? Take specific policy measures to consolidate the competitiveness of established hub industries (agro-industry, mining, and tourism).
- ?? Strengthen investment promotion.

#### **Investment Policy Review: Mauritius**

To sustain high growth, Mauritius must shift more forcefully into higher value activities, including financial services, business services and information technology. Wealth in these industries is derived from knowledge networks and a sophisticated support infrastructure that demands

www.unctad.org/en/pub/investpolicy.en.htm

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/Misc.1, Sales No. E.00.II.D.11, ISBN 92-1-112521-9 February 2001

substantial capital and expertise. FDI can help Mauritius establish the attributes needed to compete globally in these high value service industries. Nevertheless, to attract FDI of this kind will require a focused promotional strategy and a substantial overhaul of the policy and operational framework for FDI in line with worldwide "best practice" standards. Recommendations:

- ?? Adopt a more open stance to FDI
- ?? publish a policy statement and bring transparency to FDI regime including the admission process.
- ?? Put the privatisation on a fast track, through a published programme and open it up to bring world-class standards, "name" investors and enhanced capacity and credibility to the regional investment and business services strategy.
- ?? Consolidate and extend the role of the new BOI as a super agency with a central mandate including the execution of privatisation and concession programmes, the development of investment strategy and marshalling public opinion.
- ?? Remove expensive piece -meal tax give -aways, which have poor strategic rationale and replace them with a more coherent, attractive regime based on strategic goals.

#### Investment Policy Review: Ecuador www.unctad.org/en/pub/investpolicy.en.htm

The IPR finds that, although the Government's new economic policy of privatisation was announced in 1990, implementation did not follow pronouncements. Economic

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/Misc. 2, submitted December 2000

and political instability, aggravated by external shocks, resulted in Ecuador becoming the lowest ranking investment recipient in Latin America. The Review addresses institutional, organisational and strategic changes in the FDI regime that hinder the country's ability to overcome the current crisis.

Recommendations:

- ?? Strengthen the liberalisation process by undertaking long-needed reforms in areas such as privatisation and infrastructure development.
- ?? Improve legal stability agreements and reform the fiscal regime.
- ?? Select core programmes to develop cluster activities around successful export products.
- ?? Continue efforts to integrate Ecuador into the global and regional economy.
- ?? Develop coherent trade and investment promotion policies.
- ?? Strengthen investment promotion.

#### **Investment and Innovation Policy Review: Ethiopia**

The IPR examines the investment policy climate in Ethiopia and the policy measures necessary to develop local technological capability and increase FDI inflow. It shows

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/Misc. 4, submitted January 2000

that, although Ethiopia's investment climate has improved greatly since 1992, there are still many aspects of investment policy where improvements are urgently needed. The review stresses the need for designing a more focused and well-coordinated strategy for attracting FDI. However, it also highlights that policies and programmes designed to attract FDI should be viewed as an integral part of a strategy to build local technological capability and to promote competitiveness in domestic enterprises. In this way, FDI will truly contribute to economic growth and development. Recommendations:

- The Ethiopian Investment Authority must be strengthened and managed as an effective one-stop-shop and a single entry door for inward investment into Ethiopia.
- Open up sectors currently restricted to FDI.
- Develop investment targeting capability.
- Establish a small International Investment Advisory Council composed of senior executives from the private sector.
- Design national technology policy that encourages learning and innovation at the enterprise level.

#### **Bilateral Investment Treaties, 1959-1999**

The booklet was released in December 2000. As an innovation, it was published only on the Internet WebPages of UNCTAD to allow convenient global access. It documents the

rapid increase in the number of BITs during the 1990s, which quintupled since the previous decade, and provides a snapshot of the universe BITs signed by the end of 1999. The list of BITs is preceded by a brief introduction highlighting significant recent developments. These suggest that such treaties are playing an increasingly important role in international investment relations, including South-South co-operation. The booklet is intended to complement the analytical and technical co-operation work on BITs being undertaken by the Division.

#### Accounting and Financial Reporting for Environmental Costs and **Liabilities: Workshop Manual**

The objective of the manual is to inform and give guidance on environmental accounting issues and identify best practices

that may be considered by national standard setters in the development of their own accounting standards, rules or regulations. It is used at regional environmental accounting workshops organised by UNCTAD and financed by a grant from the World Bank.

#### **Women Entrepreneurs in Africa: Experience from Selected Countries**

This report contains results of the research undertaken within UNCTAD/UNIDO projects on women entrepreneurs in several African countries. In particular it highlights obstacles faced by them and reviews recommendations for overcoming

these obstacles. The recommendations are based upon the experience of women entrepreneurs, government agencies and non-governmental business support institutions, as encountered in the research and project activities of the two organisations.

#### Measures of the Transnationalisation of Economic Activity

This study reviews conceptual issues concerning the measurement of transnationalisation and related current trends for a number of countries. It highlights the increasing importance of developing countries as outward investors under the current transnationalisation trend.

#### **Investment Guides**

www.unctad.org/en/pub/investguide.en.htm The guides for investment in LDCs publications are a collaborative venture between UNCTAD and the ICC. The guides are a product of a dialogue, including between the representatives of business and government, during the workshops that precede the completion of each guide.

- ?? An Investment Guide to Ethiopia.
- ?? An Investment Guide to Mali (in French).
- ?? An Investment Guide to Bangladesh.
- ?? An Investment Guide to Uganda.

The guides are also available on ICC web site (www.iccwbo.org) and IPAnet's (www.ipanet.net).

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#### **Other publications - Leaflets/Booklets**

- ?? EMPRETEC leaflet
- (published by UNCTAD X, without symbol No, February 2000.)
- ?? À Knowledge Tool for Investors (a leaflet on UNCTAD investment guides) (UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/Misc.27, April 2000)

#### Other publications on the Internet (November 2000) www.unctad.org/stdev

- ?? Regulation and Management of Biotechnology in Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition
- ?? Biosafety and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biosafety
- ?? Bioethics and Biosafety: Some Reflections for Action
- ?? Draft National Biotechnology Policy of Ethiopia
- ?? Country Case: Paraguay (the case of biosafety)

# **Specialised Databases**

#### **Database on FDI/TNC**

The Division collects data on FDI, inward and outward, flows and stocks, for each country, by country of destination/origin, by industry and, whenever available, both by country and industry. It also collects data on TNC operations at the country level: number of enterprises, assets, employment, sales, value added, profits, exports, imports R&D expenditures, royalty receipts and payments, also by country of destination/origin and by industry. There are about 75 countries covered in this database, with nearly two million records as of January 2001.

#### Database on largest TNCs (Top 100, Top 50, Top 25)

Since the beginning of the 1990s, first the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) - until 1993 - and then UNCTAD - since 1994 - have systematically documented and assessed the nature and global economic impact of trends in FDI. The analysis has included a special focus on trends among the world's largest TNCs. A list of the *world's 100 largest non-financial TNCs*, ranked by the size of their foreign assets (instead of by sales or by market capitalisation), has been published since 1993. This list has been complemented since 1995 by a list of the *50 largest TNCs headquartered in developing countries* and, since 1999, by a list of the *25 largest TNCs from economies in transition*. The database includes, among other things, the information on total and foreign sales, assets and employees by company and industry, as well as an index of transnationality. Co-operation in this area continued with the Erasmus University, Holland.

#### Database on cross-border mergers and acquisitions

The Division established a new database on cross-border M&As. The database was used in the preparation of the *World Investment Report 2000* special theme on cross-border M&As.

#### **Databases on BITs and DTTs**

The Division continues to maintain its databases on BITs and DTTs. The databases provide information on the number of BITs and DTTs signed, the countries involved and dates of signature and entry into force.

# **Technical Co-operation Activities**

### **Conferences, Committees, Fora and Workshops**

Events organised, co-organised or serviced by DITE (see Appendix 3):

- ?? Pre-UNCTAD X Seminar on Making FDI Work for Sustainable Development (Geneva, 15 November 1999).
- ?? International Investment Agreements
  - **??** Symposium on regional perspectives with regard to IIAs Latin American and Caribbean countries (Caracas, Venezuela, 6-8 December 1999).

- **??** Symposium on regional perspectives with regard to IIAs Central American countries (Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 9-11 December 1999).
- **??** Sub-regional symposium for South Asian countries. 9 countries of the region attended this symposium, organised at the request of the member countries of SAARC. Its discussions dealt with, among other things, a SAARC investment framework (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 14-15 December 1999).
- ?? Policy Seminar on Accounting Reform, Russian Federation (Moscow, 28-29 February 2000).
- ?? National Workshop on IPR in Peru (Lima, 29 February 2000).
- ?? Three sensitisation workshops on EMPRETEC Programme in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (13-18 March 200).
- ?? Conference of the Association of Insurers and Re-insurers of Developing Countries (Katmandu, 16-19 April 2000).
- ?? Private Sector Workshop on an Investment Guide for Bangladesh (Dhaka, 17-18 April 2000).
- ?? Insurance Supervisors and Credit Insurance Meeting at the Conference of the African Insurance Organisation (Abuja, 14-18 May 2000).
- ?? Workshop on the Mining and Minerals Sector of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Investment Constraints and Opportunities (Amman, 24 May 2000).
- ?? Informal meeting to discuss the mandate of a strategy on investment promotion for the Andean Community (Quito, 22 June 2000).
- ?? National Workshop on Investment Policy Review in Ecuador (Quito, 22 June 2000).
- ?? National Workshop on Investment Policy Review in Ecuador (Guayaquil, 23 June 2000).
- ?? Workshop on the Legal and Institutional Framework for Foreign Direct Investment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Geneva, 30 June 2000).
- ?? Round Table on Corporate Governance organised with the University of Geneva, (Geneva, 6 July 2000).
- ?? UNCTAD/International Association of Insurance Supervisors Seminar on Insurance Supervision (Gha Creek, Belize, 17-20 July 2000).
- ?? UNCTAD/African Insurance Organisation Conference on Globalisation and the African Insurance Industry" (Cairo, 18-20 July 2000).
- ?? Workshop for senior officials from the Office of Prime-Minister of Viet Nam on the role of FDI and TNCs (Geneva , 28 July 2000).
- ?? International Workshop on Technological and Managerial Upgrading of SMEs through Linkages with TNCs (Penang, Malaysia 8-9 August 2000).
- ?? EMPRETEC Workshop on Marketing and Exporting of Food Products (Accra, 22-24 August 2000).
- ?? Private sector workshops on an Investment Guide in Mozambique (14 September 2000).
- ?? Launch of *WIR 2000* in 64 locations (3 October 2000).
- ?? Workshop with AIO and Standard and Poor on Establishment of a Rating System in African Insurance Concerns (Nairobi, 4-5 October 2000).
- ?? First International Conference on the Development of Credit Insurance in African and Mediterranean Countries (Tunisia, 23-24 October 2000).
- ?? Private sector workshops on an Investment Guide in Uganda (1-2 November 2000).
- ?? National Workshop on the Investment Policy Review of Mauritius (Port Louis, 23-24 November 2000).
- ?? Regional Workshop for African Trade Negotiators on Positive Agenda organised by UNCTAD (Port Louis, 5-8 December 2000).
- ?? UNCTAD/South Centre/International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development Panel on Biotechnology (Geneva, 6 December 2000).
- ?? UNCTAD/Malaysian Insurance Institute/Central Bank of Malaysia 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference for Emerging Markets in a Globalising Economy (Kuala Lumpur, 15-16 January 2001).

### **Facilitation of Treaty Negotiations**

- ?? Double Taxation Treaty Negotiation Round organised at the request of the G-15, and in co-operation with the United Nations Department for Social and Economic Development and the Government of Sri Lanka. 6 member countries of the G15 negotiated a number of double taxation treaties (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-14 December 1999).
- ?? Bilateral investment treaty negotiations for the Government of Thailand (Geneva, 17-24 January 2000).
- ?? Bilateral investment treaty negotiations requested by the Government of Bolivia (Lima, Peru, 29-31 March 2000).
- ?? Bilateral investment treaty negotiations for developing countries 12 countries participating 22 BITs initialled (Sapporo, Japan, 19-30 June 2000).
- ?? Bilateral investment treaty negotiations, Kyrgyz Republic with other countries (Geneva, 15-19 January 2001).
- ?? Bilateral investment treaty negotiations Francophone LDCs with other interested countries (Geneva, 24 January to 2 February 2001).

# Training

- ?? Regional Workshop on Investor Targeting for Representatives from African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) organised in co-operation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA). 28 officials, representing 13 IPAs, participated in the workshop. The participants had the opportunity of one-to-one sessions with international experts to discuss issues related to their promotion work (Kampala, 1-3 December 1999).
- ?? Training Workshops on Environmental Accounting and Reporting (Prague, 24-25 February 2000).
- ?? Training Workshops on Environmental Accounting and Reporting (Rio de Janeiro, 21-23 March 2000).
- ?? Regional Training Workshop on New Trends in Investment Promotion for the 5 countries of the Andean Community (Quito, 19-21 June 2000).
- ?? Training Workshops on Attracting Investment to Egypt for Diplomats to be Posted Abroad: first workshop for junior to middle-level diplomats; second workshop for Ambassadors and Heads of Mission (Cairo, 24-28 June 2000).
- ?? Training Seminar for the Network of the Focal Points of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil on Investment Promotion (Brasilia, 27-29 June 2000).
- ?? Contribution to a Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) workshop on investor targeting for IPA officials from the SADC region (Lusaka, 9-14 July 2000).
- ?? Workshop on the Use of the Internet in Investment Promotion co-organised with MIGA. The 20 participants were IPA Webmasters and promotion officials from 13 different countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Geneva, September 2000).
- ?? Contribution to a MIGA Skills Training Workshop on Investment Promotion through the Internet for Staff of IPAs from Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (Geneva, 25-27 September 2000).
- ?? Training Workshops on Environmental Accounting and Reporting (Buenos Aires, 26-27 October 2000).
- ?? Investment Promotion Training Workshop for Brazilian diplomats and technical support staff (Paris, 21-23 November 2000).
- ?? Training Workshops on Environmental Accounting and Reporting Train the Trainer Workshop on Environmental Accounting (Geneva, 20-24 November 2000).
- ?? Regional Workshop on Investor Targeting for Investment Promotion Officials from the Asian region (Jaipur, India, 27 November-5 December 2000).
- ?? Regional Workshop on Investor Targeting hosted by the Rajasthan Bureau of Investment Promotion. The 3-day event, which was co-organised with WAIPA, did not only include an exchange of best practices in investor targeting, but also group exercises in which IPA officials had to market specific target sectors in Asian countries. The 23 participants in the workshop, including several heads of agencies, represented IPAs from 7 countries and 8 Indian states (Jaipur, India, December 2000).

?? Empretec Entrepreneurship Training workshops. The Division's role is to co-ordinate, promote, organise, contract trainers and to follow-up on quality and participant satisfaction. In this context 17 workshops were organized (4 in Panama involving 87 participants, 8 in El Salvador for 190 participants, 4 in Ethiopia for 108 participants and one in Morocco for 17 participants). Considering all Empretec programmes, during 2000 a total of 265 entrepreneurship training workshops were organised by national Empretec Centres in 15 countries, reaching 6,800 participants (mainly in Brazil).

### Major missions and Events Attended by the Division

- ?? Advice to Kuwait with respect to legislative instruments related to TRIPS (October 1999).
- ?? Advisory mission on the establishment of a new investment promotion agency (Tirana, 8-6 November 1999).
- ?? Policy Dialogues (Santiago de Chile November 1999; Bangkok, December 1999; Windohek, May 2000).
- ?? 8th Conference of Arab Businessmen and Investors (Tunis, Tunisia, 24-25 November 1999).
- ?? Emerging Markets Committee, IASC (London, 8-9 March 2000).
- ?? Professional Qualification Task Force (London, 10 March and 19 May 2000).
- ?? World Summit on Small Business: SMEs and the Challenge of Globalisation and Liberalisation (Singapore, 28-31 March 2000)
- ?? International Forum on Accountancy Development (Geneva, 23 March 2000, Washington, 29-31 March 2000 and London, 21-22 November 2000).
- ?? Final Review of the Big Push Strategy Programme (Kampala, April 2000).
- ?? Accounting reform in Russia: Survey in three regions of Russia on how various accounting schemes for SMEs work (14-27 June 2000).
- ?? Mission to Kingston, Jamaica Input to the Globalisation, Liberalisation and Sustainable Human Development Country Assessment of Jamaica (6-11 August 2000).
- ?? Participation in and presentation at the Conference on Accounting by SMEs (Brijuni Islands, Croatia, 12-14 October 2000).
- ?? Committee of Donor Agencies for Small Enterprise Development:
  - ?? Business Services for Small Enterprises in Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam , 3-6 April 2000);
  - ?? SME Financing Gap and New Financial Products (Vienna, Austria, 24-25 October 2000);
  - ?? Guidelines and Performance Measurement for Business Development Services (Vienna, Austria, 30-31 October 2000).
- ?? UNIDO, Role of Public-Private Partnerships (Vienna, Austria, 30-31 October 2000).
- ?? Mission to Tirana with the purpose to prepare an investor targeting strategy for Albania (November 2000).
- ?? Advisory mission on the modernisation of the legal and fiscal framework for foreign investment (Jeddah, Saudi-Arabia, 11-17 November 2000).
- ?? Mission to Port Louis: Country assessment of Mauritius (18-25 November 2000).
- ?? Participation in the Economic Summit for Countries belonging to the Central European Initiative (CEI) (Budapest, 20-24 November 2000).
- ?? Participation in and presentation on Accounting by SMEs at the Eastern, Central and Southern-African Federation of Accountants (ECSAFA) Congress (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 29 November-2 December 2000)
- ?? Contribution to a national workshop in Brazil on the establishment and improvement of investment promotion agencies at the state level (Brasilia, 5-8 December 2000).
- ?? Regional workshop on "Africa and the World", organised by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) (Nairobi, 6-8 December 2000).
- ?? Participation in and presentation at Workshop on Southern-Eastern European Partnership on Accountancy Development (SEPAD):
  - ?? Legal and regulatory frameworks and public-private sector partnerships (Sophia, 9-10 March 2000);

- ?? Professional education, training and certification programmes for accountants and auditors (Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5-6 June 2000);
- ?? Implementing international standards on auditing, ethics, independence and quality control (Tirana 7-8 September 2000):
- ?? Implementing international accounting standards (Sarajevo, 7-8 December 2000).
- ?? Workshop on Strengthening Africa's Participation in the World Trade Organisation, organised by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) (Nairobi, 6-7 December 2000),
- ?? Workshop of the National Committee on the World Trade Organisation (NCWTO), organised by JITAP (Nairobi, 8 December 2000).
- ?? Empretec programming and implementing missions.

# **Projects and Programmes**

### Investment

### A. FPI Foreign Portfolio Investment

Complementing DITE's work on FDI is that on foreign portfolio investment (FPI). FPI is gaining in importance as a source of external finance, but at the same time it is volatile. Countries that are liberalising their capital accounts before putting in place an appropriate framework to regulate and supervise capital market activities are exposed to the risks arising from the volatility of capital flows. To address this emerging issue, along side the analytical work on the developmental impact of FPI, DITE is engaged in technical co-operation work on the development of different sectors of capital markets, including the insurance sector, with a view to strengthening the capacity of developing countries, especially LDCs and other countries in Africa, to mobilise internal and external resources for development. The development of a well-regulated capital market, in turn, can be a positive factor to attract more FDI and allow more linkages between domestic firms and TNCs.

#### **B. FORINVEST** *Policy Framework for Attracting Foreign Investment*

**Development context:** With the globalisation of economic activities, more and more developing countries are seeking FDI. This has resulted in a proactive policy designed to maximise FDI inflows, with a view to increasing external capital/foreign exchange, exports, employment and training, technology capacity and management and marketing skills.

**Objectives:** To assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to create and manage the policy and operating climate in which FDI and international business can thrive.

**Features:** FORINVEST provides advisory services and training packages related to investment policy, investment legislation, investment codes, sector policies governing the participation of TNCs in specific sectors, technology transfer and mechanisms for attracting investment (such as export processing zones, industrial estates and build-operate-transfer arrangements).

**Outputs/results:** During the reporting period, components of the FORINVEST programme were implemented in Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Djibouti, Gambia, India, Jordan, Sudan, Uganda, Vanuatu, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore,

UNCTAD was involved in a number of regional initiatives. The following cases are examples of programme implementation:

*Jordan*. At the request of the Government of Jordan, UNCTAD assists in developing an initiative to strengthen the competitiveness of the mining and minerals sector and thus to attract FDI into mining and mineral processing activities. A three-phase strategy is being pursued involving:

- i) a review of the legal and fiscal frameworks of the mining and minerals sector;
- ii) a comprehensive analysis of the competitiveness of the mining and minerals sector culminating in the preparation of an Action Plan for its promotion; and
- iii) the implementation of an action plan through a series of training measures aimed at strengthening Jordan's capacity to promote the mining sector and to target appropriate investors.

Overall, the project aims to foster private sector development, focusing especially on the proactive developmental role which can be played by Jordan's Natural Resources Authority and the Investment Promotion Corporation.

*Group of Arab countries.* In 1997, a regional project was initiated to harmonise relevant business legislation in Arab countries. For this purpose, local legal consultants completed studies of the business legislation in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. The studies served as major input to a regional seminar, which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, in September 1998. The declaration adopted by the 14 Arab countries calls for the continuation of the harmonisation process and the establishment of annual meetings to discuss investment and its promotion in the Arab world. The first follow-up seminar, to become a regular event, took place in Morocco in June 1999. The next seminar is scheduled for June 2001 in Bahrain.

### C. IIAs

#### International Investment Agreements

#### Capacity-building in developing countries for international investment agreements

**Development context:** Discussions and negotiations of IIAs at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels have proliferated in recent years, providing new momentum to the involvement of developing countries and economies in transition in discussions and/or negotiations concerning IIAs. These discussions require that all parties are thoroughly familiar with key issues and concepts concerning IIAs, especially their development dimension.

**Objectives:** The prime objective of UNCTAD's work in this area is to help developing countries and economies in transition to participate as effectively as possible in international discussions on investment rule-making, be it at the bilateral, regional, plurilateral or multilateral level. This reflects the need for greater information, transparency and proper economic and legal analysis of this subject. More specifically, UNCTAD's work aims at consensus-building and seeks to help developing countries to deepen their understanding of issues, explore the range of problem areas, identify interests, and ensure that the development dimension is understood and adequately addressed. The tenth conference of UNCTAD, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in February 2000, re-affirmed this mandate (TD/386, paragraph 126; see *appendix 1*).

**Features:** Main activities are centred around training and capacity- and consensusbuilding seminars and workshops based on UNCTAD's *Issues in International Investment Agreements* series. Looking at the core elements of IIAs from a development perspective, this series has established a standard working tool for negotiators from developed and developing countries alike. Other main activities include facilitation services to the negotiation of bilateral investment treaties and double taxation treaties involving developing countries, and advice to regional organisations with regard to the formulation and/or modernisation of existing investment regimes. The third pillar of this work programme consists of capacity-building through engagement of civil society and privatepublic-sector dialogue events. This element consists of a series of seminars and workshops conducted for non-governmental organisations. The objective of these seminars/workshops is twofold: first, they aim to familiarise representatives of civil society with current issues related to IIAs and to the working of relevant intergovernmental machinery. Secondly, they provide a forum for an exchange of views between civil society and policy-makers.

**Co-operation with other agencies:** UNCTAD co-operates with, and draws upon the work done by, relevant international organisations. In particular, UNCTAD is following closely the work and discussions within the WTO and provides inputs to the Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment. Various organisations have co-operated in the implementation of parts of this programme. These include the Secretariat of the Andean Community, the InterArab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development, UNDP and the WTO. NGOs include the Centro de Estudios Interdisciplinarios de Derecho Industrial y Economico – Universidad Buenos Aires, the Consumer Unity and Trust Society – India, the German Foundation for International Development, the Economic Research Forum – Cairo, the European Round Table of Industrialists, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Oxfam, SOMO – Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, the Third World Network, Universidad del Pacifico, University of the West Indies, and the World Wildlife Fund International.

**Output/results:** With regard to research and analysis activities, several new titles under UNCTAD's series of papers on *Issues in International Investment Agreements* have been published. The main purpose of this series is to address concepts and issues relevant to IIAs and to present them in a manner that is easily accessible to end-users.

Publications Oct 99 to Feb 2001			Previous Publications
		Jan 99	Admission and establishment (also
Dec 99	Trends in IIAs – an overview		in French)
Dec 99	Lessons from the MAI	Jan 99	
Feb 00	Taking of property	Jan 99	Investment-related trade measures
May 00	Taxation	Feb 99	Most-favoured-nation treatment
May 00	Employment	Mar 99	Scope and definition
Oct 00	Flexibility for development	Mar 99	Transfer pricing
Dec 00	Transfer of funds	Jun 99	Fair and equitable treatment
Feb 01	Environment	Jul 99	National treatment

Symposia have been organised for national policy-makers with a focus on their particular regional parameters and concerns on the issues that have been developed through the research and analysis of IIAs.

Since the 1999 session of the Commission, symposia were organised for least-developed countries on the development implications of IIAs, held in Geneva from 29 September to 1 October 1999, for Latin American and Caribbean countries, in Caracas, Venezuela, from 6-8 December 1999 on regional perspectives with regard to IIAs, for Central American countries, and in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 9-11 December 1999. The year ended with a sub-regional symposium for South Asian countries, which took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 14-15 December 1999. Nine countries of the region attended this symposium, organised at the request of the member countries of SAARC. Its discussions dealt with, among other things, a SAARC investment framework.

A number of activities have been undertaken in relation to the facilitation of IIA negotiations at the bilateral level. The Division organised, at the request of the G-15, and in co-operation with the United Nations Department for Social and Economic Development and the Government of Sri Lanka, a double taxation treaty negotiation round in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 9-14 December 1999, where six member countries of the G-15 negotiated a number of double taxation treaties. In addition, UNCTAD provided assistance to the ANDEAN Secretariat on the modernisation of its regional framework for FDI, as well as organised in Geneva, from 17-25 January 2000, at the request of the Government of Thailand, a round of bilateral investment treaty negotiations. The Division organised a round of BITs negotiations, from 29-31March 2000, at the request of the Government of Bolivia, in Lima Peru. In June 2000, the Division facilitated a two-week

round of negotiations of BITs between 12 developing countries and those with economies in transition, in Sapporo, Japan. The Sapporo round witnessed the initialling of 22 BITs. In January, 2001 two rounds of BITs negotiations were held in Geneva; one for the Kyrgyz Republic with other countries, resulting in three BITs, and another for LDCs also with other interested countries, resulting in 41 BITs.

The Division has also sought to respond to demands from non-governmental actors in the area of investment. Examples include the participation in the 8<sup>h</sup> Conference of Arab Businessmen and Investors, in Tunis, Tunisia, 24-25 November 1999, and a pre-UNCTAD X seminar in Berlin, on 11-12 January 2000, organised in co-operation with the German Federal Government Development Policy Forum and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). High-level participants from selected developed and developing countries, including representatives of civil society, attended the meeting.

Increasingly, developing countries have felt that a critical dimension of capacity building in the investment area is learning through hands on training programmes, which is one feature of the mandate resulting from UNCTAD X. In response, the Division has developed a 10-day programme of intensive training. Its primary purpose is to allow negotiators of IIAs to delve as deeply as possible into key issues related to the negotiation of such agreements. The intensive training programme will be launched in 2001 for Francophone countries.

With regard to the work programme's activities related to the inter-governmental machinery, UNCTAD organised an expert meeting (8 to 10 November) on "Home Country Measures". The Plan of Action of UNCTAD X (in paragraph 48) drew attention to the role that home country measures play in promoting FDI flows to developing countries, and indeed encouraged such measures. (See above.)

#### Evaluation

As an integral part of the work on this programme, an independent evaluation was commissioned. The evaluation was undertaken by a team of three evaluators who evaluated programme implementation from the managerial/organisational, political and technical perspective. During the reporting period, evaluators participated in intergovernmental meetings, Geneva seminars, regional symposia and civil society events. The final evaluation report was issued in August 1999. It observed that the needs and expectations of beneficiaries and end-users were fully met and that the concept and design are appropriate for achieving the overall objectives of the programme. Overall, it underlined UNCTAD's competence in the area of IIAs and, as a general observation, stated that this programme is unique and timely and very important for the great majority of developing countries.

#### **D. IPRs** *Investment Policy Reviews*

As the environment for foreign direct investment (FDI) has become very competitive it is important for countries to critically examine their investment policies and ensure their relevance and effectiveness in attracting and benefiting from FDI. The contribution of UNCTAD to this task takes the form of investment policy reviews (IPRs). The UNCTAD IX in Midrand in South Africa gave the UNCTAD Secretariat a mandate to carry out IPRs for member countries that so desire (Midrand Declaration of 1996, paragraph 89c). In 2000, the UNCTAD X in Thailand extended this mandate noting that "investment policy reviews can play a special role" in UNCTAD's activities in the area of investment (Bangkok Plan of Action, paragraph 123, see *Appendix 1*). Member countries have recognized the importance of country examinations as a novel form of intergovernmental discussions at UNCTAD "for understanding the diversity of development experiences and contributing to the deliberations and to the dissemination of best practices in investment policy".

The policy reviews provide developing countries with a tool to assess their strengths and weaknesses in attracting FDI in conformity with stated national objectives. It incorporates

a medium- to long-term perspective on how to respond to emerging regional and global opportunities.

The investment policy review of a country is a process that brings together UNCTAD and all the stakeholders in foreign investment in the country. It begins with an evaluation mission launched by UNCTAD with international investment experts, who conduct an indepth examination of the policy and non-policy environment that affect FDI, opportunities and potential in attracting FDI and strategies to be adopted to realize this potential, including investment promotion. Investors and potential investors are queried on their perceptions and experiences regarding business environment in the country. The end result of this evaluation is a report, which will be presented at a national workshop attended by public/private sector officials to discuss preliminary findings, policy options and recommendations. The resulting policy review is presented to the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues for a "peer review" where other governments and private sector representatives get a chance to familiarize themselves with the country's investment environment and experiences. Country officials also benefit from this peer review.

The IPRs have received funding from the UNDP, host countries' institutions, bilateral donors and the local and international private sector in carrying out policy reviews.

**Follow-up activities:** UNCTAD has already completed seven IPRs, the first three of which (Egypt, Uganda and Uzbekistan) were presented to the fourth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues in 1999. The remaining four IPRs (Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Peru) were presented to the fifth session of the Commission in February 2001. This item on the Commission's agenda attracted, for the first time, the participation at the ministerial level. The Commission, in its conclusions, "commended the useful work carried out by the UNCTAD Secretariat on the investment policy reviews". Countries where IPRs have been completed have followed up the recommendations of the IPRs with plans of actions. An independent external evaluation found that "the IPR project is timely and very important for a number of UNCTAD's member States".

Governments have taken up follow-up activities subject to the availability of funds. For example, the Government of Ecuador has initiated work on improving investment framework and designing an investment promotion plan. The Government of Egypt has taken action on some of the issues raised by the review (e.g. reform of company establishment under law 159). The Government has also expressed interest in UNCTAD advisory services in introducing suggested changes in the investment framework and in selected activities in investment promotion. Training seminars in investment promotion were held in Cairo, co-sponsored by the Government of Egypt and the Government of Switzerland.

Mauritius has requested UNCTAD to provide further assistance to rationalise the fiscal incentives regimes in line with developmental objectives and to provide technical support to the newly created Board of Investment. The UNDP has agreed to consider follow-up support under the next cycle of the County Co-operation framework for 2001-2005.

Uganda recommended immediate implementation of the recommendations of its IPR, which was supported by UNDP. A follow-up programme was put in place. Nine Task Forces were set up. Members of the Task Forces included policy makers and technical experts from the government and the private sector. By mid-December 1999, the nine Task Forces completed reports on Multi-Facility Economic Zones, Agriculture, Education, Financial Services, Tracer Study of Project Flow, Air Cargo Logistics Centre and Inland Port, Information/Communications Technology Zone, Printing and Publishing and Medical and Health Services. The recommendations of the Task Forces were reviewed by the President, Cabinet Ministers, members of the Parliament and the UNDP. Briefing was also made for the donors' community to invite them to fund follow-up technical cooperation.

**Future activities:** As of 1 August 2001, thirteen more countries have officially indicated interest in undertaking IPRs: Belarus, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Iran, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal and Tanzania. A number of other countries have expressed interest informally and formal requests are expected soon.

### E. Needs Assessment to Attract Asian FDI into Africa

An important share of FDI flows to developing countries originates in Asia. Some of the firms based in this region rank among the largest TNCs in the world. However, not much of the investment of these TNCs goes to Africa, although investor interest in some African countries is now emerging. The project examines FDI potential in Africa, in particular in African LDCs, for Asian investors, specifically from Asian developing countries, with a view to assisting African LDCs in formulating policies favourable to attract FDI from Asia, including FDI by SMEs. Possible modifications of the institutional mechanisms conducive to developing the private sector in Africa will be identified. The investment potential of Botswana, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, and the United Republic of Tanzania is currently under review. The assessment covers industries that have comparative advantages in attracting FDI, taking into account best practices and successful examples in overcoming hurdles in each area from Asian as well as African experiences.

# F. Portfolio Investment and Capital Market Development: A Venture Capital Fund for LDCs

Venture capital represents a source of financing that is potentially well suited to LDCs for the development of a vibrant enterprise sector in these countries. Venture capital funds allow an effective sharing of risks between investors and investees, as investors take an active interest in the management and success of the enterprises in which they invest. The activities of DITE on venture capital funds are two-pronged. On one hand, efforts are made to design and establish a Special Venture Capital Fund for LDCs, which would involve an effective partnership between private investors and public donors. The design of such a fund requires extensive discussion with potential investors and relevant LDCs in order to ascertain the feasibility of such a fund and the availability of suitable investments. On the other hand, DITE is also implementing a project to build the capacity of LDCs to attract more venture capital. A project on capacity-building in the LDCs to attract FDI through venture capital funds is currently under implementation jointly with the Swiss Organisation for Facilitating Investment (SOFI).

#### G. STAMP Strengthening/Streamlining Agencies concerned with Maximising and Promoting FDI

**Development context:** In an environment of increased liberalisation, countries have been adopting a very proactive policy of maximising FDI flows, subject to the terms and conditions that prevail in a given environment.

**Objectives:** To assist developing countries and economies in transition to strengthen their investment institutions, especially investment promotion agencies (IPAs), in streamlining their modes of operation and approval processes, in monitoring the quantity, quality and impact of inflows, and in promoting their host country as attractive locations. Special attention is being given to the institutional strengthening of IPAs in Africa and investment promotion efforts for the African region.

**Features**: STAMP provides advisory services and training packages relating to: (a) the setting-up of an investment promotion agency from scratch or clarifying the identity, role and powers of existing institutions; (b) establishing effective one-stop agencies; (c) procedures and practices that could be employed in encouraging and evaluating FDI inflows; (d) the development of an information system capability to both effectively register/record inflows and assess the impact on employment, taxation, balance of

payments, training and technological development, and backward and forward linkages; and (e) the setting-up of information systems, organising promotional visits and promotional material (including brochures) and arranging investment round tables. UNCTAD is developing a training curriculum on investment promotion and investor targeting, in order to establish the new strategy for capacity-building in investment promotion in developing countries and economies in transition

**Outputs/results:** Components of the STAMP programme have been implemented in Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Pakistan, Uganda, Vanuatu, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, UNCTAD was involved in a number of regional and interregional initiatives and in the work of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). The following cases exemplify how the programme was implemented:

*African region.* In December 1999, UNCTAD organised, in co-operation with WAIPA and the Uganda Investment Authority, a regional workshop on investor targeting for representatives from African IPAs. Twenty-eight officials, representing thirteen IPAs, participated in the workshop. In addition to a two-day intensive course on investor targeting, the participants had the opportunity of one-to-one sessions with international experts to discuss issues related to their promotion work.

*Albania.* As part of UNCTAD's ongoing programme of assistance to Albania in the promotion of FDI, UNCTAD advised the Government of Albania on actions to be taken to restore investors' confidence in the country in the aftermath of the Kosovo crisis. One of the main promotional activities carried out in 1999 was the International Investment Conference in Tirana, which was organised by the Albanian Economic Development Agency (AEDA) in co-operation with UNCTAD and UNDP. UNCTAD also continued to provide support to other investment promotion activities, such as a promotional mission of high-level Albanian Government Officials to the United States of America. During the reporting period, UNCTAD undertook an advisory mission to Albania for the preparation of the *Investor Targeting Strategy for Albania* paper that is expected to be completed in the first part of 2001.

Andean Community. UNCTAD, in co-operation with MIGA, organised a workshop on 19-21 June 2000, in Quito (Ecuador) for the five countries of the Andean Community. In total, thirty participants attended this workshop. The guidelines for an Andean Investment Promotion Strategy were developed. Further meetings will be held in the course of 2001 to review the proposals and present the final input for an Andean Strategy. This workshop was held in Quito to coincide with the publication of the Investment Policy Review (IPR) for Ecuador.

*Bangladesh*. Upon the request of Bangladesh's Board of Investment (BOI), and following an advisory mission to Bangladesh, UNCTAD prepared a report and recommendations on BOIs recently established One-Stop Service (OSS) for investors. Against the background of this work, a workshop was organised for BOI staff as well as representatives of different line ministries and utilities agencies involved in the investment facilitation process. Senior officials of the Malaysian Industrial Development Agency (MIDA) and the Boards of Investment of Sri Lanka and Thailand as well as the Irish and Scottish IPAs, participated as resource persons and advisors. Furthermore, representatives of the private sector provided feedback on investor perceptions. Following the workshop, an Action Plan for the OSS was prepared by UNCTAD. Some of the key recommendations of the Action Plan, involving – in particular – training activities, are to be implemented with the further assistance of UNCTAD.

*Brazil.* Within the framework of the UNCTAD training curriculum on investment promotion and investor targeting, a workshop was conducted on 27-29 June 2000, in Brasilia. This workshop was designed to strengthen the capacity of the Investment Promotion and Technology Transfer System (SIPRI) created by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations (MFR). Participants were representatives from the focal points dealing with investment promotion at States level. Similar workshops will take place for SIPRI network representatives from Embassy Trade Bureaux. These activities form part of a comprehensive technical assistance programme for the MFR, which might also be

extended to the Ministry of Planning and the newly created National Investment Promotion Network – Investec Brazil.

*Egypt.* UNCTAD, within the frame of the new strategy for capacity-building in investment promotion in developing countries, organised its first workshops on 24-28 June 2000, in Cairo, Egypt, with the aim of: (a) sensitising Egyptian diplomats to the potential developmental role of FDI; and (b) providing training on investment promotion and investor targeting techniques. The workshop focussed on the role that a global network of embassies could play in attracting FDI to the country. The two training workshops were conducted consecutively in Cairo, the first (24-26 June 2000), aimed at junior to middlelevel diplomats, and the second (27-28 June 2000), aimed at ambassadors and heads of missions soon to be posted abroad. 120 participants attended the two workshops, which were co-organised by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Officials from the General Authority for Investment (GAFI) were also invited. Other organisations contributing to the events included MIGA the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) and the international investments delegation of Invest in France, a branch of the French Ministry of Finance and Industry. Financial support from the Governments of Egypt and Switzerland contributed to the development of the curriculum and the holding of the workshops.

*Saudi Arabia.* In the context of a visit by Saudi Arabia's General Investment Authority (SAGIA) to UNCTAD, ASIT organised a one-day workshop on the legal framework for FDI in Saudi Arabia, on SAGIA's by-laws and on best practices in establishing and operating an IPA. Following this workshop, UNCTAD has been requested by SAGIA to implement a technical co-operation project focussing on (a) the modernisation of the legal and fiscal regime for FDI; and (b) capacity-building for SAGIA. An UNCTAD advisory mission took place in November 2000 and a national workshop is scheduled for 31 March to 6 April 2001.

*Vanuatu*. Vanuatu's FDI Board (VFIB) requested UNCTAD to provide assistance in developing an investment promotion strategy for Vanuatu, in sensitising other government departments to the developmental role of FDI and in building VFIBs capacity to promote and facilitate investment. Following an advisory mission to Vanuatu, a report was prepared detailing a possible investment promotion strategy. The proposal was presented to Vanuatu's Cabinet as well as to relevant Government departments and agencies in October 2000. Subject to the approval of the Cabinet, it is expected that – with the further support of UNCTAD – this strategy will be put in place over the next year, while enhancing VFIBs capacity to implement it.

*World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).* UNCTAD continues its support to WAIPA, by hosting the Secretariat and co-organising conferences and training activities. In February 2000, WAIPA held its Fifth Annual Conference in Bangkok, Thailand prior to UNCTAD X. 120 officials from 48 IPAs, several export processing zones, international organisations and private sector companies attended the three-day Conference. As part of the training programme, UNCTAD and WAIPA organised four study tours for young professionals from member IPAs, for a period of two weeks. The young officials were from Lesotho, Nepal, Uganda and Vanuatu, who visited IPAs in Jamaica and Malaysia. In the context of the WAIPA initiative, the annual WAIPA Report and Directory 1999/2000 was published in 2000. UNCTAD continued to assist the WAIPA secretariat, which has become independent and is funded by the contributions of WAIPA members and donor countries. In 1999 and 2000, the Government of Ireland provided financial support to WAIPA.

Three Newsletters on investment promotion were published in 2000, both in hard copy and in electronic format. WAIPA co-organised with MIGA and UNCTAD a workshop on the use of the Internet for IPAs from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and co-organised with UNCTAD two regional workshops on investor targeting for IPAs in Africa and Asia, respectively (see technical co-operation activities).

# H. UNCTAD/ECA Project on African Capital Market Development

In an environment of increasing reliance upon private financing of development in developing countries and declining volumes of official development assistance, the development of effective mechanisms for domestic and external resource mobilisation is becoming increasingly critical. Many African countries have made and/or are currently making efforts to develop capital markets in order to promote the development in the medium and longer term of means of providing finance for development. The main objective of this activity is to assist African countries that have established, or intend to establish, capital markets to improve the effectiveness of these markets. A first phase of the project was implemented in 1999/2000 and aimed at assessing the needs of African countries in developing their capital markets. A high-level expert meeting was convened to draw a plan for concrete activities during Phase II of the project. The project plans to run specialised training seminars and workshops, to organise intensive study tours and to prepare several policy-oriented studies. Internationally renowned experts will be involved in the implementation of the project.

### I. UNCTAD/ICC Project: "Investment Guides and Capacitybuilding for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)"

The project, a collaborative undertaking between UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), strives to bring together two parties with complementary interests: firms that seek new locations and countries that seek new investors. The guides for investment in LDCs are designed as objective analyses of the investment environment and opportunities, for the information of potential investors. This project is a response to the fact that LDCs receive less than 0.5% of global FDI flows even though most LDCs have removed many obstacles to FDI and are now actively seeking FDI. To address this imbalance, the project attempts, first, to supply potential foreign investors with an objective and up-to-date overview of investment conditions in participating LDCs in the form of an investment guide. Second, it incorporates workshops in each LDC, which focus on capacity building in the investment promotion area. Third, and in the long term most importantly, it launches a process at the heart of which is an ongoing dialogue between LDC governments and the business community.

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda are participants in the project's pilot phase. Investment guides for Bangladesh, Mali and Uganda were published, complementing the Ethiopia guide issued in 1999. Workshops in Bangladesh, Mozambique and Uganda served to stimulate private-public sector dalogue and yield important feedback, in particular from foreign investors, for the respective investment guides. An independent evaluation committee has positively assessed the project. A wide dissemination of the guides among the investor community is assured through notably the network of ICC membership.

# Accounting

#### ISAR

# Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

**Development context:** The use of internationally recognised accounting, reporting and auditing standards and improved corporate governance contributes to increased transparency at the corporate level. Improved transparency and financial disclosure enhances the image of countries and their businesses in the international market place as international accounting and auditing standards are being increasingly required in the presentation and verification of financial statements by foreign investors, capital markets and international financial institutions. Better transparency and improved financial disclosure in turn promote the growth and efficient functioning of capital markets, and stimulate FDI flows since they provide national and international investors with relevant

information necessary for making strategic investment decisions. Moreover, it promotes financial stability and reduces the cost of capital both for countries and the corporate sector. Finally, it enables both Governments and business owners to better manage enterprises and the economy as a whole. Thus, accounting practices based on international accounting rules as well as good corporate governance are vital elements for economic development

**Objectives:** The programme's aim is to assist Governments and enterprises to formulate and implement accounting and auditing laws and standards, together with other relevant regulations according to internationally accepted accounting and auditing principles and practices.

**Features:** Technical assistance projects have been developed over many years on the basis of outputs from ISAR. These are considered objective and consistent with the international standards formulated by the International Accounting Standards Committee and the International Federation of Accountants, as well as the European Union directives. The UNCTAD programme puts these international standards in a form usable for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which have many difficulties with interpretation and implementation. The phases of the programme include research, consensus building through intergovernmental deliberations and implementation through technical co-operation.

**Outputs/results:** Over 100 standard setters, regulators, academics and practitioners from approximately 58 developed, developing and countries with economies in transition participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> session of ISAR which took place in Geneva 3-5 July 2000. The session discussed the accounting needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). All materials produced by ISAR are distributed to governments, standard setters, academic institutions, and other interested programmes.

Following the completion of the EU-Tacis funded project in Azerbaijan, UNCTAD started the execution of another EU-Tacis funded project in the Russian Federation in partnership with KPMG. The overall objective of the project is to assist the Russian Federation in developing and introducing national standards for accounting and reporting. UNCTAD is in charge of the SME component of the project with the goal of drafting standards applicable to SMEs that should be broadly in line with International Accounting Standards (IAS). To date UNCTAD has undertaken several missions to (a) determine the accounting needs of Russian SMEs; (b) evaluate the existing accounting and reporting system for SMEs; and (c) assess actual SME accounting practices and their compliance with existing frameworks.

In the course of the project it was established that SMEs are not satisfied with the current accounting environment and there is a need for simplified accounting for SMEs. It was established that Russian accounting for SMEs is fairly complex and that there are different definitions of SMEs provided in various Russian laws. At present consultations have been undertaken on the definition of SMEs in line with international practice. Consultations are also continuing on possible amendments to Russian laws and regulations governing accounting by SMEs so that Russian accounting framework for SMEs is changed in accordance with international accounting framework for SMEs.

### A. ISAR - Environmental Accounting Workshops

To date, with the financial assistance of the World Bank, nine national and regional workshops have been held in Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Thailand to disseminate ISARs recommendations on environmental accounting. The initial train-the-trainer workshop on environmental accounting and reporting was held in Geneva during November 2000 and included participants with teaching/training backgrounds, members of professional institutions and business associations. Thus national institutes and other interested organisations were enabled to be in a position to continue this training.

In the context of the programme, several publications were produced including the

Guideline on Accounting and Financial Reporting for Environmental Costs and Liabilities (1999): Environmental Accounting and Financial Reporting: Training Manual (November 2000); Integrating Environmental and Financial Performance at the Enterprise Level; A Methodology for Standardising Eco-efficiency indicators (2000) and the Reference Manual of Best Practice Examples, Environmental Financial Reporting in the Steel Industry (2000, Xerox). In addition to World Bank funds, other contributions were made by the Government of the Netherlands, the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA).

Workshops held during the reporting period include:

*Czech Republic* (24-25 February 2000) - Over 60 practitioners attended the workshop. It was co-organised with the Czech Union of Accountants, the Chamber of Auditors, and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. A high level segment for policy makers, was also held to discuss the current state of environmental accounting and reporting in the Czech Republic. The objective is to make policy makers aware of the appropriate and workable techniques to understand and decide upon the interrelationships between financial and environmental performance.

*Brazil* (21-23 March 2000) - Some 70 senior industry representatives, financial and environmental analysts and accountants from the Brazilian steel industry, chemical industry, the Brazilian Steel Institute (IBS), the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), attended the three-day workshop on Environment Accounting and Reporting. The workshop was organised by UNCTAD and the Brazilian Steel Institute (IBS). One of the key issues identified by the participants is the lack of standardised environmental and financial performance was demonstrated including how generic EPIs are calculated and how they can be used to improve the quality of decision making. The conference was broadcast on national television news.

*Argentina* (26-27 October 2000) - Over 60 practitioners, industry representatives, financial and environmental analysts attended the workshop in Buenos Aires. It was coorganised with the Instituto Argentino de Siderurgia (IAS). Presentations included local issues on environmental management and accounting and the Argentine experience in environmental performance indicators (EPIs) and environmental reporting.

*Geneva* (20-24 November 2000) - 32 trainers from 17 countries attended the first "train the trainers" workshop on environmental accounting and reporting held in Geneva. The majority of the participants are active trainers within universities and accounting institutions in their respective countries. Through this course, national accounting institutes and other institutions of higher learning can build the capacity to replicate this training.

# **B.** ISAR - Co-operative Initiatives to Raise the Level of Accounting and Auditing Practices

#### **B1.** The International Forum on Accountancy Development (IFAD)

IFAD, launched in June 1999, is an initiative developed jointly by International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the World Bank and UNCTAD in close co-operation with more than 30 international public and private sector organisations that committed themselves to joint efforts and work in partnership to improve the quality of financial reporting and auditing on a world-wide basis.

Since its inception participation has grown steadily and at present includes representatives of inter-governmental organisations; securities, banking and insurance regulators; standard-setters; regional development banks and development assistance agencies; preparers and users of financial statements; regional professional accountancy bodies and large international firms.

IFAD's main focus is to assist accountancy development in developing and emerging market œuntries. This objective coincides with UNCTAD developmental initiatives in developing countries and economies in transition.

In addition to participating in all meetings of IFAD, in March 2000 UNCTAD arranged consultations with six potential pilot developing countries in Geneva to explain the vision and to obtain feedback and comments. Whilst consultations with pilot countries continue, some have already established National Steering Committees and are in the process of undertaking a gap analysis in order to identify the differences between internationally accepted standards and national standards and practices.

# **B2.** The South Eastern European Partnership on Accountancy Development (SEEPAD)

SEEPAD is another recent regional accounting reform initiative developed jointly by USAID and OECD in close co-operation with UNCTAD. Its objective is to promote internationally recognised standards on accounting, auditing and ethics, accountability and improved corporate governance, and to raise the standing of the region's accountancy sector, and in particular to build strong and sustainable national self-regulatory accounting and auditing bodies. It also aims to contribute to the development of training and certification programmes, professional accountancy qualification, help identify appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, and increase regional and international co-operation, with a view to facilitating the increased inflow of FDI into the region.

The SEEPAD initiative is a network consisting of 9 professional accounting and audit associations, in addition to government representatives, in South Eastern Europe. The initiative has rapidly gained international recognition and was recently selected as a flagship initiative under the EU Stability Pact. SEEPAD was launched in December 1999 in Sinaia, Romania. At the meeting professional accountancy and audit bodies from the region and international organisations (USAID, OECD and UNCTAD) agreed on a common mission, objectives, framework and programme of work and signed a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing SEEPAD.

SEEPAD has held meetings in Sofia in March 2000, Banja Luka in June 2000, Tirana in September 2000 and in Sarajevo in December 2000. The topics addressed (a) legal and regulatory frameworks and public-private sector partnerships; (b) professional education, training and certification programmes for accountants and auditors; (c) implementing international standards on auditing, ethics, auditor's independence and quality control; and (d) implementing international accounting standards.

UNCTAD has actively participated in SEEPAD activities and has provided important and much appreciated assistance in the creation of SEEPAD. Furthermore, the *ISAR Guideline on national requirements for the qualification of professional accountants* was adopted as a benchmark for professional accounting education programmes in the region. Upon request the Guideline has been widely disseminated. Local professional accountancy associations especially appreciated the fact that the ISAR Guideline contains a detailed model curriculum thus making it readily usable for the formulation of national education and professional accountancy qualification systems.

### **Insurance** *Development of competitive insurance markets*

**Development context:** Insurance services, a major component of financial services, enable economic agents to protect themselves against risks and help safeguard national assets while sustaining development and trade. In many developing countries, particularly in Africa, provision of affordable, available and reliable insurance services that match the needs of a country's economic agents are often lacking.

**Objectives:** To establish competitive and efficient insurance markets and to improve access for a large part of the population to insurance services, so as to prepare developing countries for further liberalisation of the financial services sector. At the same time the insurance markets generate important financial resources which can be invested in enterprises through portfolio investment. The stability of the insurance markets depends also on the existence of profitable and viable investment outlets.

**Features:** In the area of insurance, DITE provides technical support, advice, guidance and training for insurance supervisory authorities, in particular for the establishment of legal and supervisory frameworks geared towards sustaining the development of competitive insurance markets. Training seminars/workshops have been organised and missions undertaken with a view to improving the understanding of the role of supervisors and enhancing the competence and technical abilities of the staff of supervisory authorities particularly of Africa and Caribbean countries.

**Output/results:** An Annual Conference of the African Insurance Organisation (Abuja, Nigeria, May 2000) which attracted more than 500 delegates from all over the world and a Seminar for the Offshore Group of Insurance Supervisors (Belmopan, Belize, June 2000) with the participation of 17 countries and territories, were convened. UNCTAD participated and contributed to the meetings of the Emerging Market Committee of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), (Basle, Switzerland, November 2000) on the establishment of Core Principles for insurance regulation for members and non-members of IAIS, revision and update of the joint UNCTAD/IAIS manual. With respect to the impact of liberalisation and other technical subjects, technical co-operation activities include:

- ?? Organisation of and presentations during the UNCTAD/AIO Conference on "Globalisation and the African insurance industry", in July 2000, in Cairo, Egypt (130 participants from 22 African countries).
- ?? Organisation of a workshop with AIO and Standard and Poor's on establishment of a rating system of African insurance concerns, in October 2000, Nairobi, Kenya (92 participants from 35 African countries). Establishment of a rating system of African Insurance concerns: the concept, methodology and a security committee has been established, the actual rating process will start in 2001.
- ?? Organisation of the First International Conference on the Development of Creditinsurance in African and Mediterranean Countries (120 participants from 33 countries from all over the world).
- ?? Missions to undertake needs assessment and finalisation of projects on development of banking and insurance training institutions in Ethiopia (project to start in 2001).
- ?? UNCTAD/AIO project on software for insurance enterprises. The software package is in the development phase.

As a result of these activities, UNCTAD has significantly raised the awareness of policymakers to the urgency of introducing and enforcing prudential rules, measures for the protection of consumer and competition rules for the development and stability of insurance and financial markets. In Africa for example, as a direct result of UNCTAD work, more than 20 countries have made important changes to their regulatory and supervisory frameworks. The number of supervisory authorities has increased from 8 to more than 30. The existing industry and regulatory regional associations have been strengthened, co-operation much improved and work plans established. Insurance markets in many beneficiary countries have been consolidated. A software for handling operational activities of African insurance companies that is affordable and tailored to the needs of target clients is being developed. Likewise, a rating system of African insurance concerns is being established that will allow for improved conditions for sharing of business information. Modern management techniques have been introduced and new products have been developed for the needs of larger strata of population.

## Technology

### **STIPs** *Science, Technology and Innovation Policies*

**Development context:** The purpose of science, technology and innovation policy reviews is to enable developing countries to evaluate the efficiency of their main institutions and mechanisms contributing to development, particularly through facilitating technological development of enterprises. By enriching the knowledge of how these policies are designed and applied, the reviews help countries to improve their policies, while at the same time open up opportunities for greater international co-operation.

**Objectives:** The STIP review is intended to facilitate effective integration of science and technology policies with development planning through, inter alia, establishing constructive dialogue between different agencies responsible for technology, investment, agriculture, trade, education and related issues with a view to building up and strengthening of local technological capabilities and resources. In examining such issues, the STIP reviews aims at enhancing the policy-making capability of Governments with respect to innovation and strengthening the technological infrastructure.

**Features:** At the invitation of the relevant authorities, the UNCTAD Secretariat carries out a brief programming mission in the participating country and jointly, with the local authorities, designs the content and the guidelines of the country's background report. Following the completion of the background report by the national authorities, a small team of international experts, chosen jointly with the participating country, carries out an independent evaluation of the country's science, technology and innovation (STI) conditions and policies. Subsequently, the international review teams prepares a brief evaluation report, with the secretariat acting as a rapporteur, containing their own assessment of the STI system in the country and suggests appropriate policy options. Finally, a round-table meeting is held in the country itself between the international experts, the secretariat and the key local players in the STI to discuss preliminary findings, policy options and recommendations.

**Outputs/results:** In 1999, the STIP review in Ethiopia was completed and prepared for publication. The STIP review in the United Republic of Tanzania was initiated in 1999. Requests have been received from Ecuador and Peru.

# **Entrepreneurship and SME Development**

### A. CIED Centres for Innovation and Enterprise Development

**Development context:** African manufacturing enterprises are notably weak in carrying out the many small innovations in products, processes and management systems which collectively ensure a firm's competitiveness in domestic and export markets.

**Objectives:** The Centres for Innovation and Enterprise Development (CIEDs) are designed to promote a process of problem-solving innovation in African manufacturing firms by assisting them to define their problems and mobilise the necessary resources for resolving these problems. The development and testing of diagnostic tools formed the first step towards the establishment of fully functioning centres across Africa. The development of diagnostic tools also helped in ensuring that the CIEDs are not dependent upon foreign donors and costly foreign consultants to come and work with them in further developing and/or teaching these tools to local firms and doing the follow-up consultancy work.

**Features:** Each of the two CIEDs in the pilot phase currently underway – Ghana and Zimbabwe – is composed of local interdisciplinary teams of experts using the set of diagnostic tools developed. The CIEDs are working with firms to identify problems in sustaining competitiveness and to create the linkages between local clients and suppliers and between these firms and supporting institutions that can contribute to their solution.

**Outputs/results:** During 1999 the CIED diagnostic toolkit, developed in 1997 at a meeting in Geneva, was adapted and refined. The Change Assessment and Screening Tool (CAST), in particular, saw some radical changes while the General Information Seeking Tool (GIST) was largely maintained as originally developed in Geneva. The In-Depth Enterprise Assessment System (IDEAS), which had not been completed at the Geneva meeting, was further developed, with several of the modules being completely rewritten.

*Ghana.* The Centre for Innovation and Enterprise Development (CIED) – in Ghana – features local institutional linkages with the Kumasi Institute of Technology and Environment (KITE), the Ghana Timber Millers Organisation (GTMO) and the Empretec Ghana Foundation (EGF). During the reporting period, CIED has continued to develop research links between its client firms and relevant departments in the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology. CIED personnel has prepared a three-year Business Plan for the period 2001-2003 which makes provision for increased staffing levels and more clearly defined strategies for CIEDs operations.

Zimbabwe. The objectives of the pilot phase were centred upon (a) establishment of incountry presence; (b) the field testing of CIED Diagnostic Toolkit and the development of working routine; (c) implementation of sector-specific responses to innovation needs of SMEs; (d) further training of CIED personnel in the use of diagnostic tools; and (e) review of the CIED approach and fund-raising for further activities. Objectives (a) and (b) were successfully completed by the CIED Zimbabwe. CIED Zimbabwe also organised a series of participatory discussions with more than 30 firms as part of the identification and screening process of potential client firms. Negotiations were also started with the Venture Capital Company of Zimbabwe for the CIED to provide technical inputs to a number of selected firms in Zimbabwe. In addition, links between CIED and the UNIDO networking and clustering project have been forged. CIED Zimbabwe has also been successful in registering with EBAS as specialised service provider for EBAS client enterprises in Southern Africa.

### **B.** Empretec

**Development context:** Increasing the number of entrepreneurs in developing countries can provide the impetus for a vigorous developmental process, which generates a dynamic business environment with a multitude of new employment opportunities. In many cases, however, market imperfections work against SMEs, inhibiting the emergence of entrepreneurs and their growth.

**Objectives:** The Empretec programme was established to (a) improve the development prospects and outlook for job creation of the beneficiary country, (b) mobilise entrepreneurial resources, and (c) help SMEs to compete in liberalising and globalising markets by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and partnering. The programme creates the institutional capacity to stimulate employment-creating investment, technology transfer and exports through development of indigenous entrepreneurs and innovative SMEs.

**Features:** Five phases can be identified in the Empretec programme life cycle:

Phase I: Phase II:	Request for an Empretec project and initial discussions; Programming mission, consensus with Government, identification of
	counterpart, drafting of project document;
Phase III:	Recruitment of staff, including the Director of the Business Centre, establishment of the Advisory Board, installation of project, initial
	Entrepreneurship Training Workshop;
Phase IV:	Operationalisation of full project, putting in place basic training and services, certification of local trainers, setting up a national association;
	regional and international networking;
Phase V:	Maturity of project, offering customised training and other services, progress toward financial self-sustainability, establishing of legal entity (e.g. foundation, trust).

It is important to highlight the fact that Empretec transfers its methodologies to the counterpart institution in all the countries where the programme becomes operational.

UNCTAD/Empretec works with national institutions rather than individual entrepreneurs. Moreover, UNCTAD/Empretec continually identifies innovative 'best practices' or new services that can be added to those already offered by the programme (Phase V). It is a priority of DITE to ensure the provision of high-quality and updated products and services. One example is the development of an agri-business module. DITE will emphasise these supervisory and quality improvement tasks in the short and medium term in accordance with the recommendations of the evaluation undertaken in 2000.

**Output/results:** The 4<sup>th</sup> International Empretec Directors Meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Technical Experts Meeting took place in Curitiba, Brazil from 19-21 September 2000, in conjunction with the International Empretec Fair organised by SEBRAE. This was attended by more than 1000 entrepreneurs (mostly from Brazil and Mercosur). At the International Directors Meeting and the Technical Experts Meeting, organised by UNCTAD in co-operation with SEBRAE, directors from existing Empretec programmes in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela) and Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama), co-ordinators from new Med 2000 Empretec programmes (Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Territory), and lead trainers from Latin American countries attended.

In the second semester of 1999 an independent evaluation team was commissioned by UNCTAD's Programme Planning and Assessment Unit to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the Empretec programme. The Empretec Evaluation was discussed during the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) held in Geneva from 11-15 September 2000. In its decision the TDB welcomed the in-depth evaluation and stressed the necessity of implementing the recommendations in order to consolidate the Empretec programme. The TDB urged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to implement the recommendations and report on the implementation at the session of the Working Party in 2001. The recommendations are grouped under the four headings of (a) Data collection and monitoring; (b) Product development; (c) Training and certification; and (d) Networking.

UNCTAD/Empretec has developed a plan to implement the recommendations through both regular and extra-budgetary resources. Priority is being given to the updating of the entrepreneurial training workshop and the development of a data management system.

Empretec project phase	Countries
Phase I:	Algeria, Ecuador, Peru, Togo, Tunisia,
Request for an Empretec project and initial discussions	Guyana
Phase II:	Brazil/Nordeste, Costa Rica,
Programming mission, consensus with Government,	Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan,
identification of counterpart, drafting of project	Lebanon, Palestinian Territory,
document	Paraguay, Uganda, Venezuela
Phase III:	
Recruitment of staff, including the Director,	Bolivia, El Salvador, Morocco,
establishment of the Advisory Board, installation of	Mozambique, Panamá
project, initial Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	1
Phase IV:	
Operationalisation of full project, putting in place basic	Ethiopia
training and services, certification of local trainers,	-
setting up a national association	
Phase V:	
Maturity of project, offering customized training and	Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia,
other services, progress toward financial self-	Ghana, Uruguay, Zimbabwe
sustainability, establishing of legal entity (e.g.	<u> </u>
foundation, trust)	

**Enterprise Africa:** UNDP's Enterprise Africa programme is a regional initiative designed to promote entrepreneurship and enterprise development in sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the Empretec model, it operates as a regional network and also as a focal point for coordinating existing and new initiatives sponsored by UNDP, other donor agencies, Governments and NGOs. It aims at accelerating the growth, expansion and competitiveness of SMEs in Africa and improving the quality of indigenous African entrepreneurship. UNCTAD was selected as a partner organisation to implement new Empretec-like projects in Africa under the framework of UNDP's Enterprise Africa programme. UNCTAD and Enterprise Africa co-operate to meet the growing demand for the Empretec programme by African LDCs.

*Ghana (phase V) and Zimbabwe (phase V):* Work plans to ensure closer co-operation between Empretec programmes in both countries and the Centres for Innovation and Enterprise Development (CIEDs) are now firmly established. A first Empretec Workshop on Marketing and Exporting of Food Products took place from 22 to 24 August 2000 in Accra/Ghana. The workshop has been jointly organised by the UNCTAD Empretec Programme, Fair Trade Assistance (Culemborg/the Netherlands) and the Empretec Ghana Foundation (EGF).

**Central America:** The Partnership Agreement signed by six Central American countries, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and UNCTAD during the Partners for Development Summit in Lyon (9-12 November 1998) has become operational in three countries during 2000. The Central American regional programme aims to generate more than 1,500 new enterprises and business start-ups over a period of three years and to build in each country local structures capable of providing assistance to enterprises which will achieve self-sustainability in the medium term.

*El Salvador (phase III):* With technical assistance of Empretec Uruguay and UNCTAD, the Empretec counterpart in El Salvador created an Empretec foundation (FUNDEMAS), hired a director and trainers and opened an Empretec office. Two Entrepreneurship Training Workshops were completed successfully, **t**aining a total of 40 entrepreneurs. Three workshops using the "Iniciativa" methodology of Empretec (intrapreneurship) were organised with 75 employees of the Ministry of Public Works. Three Entrepreneurship Training Workshops were organised for big companies.

*Guatemala (phase II):* In consultation with the Inter-American Development Bank and Empretec Uruguay, a new counterpart was selected to implement the Empretec programme in Guatemala. Phase III is expected to start in first semester of 2001.

*Panama (phase III):* With technical assistance of Empretec Uruguay and UNCTAD, the Empretec counterpart in Panama is in the process of creating an Empretec foundation and has already hired a director and trainers and opened an Empretec office. Three Entrepreneurship Training Workshops were completed successfully, training a total of 90 entrepreneurs.

#### South America

*Brazil/Nordeste (Phase II):* A joint development programme was officially presented by the IDB, Banco do Nordeste and UNCTAD and discussed in detail. The revised document was being finalised in Fortaleza (both in its Portuguese and English version) and officially submitted to Brasilia.

*Bolivia (Phase III):* A programming mission was organised in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra. A project proposal for the installation of the Empretec Programme in Bolivia was presented to the Ministry of Labour and Microenterprises immediately afterwards. A series of Empretec sensitisation events (two days-workshops) took place in the three cities in order to identify suitable counterparts and assess the different needs of the three areas. The local political situation has made the realisation of further steps difficult, but improvements are expected to take place soon.

*Paraguay (Phase II):* The Ministry of Industry reiterated its interest in the installation of the Empretec programme in Paraguay. The institutional profile and structure of the programme was discussed and agreed. However, IDB funds will not be available before September 2001. Thus, a request was submitted to the local IDB representative in order

to get a pre-inversion non-reimbursable fund of around 60,000 US\$ and be able to complete phase II/III of the installation of the programme by September 2001. As to the Iniciativa pilot experience, the Ministry of Labour and Justice confirmed its willingness (and need) to start activities as soon as possible.

*Uruguay (Phase V):* The IDB recently financed phase II of the Programme for New Exporters. Empretec Uruguay also launched a new service named "Club & Servicios". It is a new interactive set of tailor-made services provided on demand to the Association of Empretecos.

#### C. Mediterranean 2000 Institution-building in entrepreneurship

**Development context:** Med 2000 is a multi-country and multi-agency programme which brings together the products and services of a number of agencies to foster the institutional capacity to promote entrepreneurship and SME development. The central purpose of Med 2000 – a three-year capacity-building programme – is to contribute to economic and social development by strengthening institutional capacity to support SMEs to grow and compete in 10 developing countries in the Mediterranean Basin and the Horn of Africa.

**Objectives:** The objectives are (a) to address the critical needs to create and strengthen an enabling policy environment for investment, innovation and enterprise development; (b) to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation; and (c) to foster an entrepreneurial capacity that enables SMEs to meet the challenges and opportunities of globalisation as well as to engage in continuous innovation.

**Features:** Through policy reviews, entrepreneurship training and networking, trade facilitation and other follow-up support services, including raising awareness of international standards, the programme assists policy makers, institutions and SMEs of the region to enhance their entrepreneurial and innovative capacity, build their technological competency, improve the quality of their products, facilitate their access to trade financing, strengthen their export skills and trade efficiency, establish business linkages, and thereby help them to improve their international competitiveness. Med 2000 has been designed in a modular fashion so that it can be tailored to the individual country needs and demands for the above activities. Therefore, the particular set of activities can vary from country to country. It delivers these different products and services to beneficiary countries through interagency co-operation involving ISO, ITC, ILO, UNIDO and UNCTAD.

**Output/results:** During 1999/2000 activities were initiated or consolidated in Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territory, Tunisia, and Uganda. In Ethiopia and Morocco activities are well advanced in terms of Empretec and Trade Points. In Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories the Trade Points are also well advanced. An Investment Policy Review has been conducted in Ethiopia. Three formal interagency meetings have taken place as well as many informal consultations. A promotional folder and stand on Med 2000 have been produced to raise awareness of the programme within the 10 beneficiary countries. The Med 2000 programme is currently being implemented in eight countries with seed-funding from the Italian Government, and with the participation of other donors such as UNDP, Enterprise Africa and national public and private sector institutions.

*Ethiopia (phase IV):* The Enterprise Ethiopia programme was formally launched on 17?December 1999, to coincide with the graduation ceremony of the first Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW). Installation of the Empretec Programme model by the Empretec Ghana Foundation, including a Management Information System, is nearly completed; two assignments remaining outstanding: the Seminar on Developing Linkages with Foreign Companies and the Loan Monitoring Scheme. To date four ETWs with a total of 108 participants have been held in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar as well as two Business Counselling workshops and a Financial Management & Business Plan Preparation workshop.

Jordan (phase II): Following a programming mission in October 1999 key stakeholders were identified and a project proposal was prepared. A brief background study was conducted to assess the Jordanian SME sector and the institutional set-up and implementation strategy was prepared. In a follow-up mission in March/April 2000 institutional counterparts were identified and co-operation and co-funding were secured from other international and national donors. The local co-ordinator was inducted and undertook a study tour to Latin America to learn about programme operations and to establish business networking links with other Empretec programmes. To maximise funding, it was decided to implement training activities jointly with the Empretec programme in Palestine. With the outbreak of political unrest in the Region, activities, including recruiting staff, conducting an outreach campaign and commencing training activities, have been rescheduled.

*Lebanon (phase II ):* In spring 2000 a first fact-finding mission was undertaken to assess the need and the viability for an Empretec programme in Lebanon. An initial concept document was prepared and additional funding is sought for a project launch in 2001.

*Morocco (phase III):* In April 2000, a mission was undertaken to discuss the consolidation and institutionalisation of the Empretec programme. A study commissioned by the *Ministre de Développement social, de la Solidarité et de l'Emploi* on the assessment of the SME sector in Morocco started in November 2000 and is to be completed in April 2001. In December 2000, a plan of action for Empretec Morocco phase II was signed between UNCTAD and the OFPPT Office de la formation professionnelle et de la promotion du *travail*), the national counterpart. The local programme Director and key personnel have been identified and are in the process of being recruited. The Moroccan Empretecos Association is being founded. In 2001, training activities, including the training of trainers, will be strengthened and follow-up services will be offered to the beneficiaries of the programme.

Palestinian Territory (phase II): A programming mission in October 1999 established the need and feasibility for an Empretec programme in Palestine. In close co-operation with UNCTAD's Special Co-ordinator for Palestine, a comprehensive background study was conducted to assess the constraints of SME development in Palestine and to identify options to implement an Empretec programme. Based on the study, a comprehensive project document was prepared and negotiated during the programming mission in April 2000. Agreement on implementation and funding modalities was reached with the institutional counterpart, the Palestinian Development Fund and support was secured with the different political authorities. The co-ordinator was identified and sent on study tour to Latin America. With the outbreak of violence in Palestine, activities have been rescheduled.

*Uganda (phase II):* Two missions to Uganda were undertaken in June and November 2000 to discuss the Enterprise Uganda programme with UNDP and the Government. The programme will build on the USAID funded PRESTO programme which provided entrepreneurship training but did not build the local institutional capacity to provide the comprehensive range of follow-up support that is a significant feature of the Empretec model.

### **D. Women Entrepreneurs**

#### Follow-up and implementation of measures in favour of enhancing women's entrepreneurship in LDCs

**Development context:** Women entrepreneurs can be major players contributing to economic growth and social development. In a conducive environment and with adequate support, women entrepreneurs can overcome the barriers they face and realise their potential more effectively, thereby contributing to social and economic development. However, to date, women's entrepreneurship has not received the concerted and coordinated attention it warrants at national and international levels.

**Objectives:** The project assesses the impact successfully implemented policies have had on promoting women's entrepreneurship and identifies measures that need to be in place for women to graduate from micro to SME entrepreneurs. Further, it identifies successful

policies and recommends action to be taken in order to create or improve the policy and institutional environment for women's entrepreneurship development.

**Output/results:** The project has been implemented in nine LDCs (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Madagascar, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia). It has identified obstacles to women's entrepreneurship and p9olicies to create opportunities for these entrepreneurs. Two seminars (one national seminar in Burkina Faso and one regional seminar in Ouagadougou) were held in 1999, conducted jointly with UNIDO and in association with the ILO. A Round Table on Women's Entrepreneurship in LDCs was held as part of the seminar "Integrating Least Developed Countries in the Global Economy: Selected Conceptual and Practical Issues" on 28 June 2000 in Geneva. Among the outputs of project are studies in women's entrepreneurship in African LDCs (Women Entrepreneurs in Least Developed Countries: Country Studies from Africa).

### Bangkok Plan of Action TD/386 (18 February 2000) (Paragraphs 114-128, 113, 154-155)

#### B. Investment, enterprise and technology

114. Considering the rapid increase in investment flows world-wide and their emergence as one of the driving forces in the world economy, UNCTAD should continue to build on its comparative advantage in dealing with international investment issues. UNCTAD should also continue to address issues of technology and enterprise development, including their relation to investment. It should aim at improving the understanding of developing countries and economies in transition with respect to policy choices in these areas; strengthening these countries' national abilities to formulate and implement policies, measures and action programmes in these areas; and promoting understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements, with a view to strengthening their ability to participate in discussions and negotiations. Particular account should be taken of the need to encourage co-operation among developing countries.

#### (i) Improving the understanding of the role of FDI, technological capacitybuilding and enterprise internationalisation

- 115. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should:
- ?? Collect and analyse data and conduct policy-oriented research on investment issues related to development, including on the interaction of FDI and domestic investment and the interrelationship between FDI and trade. In particular, it should conduct such research on the impact of FDI on industrialisation, local entrepreneurship and the development of supply capacity generally; the role of FDI in resource mobilisation, infrastructure development, maintaining environmental sustainability, export capacity building, and human resource development, keeping in view the importance of linkages and interaction between foreign and domestic firms (including SMEs);
- ?? Undertake policy-oriented research on issues related to attracting, and benefiting from, international investment, including the determinants of FDI; policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and best practices conducive to the development of the private sector and favourable to FDI and domestic investment, including investment in infrastructure, and the development of local expertise as well as regional networks; policies aimed at maximising the positive and minimising the possible negative impact of international investment; and export-oriented FDI;
- ?? Examine the use and effects, particularly on trade, of incentives to attract FDI with high technological content and export-capacity and promote linkages in the host market. The role of double taxation treaties in promoting technology transfer and diffusion through FDI needs further exploration.

116. In the area of technology, UNCTAD's analytical work should aim at drawing lessons from experiences with the transfer and diffusion of technology through FDI and other channels with a view towards supporting efforts made by developing countries to respond to technological and scientific changes and developing policy instruments for facilitating technology transfer. It should also seek to explore ways in which an environment conducive to the transfer and diffusion of knowledge can be fostered, as well as various modes and mechanisms of transfer and diffusion, including specific ways and means to facilitate access to environmentally sound technologies, taking fully into account the conclusions of the Rio Conference. Due attention should be paid to the

Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to the mandate arising from the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

117. UNCTAD should analyse all aspects of existing international agreements relevant to transfer of technology. UNCTAD should take into account the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the areas of protection of biological resources and the impact of biotechnology on development.

118. UNCTAD should identify and disseminate information concerning existing home country measures that encourage transfer of technology in various modes to developing countries, in particular to the least developed countries.

119. In the area of enterprise development, UNCTAD should collect and analyse data on best national practices stimulating enterprise development and identify ways and means for developing countries' SMEs to meet international standards, as well as to access and benefit from new technologies through networking and partnering. Furthermore, it should analyse the links between SMEs and TNCs, identify mechanisms for financing SMEs, and enhance the capacity and participation of women entrepreneurs in terms of running small and medium-sized enterprises, thus contributing to poverty alleviation.

120. UNCTAD should also examine the impact of regional integration on: (a) the development of competitive capacities of enterprises and, in particular, the development and strengthening of competitive chains for the production of goods and services, as well as the identification and strengthening of flanking support measures for these chains; (b) FDI flows; and (c) investment agreements.

121. UNCTAD should conduct policy-oriented research on the implications of FDI, technological capacity-building and enterprise internationalisation for competition and competitiveness. In particular, UNCTAD should examine the consequences of developments such as co-operation among firms in research and development (e.g. strategic alliances). It should also provide a forum for debate at the intergovernmental and at the expert level on these issues.

122. UNCTAD should promote increased transparency and financial disclosure by encouraging the use of internationally recognised accounting, reporting and auditing standards and improved corporate governance. UNCTAD should develop appropriate technical co-operation programmes in this field.

# (ii) Strengthening developing countries' national ability to formulate and implement policies to attract and benefit from FDI, strengthen technological capacities and foster the development of enterprises

123. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should support efforts by developing countries in attracting investment flows, in particular FDI, and in maximising their net benefit, by helping them to formulate and implement policies and set up appropriate regulatory frameworks. Investment policy reviews can play a special role in this connection. UNCTAD should formulate special programmes to assist African and least developed countries. UNCTAD should also study existing home country measures that could be considered in programmes to support the efforts of developing countries to attract FDI and benefit from it.

124. In the area of technological capacities and enterprise development, UNCTAD should further support efforts by countries in developing an integrated approach to investment, technology and enterprise development, and strengthen the innovative capacity of enterprises through the implementation of national policy reviews, upon request; and it should assist them, through training and other technical co-operation activities, in the development of human resources required for formulating and

implementing integrated investment, technology and enterprise internationalisation policies at the national level.

125. UNCTAD should continue the Empretec Programme to assist countries to build up entrepreneurial capabilities and innovative and competitive SMEs and to help resolve problems of access to markets, business skills, finance and technology.

#### (iii) Improving understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements for the purpose of attracting and benefiting from FDI, enhancing technological capacity and promoting enterprise development in a globalising world economy

126. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should help strengthen understanding of the relationship between trade and investment, as well as of the role of international investment arrangements in the development process and of how such arrangements could contribute to development, including through facilitation of technology and enterprise development. Areas of interest include bilateral investment treaties involving developing countries, the inclusion of investment matters in regional agreements, increased understanding of key concepts of treaties and the development dimension of international investment agreements.

127. In order to enrich international discussions with the concrete experience of countries and regions, for example the partnership and dialogue between the private and public sectors and to promote the sharing and diffusion of international practice among policy-makers at the national level, UNCTAD should do analytical work and provide a forum for exchange of experiences on the formulation of policies favourable to the development of the private sector at local, national and regional levels and on investment environments through investment policy reviews, prepared at the request of the interested countries.

128. In the area of transfer of technology, UNCTAD should examine and disseminate widely information on best practices for access to technology.

#### Portfolio investment

113. In its analytical work on portfolio investment, carried out in the context of its policy-oriented analysis of all forms of investment, UNCTAD should analyse in particular the implications of foreign portfolio investment and international financial flows for development, the causes and impact of its volatility, its role in the generation of financial sustainability, and the policy implications thereof.

#### *(iii) Banking and insurance*

154. UNCTAD should carry out analytical and technical assistance work to help regulators and relevant industry associations in upgrading the regulatory and institutional framework for this sector to adapt to international and best practices and to requirements under WTO/GATS.

#### *(iv)* Services for micro-enterprises

**155.** UNCTAD should continue its analytical and technical assistance work on the development of financial infrastructures and services addressing the needs of micro-enterprise, including in the fields of micro credit, insurance and saving.

## **Technical Co-operation**

### Economies and regions that benefited from DITE's technical cooperation activities during the reporting period

Programme	Economies	Regions
International Investment Arrangements (IIAs)	Geneva based delegations	Asia, Latin America, Africa, economies in transition, Group of 15
Policy Framework for Attracting Foreign Investment (FORINVEST)	Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, India, Jordan, Mali, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Vanuatu, Palestinian Territory	Arab region, UEMOA, South-east Europe, Latin America
Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs)	Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Peru, Uganda, Zimbabwe	Africa, Asia, Latin America
Strengthening Agencies Concerned with Maximising and Promoting FDI (STAMP)	Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Vanuatu, Palestinian Territory	world-wide through WAIPA activities, regional workshops in Africa and Asia
Science, Technology and Innovation Policies (STIPs)	Ethiopia, (Colombia and Jamaica presented at the 4th Commission)	
Centres for Innovation and Enterprise Development (CIED)	Ghana, Zimbabwe	Africa
Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (EMPRETEC)	Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Palestinian Territory, Panama, Paraguay, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe	Africa, Latin America, Caribbean region, Mediterranean region
Enhancing the Participation of Women Entrepreneurs in LDCs Economies	Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Haiti, Madagascar, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Zambia	
Enterprise Networking	Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Zimbabwe	Africa, Asia
Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)	Argentina, Bahrain, Czech Republic, India, Malaysia, Russian Federation	Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central Europe

### Calendar of Intergovernmental and Expert Meetings, Technical Co-operation and other Events Organised (Co-organised) and Serviced by DITE

between the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Investment (4-8 October 1999) and its 5<sup>th</sup> session (12-16 February 2001)

Categories	(Cat)
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IM - Intergovernmental MeetingTC - Tech. Co-operation - MeetingsAD - Ad hoc Expert MeetingsTR - Tech. Co-operation - Training

#	Date(s)	Title	Cat
1	4-8 October	Commission on investment, technology and related financial	IM
	1999	issues, 4 <sup>th</sup> session, Geneva.	
2	15 November	Pre-UNCTAD seminar on making FDI work for sustainable	TC
		development, Geneva.	
3	6-16 December	Entrepreneurship training workshop within EMPRETEC	TR
		Programme, Addis Ababa.	
4	6-8 December	Symposium on regional perspectives with regard to	TC
		international investment agreements (IIAs) – Latin America,	
		Caracas.	
5	9-11 December	Symposium on regional perspectives with regard to IIAs –	TC
		Central America, Guatemala City.	
6	14-15 December	Sub-regional symposium for 9 South-Asian countries on a	TC
		regional investment framework, Colombo.	
7	14-15 December	Double taxation treaty negotiations for 6 member countries of	TC
		the G-15 organised by UNCTAD in co-operation with DESA	
		and the Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo.	
8	11-12 January	Pre-UNCTAD X high-level policy dialogue on international	IM
	2000	investment policies, in co-operation with DSE, Berlin.	
9	17-24 January	Bilateral investment treaty negotiations for the Government of	TC
		Thailand, Geneva.	
10	12-19 February	Participation in servicing of UNCTAD X, including organisation	IM
		of parallel events: WAIPA conference, bilateral investment	
		treaties, FDI in Africa, FDI in Latin America, knowledge for	
		development, TNC-SME linkages, empowering	
		Entrepreneurs panel, EMPRETEC Programme, Mediterranean	
		2000 Programme launching, young entrepreneurs, co-	
		operation with civil society, Bangkok.	
11	24-25 February	Training workshop on environmental accounting, Prague.	TR
12	28-29 February	Policy seminar on accounting reform in the Russian	TC
	, j	Federation, Moscow.	
13	28 February-10	Entrepreneurship training workshop within EMPRETEC	TR
	March	Programme, Addis Ababa.	
14	29 February	National workshop on IPR in Lima, Peru.	AD
15	2-3 March	Regional WIR expert meeting "Foreign Direct Investment and	AD
		Privatisation in Central and Eastern Europe", Vienna.	
		Burope, Herniu	1

16	0 10 March	Deriveral (Aria) WID concertains the theory is a low low MOAr and	
16	9-10 March	Regional (Asia) WIR expert meeting "Cross-border M&As and	AD
		Sustained Competitiveness in Asia: Trends, Impacts and	
		Policy Implications", Bangkok.	
17	13-18 March	Three sensitisation workshops on EMPRETEC Programme in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.	TC
18	21-23 March	Training workshop on environmental accounting, Rio de Janeiro.	TR
19	22-24 March	Ad hoc consultations on the co-operative initiative by UNCTAD and International Forum on Accountancy Development (IFAD) to strengthen national accounting and auditing capacity in developing countries and countries in transition, Geneva.	AD
20	29-31 March	Bilateral investment treaty negotiations at the request of the Government of Bolivia, Lima.	TC
21	11-13 April	CSTD panel on capacity-building in biotechnology, Teheran.	IM
22	16-19April	Conference of the Association of Insurers and Re-insurers of developing countries, Katmandu.	TC
23	17-18 April	Workshop on an investment guide in Bangladesh, Dhaka	ТС
24	14-18 May	Insurance supervisors and credit insurance meeting at the conference of the African Insurance Organisation, Abuja.	TC
25	15 May	Ad hoc expert meeting on women entrepreneurs and development, Geneva.	AD
26	24 May	Workshop on the mining and minerals sector of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: investment constraints and opportunities, Amman.	ТС
27	19-21 June	Expert meeting on mergers and acquisitions, Geneva.	IM
28	19-21 June	Training workshop for the Andean Community on "New Trends in Investment Promotion", Quito.	TR
29	19-30 June	Bilateral investment treaty negotiations, Sapporo, Japan.	ТС
30	22 June	Informal meeting to discuss the mandate of a strategy on	TC
		investment promotion for the Andean Community, Quito.	
31	22-23 June	Global seminar on M&As and development (preparation for WIR 2000), Geneva.	AD
32	22 June	National workshop on IPR in Quito, Ecuador.	TC
33	23 June	National workshop on IPR in Guayaquil, Ecuador.	TC
34	24-28 June	Training workshops on attracting investment to Egypt for diplomats to be posted abroad: (first workshop for junior to middle-level diplomats, second workshop for Ambassadors and Heads of Missions, Cairo.	TR
35	26 June - July	Entrepreneurship training workshop within EMPRETEC Programme, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.	TR
36	27-29 June	Training seminar for the network of the focal points of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil on investment promotion, Brasilia.	TR
37	28 June	Preparatory activities for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on LDCs – organised, within the Geneva 2000 Forum on integrating LDCs in the global economy, of a Round table on women entrepreneurs – learning from experiences, Geneva.	AD
38	30 June	Workshop on the legal and institutional framework for foreign direct investment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Geneva.	ТС
39	3-5 July	ISAR, 17 <sup>th</sup> session, Geneva.	IM
40	3-5 July	Expert panel of the CSTD on legal and regulatory issues in biotechnology, Geneva.	IM
41	6 July	Round table on corporate governance organised with the University of Geneva, Geneva.	TC
42	17-20 July	UNCTAD/International Association of Insurance Supervisors seminar on insurance supervision Gha Creek, Belize.	ТС
43	18-20 July	UNCTAD/African Insurance Organisation conference on	TC

44 24 July UN High-level Event on Finan preparation of the UN Secreta for development. UNCTAD contribution: chairir mobilising international resou other private flows, meeting o	cing for Development: AD ry-General's Report on financing
for development. UNCTAD contribution: chairin mobilising international resour	ry-General's Report on Infancing
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mobilising international resou	
other private flows meeting o	
45 28 July Workshop for senior officials f	
Minister of Vietnam on the ro	
46 8-9 August International workshop on tec	
upgrading of SMEs through li	nkages with TNCs, Penang,
Malaysia.	
47 22-24 August EMPRETEC workshop on mar	keting and exporting of food TC
products , Accra.	
48 28 August-8 Entrepreneurship training wo	rkshop within the EMPRETEC TR
September Programme, Addis Ababa.	
49 29 August-8 Entrepreneurship training wo	rkshop within the EMPRETEC TR
September Programme, Panama City.	1
50 14 September Private sector workshop on ar	investment guide in TC
Mozambique, Maputo.	
51 19-21 September The 4 <sup>th</sup> international EMPRET	EC directors meeting and 2 <sup>nd</sup> AD
international technical expert	
52 23 September Launching of WIR in 64 locati	
	cing for Development: meeting of AD
the working group, New York.	
	ard and poor on establishing of TC
a rating system on African ins	1 0
55 15 October Contribution to the High-level	segment of the TDB on regional IM
integration and FDI, Geneva.	segment of the TDD off regional int
	Reports "The Challenges Ahead" AD
High-level panel, Palais de Na	
57 17-27 October Entrepreneurship training wo	rkshop within the EMPRETEC TR
Programme, Panama City.	
58 23-24 October First international conference	on the development of credit- TC
insurance in African and Med	
59 26-27 October Training workshop on environ	
Aires.	inemai accounting, Duchos
	investment guide for Uganda, TC
Kampala.	
61 8-10 November Expert meeting on home court	try measures, Geneva. IM
62 14-16 November Expert panel of the CSTD on p	
participation in science policy	
Tunisia.	making in bioteennoiogy,
63 20-24 November Training workshop on environ	mental accounting, Geneva. TR
64 21-23 November Investment promotion training	0.
diplomats, Paris.	
	rkshop within the EMPRETEC TR
December Programme, Panama City.	
66 23-24 November National workshop on the Inv	estment Policy Review of TC
Mauritius, Port Louis.	ic is the first for the first
67 27 November Regional workshop on investo	r targeting for investment TR
-5 December promotion officials from the A	sian region Lainur India
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ensure the competitiveness of	
	Trade Negotiators on "Positive TC
Agenda", Port Louis.706 DecemberUNCTAD/South Centre/Inter	national Centre for Trade and TC
Sustainable Development par	ei on biotechnology, Geneva.

71	15-16 January <b>2001</b>	UNCTAD/Malaysian Insurance Institute/Central Bank of Malaysia 2 <sup>nd</sup> international conference for emerging markets in a globalising economy, Kuala Lumpur.	TC
72	15-19 January	Round of bilateral investment treaty negotiations at the request of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, Geneva.	TC
73	22-26 January	Commission on enterprise, business facilitation and development, 5 <sup>th</sup> session, Geneva.	IM
74	29-30 January	Preparatory activities for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on LDCs: partnership for development symposium on the role of the private sector in enhancing productive capacity in least developed countries, Oslo.	IM
75	24 January-2 February	Round of BIT negotiations for Francophone LDCs, Geneva.	TC
76	12-16 February	Commission on investment, technology and related financial issues, 5 <sup>th</sup> session, Geneva.	IM

### List of publications prepared by DITE

### between the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Investment (4-8 October 1999) and its 5<sup>th</sup> session (12-16 February 2001)

#### I. Parliamentary documentation

- ?? Summary report of Pre-UNCTAD X high-level policy dialogue. ISBN 3-934068-20-0, Berlin 2000, January 2000
- ?? Issue paper for the 17<sup>th</sup> session of ISAR on accounting by SMEs. TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/9, 20 April 2000
- ?? Issue paper for the Expert Meeting (EM) on mergers and acquisitions. TD/B/COM.2/EM.7/2, 8 June 2000
- ?? Outcome of the EM on mergers and acquisitions. TD/B/COM.2/EM.7/L.1, 23 June 2000
- ?? Report of the SG on Proposals for strengthening the co-ordination of the mechanisms on the CSTD within UNCTAD.
- A/55/96-E/2000/84, 28 June 2000 (submitted to ECOSOC/GA)
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E/F/S/F	R/A/C	(WIR)
TAD/INF/2859	E/	Foreign Investment Increases To Central And Eastern
3 October 2000	R/	
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27 November 2000		And TNCs
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