



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
27 April 2010

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Fiftieth executive session

Geneva, 8 July 2010

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour
of Africa**

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Executive summary

Each year, UNCTAD is required to submit a report to the Trade and Development Board on its activities in support of Africa, for consideration at one of its executive sessions. The present report provides an overview of UNCTAD's activities within its three pillars: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. It also highlights the impact of these activities at the national, regional and global levels. UNCTAD continues to support African countries through partnerships with the regional institutions and multilateral organizations. These collaborative partnerships bring synergies to UNCTAD's work in Africa, as well as enhance the impact of its activities in the region.

Introduction

1. UNCTAD undertakes several activities and projects in support of African countries in their quest for sustained growth, poverty reduction and development. The ongoing financial and economic crisis, coupled with emerging threats and challenges presented by climate change, has increased the development needs of African countries and created the need for more support to the region by UNCTAD and other multilateral development institutions. In response to these challenges, the fifty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board called upon UNCTAD to expand its work and activities for the benefit of Africa.

2. Since 2000, UNCTAD's work on Africa supports the African Union and its New Partnership for Economic Development (NEPAD) programme. A very important initiative was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UNCTAD and the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 April 2008. The purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to establish cooperation between UNCTAD and the AUC with a view to realizing the international trade, economic and social development objectives of the African Union member States.

3. Each year, UNCTAD is required to submit a report to the Trade and Development Board on its activities in favour of Africa, for consideration at one of its executive sessions. The present report provides an overview of UNCTAD's activities covering its three pillars: research and policy analysis, building consensus on regional and global issues, and technical cooperation.

4. UNCTAD's three pillars form an organic whole and are inherently interlinked. Technical assistance and capacity-building activities provide the medium through which the analytical results and development policy consensus arising from research activities and intergovernmental deliberations are utilized to build up institutional, human, policy and regulatory capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, so that they may better conduct and manage their development process. In turn, insights gained from technical cooperation activities enrich and inform UNCTAD's research and analytical work and intergovernmental consensus-building. The present report complements and updates the information in document TD/B/EX (47/2), submitted to the forty-seventh executive session of the Board in June 2009.

I. Research and policy analysis

5. UNCTAD has made significant contributions to policy design, formulation and implementation in Africa through its support to African countries in policy research and analysis. Its support to the region during the period under review covers four broad areas: (a) tracking economic performance and progress; (b) stimulating debates on economic policy issues affecting Africa's development; (c) national policy reviews; and (d) data collection and analysis.

A. Tracking economic performance and progress

6. UNCTAD produces several publications that enable African countries to monitor their performance as well as evaluate developments in the world economy and their implications for the region. In 2009, UNCTAD published the following reports that help African countries track performance and progress of national, regional and global economies: (a) *Least Developed Countries Report, 2009: The State and Development*

Governance; (b) *Trade and Development Report, 2009: Responding to the Crisis – Climate Change Mitigation and Development*; (c) *World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development*; and (d) *Information Economy Report 2009: Trends and Outlook in Turbulent Times*, with dedicated boxes on the experiences of Egypt, Ghana, South Africa and Uganda.

B. Stimulating debates on economic policy issues affecting Africa's development

7. UNCTAD has played a key role in stimulating and contributing to debates on economic policy issues affecting Africa's development through a series of publications that provide novel and innovative ideas. For example, the 2009 *Economic Development in Africa* report focused on strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development. The Report complemented existing institutional analyses of regional integration in Africa with an economic analysis of trade in goods and services, migration and investment. The Report surveyed recent trends in these flows and assessed the potential for increasing them in ways that support economic development. It argued that regional integration measures should be designed and implemented within a broader development strategy designed to promote economic diversification, structural changes and technological development. At the fifty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board, several member States commended the report and the agreed conclusions expressed appreciation for its quality.

8. The *Least Developed Countries Report, 2009*, which examines issues affecting economic and social development of least developed countries (LDCs) arising from the Brussels' Programme of Action for LDCs was used by African countries to prepare for the African regional review for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) stated "It is heartening to note that the coverage of this report is very much in sync with ACBF's traditional mandate".

9. The *Review of Maritime Transport, 2009* examined transport developments in Africa since 2006. The report argued, among other findings, that in African landlocked countries, administrative and commercial practices cause delays and high transaction costs – three to five times higher than the world average. These publications have been widely disseminated and used by African policymakers. As part of its research and policy analysis work, the secretariat has also prepared specific studies on the impact of the economic crisis on foreign direct investment (FDI), suggesting policy options to restore and improve conditions for FDI. The symposium "International Investment for Development" (15–16 March 2010) was organized.

10. UNCTAD contributed to debates and policy on how to boost domestic resource mobilization in Africa as an important element of a strategy to reduce dependence on foreign aid in the medium to long term. As part of a strategy to enhance impact, certain ideas elaborated in the 2007 *Economic Development in Africa* report on *Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States*, have been deepened and translated into policy terms through the Development Account Project on Domestic Financial Resource Mobilization in Africa. Under this project, the secretariat published a policy handbook in June 2009 (UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2009/1) highlighting largely neglected opportunities for increasing different types of financial resources for the continent's development. The handbook is a practical policy-oriented guide designed to help strengthen the capacity of African countries to identify and utilize efficiently non-debt-creating domestic resources in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The handbook distils insights from country studies covering Benin, Burundi, Kenya,

Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zambia, as well as discussions at expert group meetings, regional seminars and stakeholder country workshops. The handbook was discussed in dissemination seminars in Chad, Ghana, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Country workshops were organized in close collaboration with local institutions, namely, the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Ghana, the regional office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Rwanda, and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in Sierra Leone. So far, six countries have been visited – Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – to present either the draft or the final version of the handbook.

11. The policy analysis and research work on Africa has led to numerous invitations in 2009 to contribute to reports, meetings and discussions on the policy work of partner organizations such as: These included: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the African Economic Research Consortium, and the European University Institute.

12. UNCTAD conducts research and analysis relevant to NEPAD countries in the area of debt and development financing. At the request of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, UNCTAD prepared a report examining the impact of the financial and economic crisis on developing countries. A moratorium on debt of low-income countries provided them with space to respond to the global financial and economic crisis. Support and consideration of such a measure was incorporated into the outcome document of the *United Nations Conference on the World Financial Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*. In addition to these activities, UNCTAD also prepared the annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General on external debt and development, *Towards a Durable Solution to the Debt Problems of Developing Countries*. It serves as the background document to the General Assembly negotiations on the resolution on external debt and development.

C. National policy reviews

13. UNCTAD made direct contributions to effective policy design and formulation in Africa through national policy reviews that identify strengths and weaknesses of existing policy frameworks in economies reviewed. A national services policy review of Uganda was carried out which focused on professional, insurance and construction services and set the stage for national authorities and other stakeholders to outline an action plan to enhance national performance in these areas. UNCTAD made significant contributions to the design and formulation of policies to attract FDI in Africa. Investment policy reviews (IPRs) were completed for 19 African countries since the inception of the programme and UNCTAD recently assisted some of the programme countries in implementing their IPR recommendations. In this regard, UNCTAD prepared regional investment promotion strategies for Ethiopia, prepared a new mining code for bituminous schist for Morocco, commented on Nigerian's draft national tax policy, and prepared a report on the implementation of recommendations of the Ghana IPR in 2009. National policy reviews have also been carried out in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI). STI policy reviews for Ghana, Lesotho and Mauritania will be published in 2010. These reviews are a tool for analysis supporting countries' efforts to improve their ability to harness STI for development. The secretariat has also launched its first ICT Policy Review for Egypt.

D. Data collection and analysis

14. Availability and access to good quality data are crucial to monitoring performance of economies as well as designing and implementing effective policies. In recognition of this fact and the challenges facing African countries in this area, UNCTAD provided support to several countries in collecting and analysing data. For example, UNCTAD provided support to several countries in the development of debt management systems and databases. Capacity-building missions took place in the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda, the Sudan and Togo. From January to April 2010, workshops were planned in Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Togo and the Sudan (study tour to Algeria). As a result of UNCTAD's support, 87 per cent of client countries now maintain a regularly updated and validated database for monitoring and internal reporting, and more than half of users employ the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) for external reporting and statistics. UNCTAD has also assisted members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in collecting and analysing data on FDI and activities of transnational corporations (TNC). The aim was to develop a harmonized system for measuring, collecting and reporting statistics on FDI and TNC activities in the COMESA region and enhancing the capacity of government agencies to compile, manage, disseminate and analyse data in line with international standards. Other objectives include (a) strengthening networking among investment promotion agencies, compiling agencies and the private sector, to bridge statistical gaps and jointly address common problems; and (b) facilitating regular exchange of expertise and experiences regarding FDI and TNC data collection within a regional context. Countries benefiting from these activities included Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. An implementation report was prepared for Ghana. Follow-up assistance was provided to Benin, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Zambia. A Blue Book on Best Practices for Nigeria was prepared and seven investment guides for African countries are being finalized.

II. Consensus-building

15. UNCTAD has contributed to building consensus between African countries and their development partners through its intergovernmental machinery process. In this context, the outcomes of Sessional Committees I and II of the Trade and Development Board, in the form of agreed conclusions, have contributed to global consensus-building processes, including at the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council sessions. The 2009 forty-seventh Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board on focusing on Africa contributed to building international consensus on how to address problems of food insecurity in Africa. The Board's Agreed Conclusions have been particularly important in drawing the attention of the international community to the immense challenges of development and poverty reduction in Africa. They have also been key in calling for additional and special efforts at the national and international levels to tackle the depth and persistence of underdevelopment and mass poverty in the African region.

16. UNCTAD continues to contribute to global policy debates and consensus-building on ways and means to beneficially integrate African countries into the multilateral trading system and the global economy. It has made substantive contributions to the work of the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council, especially on issues related to the vulnerability of LDCs, review of the list of LDCs, graduation of LDCs, and the smooth transition for countries graduating from the LDC status.

17. African LDCs, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Least Developed Countries (LLDCs) have benefited from activities undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat to improve their participation in major conferences and summits. These activities have contributed to national and international efforts to improve LDCs' participation and engagement in trade and development-related negotiations. Through UNCTAD's support, the participation of African countries, LDCs and LLDCs in UNCTAD XII, including in the preparatory process for the Conference, has increased as compared to previous United Nations conferences and summits. UNCTAD contributed to the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of LLDCs in Ezulwini, Swaziland (October), focusing on "Strengthening trade competitiveness in times of global economic crisis – Challenges faced by LLDCs". UNCTAD made a presentation to the panel on policies and measures to improve trade efficiency of LLDCs. Its central message was that, while benefits from trade facilitation for public and private partners are easily understood, actual administrative reforms take time and effort, and require resources. Reference was made to available international instruments and analytical tools and a simple way to start the development of trade facilitation programmes at national and regional levels was proposed.

18. UNCTAD's support to Africa facilitates the building of African consensus on international economic issues of interest to the region. Several activities were undertaken to strengthen negotiation capacity of African countries in multilateral trade and climate change negotiations, and contributed to the formulation of African consensus and positions on the Doha Round and climate change negotiations. In the area of trade, African negotiators and policymakers were supported in their preparations for the Doha negotiations on agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), services, trade facilitation, special and differential treatment, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and development issues. Support was provided to Ministerial and high-level staff of regional groupings for the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference including (a) the Sixth LDC Trade Ministers' Meeting (Dar-es-Salaam, October); (b) the Phnom Penh Round Table on LDCs' accession (September); (c) the Informal African WTO Trade Ministerial Meeting on "Consolidating the Development Dimension" (Cairo, October); and (d) the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries Trade Ministers' Meeting (Brussels, November). African countries also benefited from UNCTAD's advisory services on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the European Union (EU) as well as the interface between these negotiations and the WTO Doha Round. UNCTAD also assisted African countries in preparations for participation in the Second WTO Global Aid for Trade Review (July).

19. With regard to the climate change negotiations, UNCTAD supported African countries in articulating their interests in the ongoing climate change negotiations, including their participation in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Pre-Conference of the Parties (COP 15), and the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. As a result of these activities and the support provided by Africa-based institutions, African countries were able to defend their interests at the recent climate change negotiations held in Copenhagen.

III. Technical cooperation

20. UNCTAD undertook a series of technical cooperation activities aimed at strengthening and enhancing the capacity of African countries in areas such as trade, information and communications technology (ICT), finance and debt management, FDI, STI, tourism and the environment. The technical cooperation activities carried out during the period under review can be classified into two broad clusters: advisory services and

capacity development. It should be noted, however, that both clusters of technical cooperation are interrelated.

A. Advisory Services

1. Enhanced Integrated Framework

21. As part of its contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme, UNCTAD undertook advisory missions to Mozambique to update its action matrix, and to Sierra Leone to improve its capacity for trade policy formulation and trade information. The EIF is a multi-agency and multi-donor undertaking for the coordinated delivery of trade-related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building activities in LDCs. EIF became operational in July 2009. Currently, 15 LDCs, including 11 African countries, have active EIF projects. Eleven of the projects were of Tier 1 type, aimed at establishing or strengthening national implementation arrangements. Three were Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies (DTIS). Resources committed for these 15 projects, plus another 5 in the pipeline, amounts to \$14.3 million. UNCTAD provides substantive comments during DTIS preparations (Togo and Guinea-Bissau), participates in main missions and prepares specific chapters of the DTIS, for example, on investment in Comoros. It assisted Rwanda with its 2009 policy document on its leather sector. It also participated in the One-United Nations pilot programmes on Trade and Productive Capacity for Benin, Mozambique, Senegal, Rwanda and Yemen.

2. Support to SADC regional integration and the Multilateral Trading System

22. UNCTAD provides advisory services and capacity-building assistance on services' assessment and negotiations to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) secretariat, the SADC Trade Negotiation Forum and SADC policymakers and trade negotiators. UNCTAD's support has helped SADC members in (a) preparations for regional negotiations to develop a framework on services trade; (b) participation in World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations; and (c) the challenges associated with parallel negotiations between SADC and the EU on EPAs. UNCTAD supported developing countries in negotiating the third São Paulo round of Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) negotiations launched in 2004. Developing country parties to the GSTP met in December at the ministerial level and adopted a decision on modalities for cutting tariffs in the trade they carry out with each other. A timeline was set for negotiations to conclude the agreement by the end of September 2010. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe are participating in the third round of negotiations.

3. Intellectual property

23. In December, UNCTAD finalized an advisory report on the "Development dimension of intellectual property for Uganda" examining the extent intellectual property regimes in Uganda support specific development objectives. UNCTAD is preparing a national intellectual property policy and strategy for implementation at Rwanda's request. In cooperation with the International Trade Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa, a regional workshop for Southern, Central and Western Africa on TRIPS flexibilities for local pharmaceutical production was organized in December. The workshop was designed to familiarize and sensitize stakeholders of the full range of flexibilities in international intellectual property rules and local pharmaceuticals' production. An advisory study was prepared on Comparative analysis of East African Community patent laws on the incorporation of TRIPS flexibilities.

4. Competition law and policy

24. Despite a general widespread trend towards the adoption, reformulation or better implementation of competition laws and policies in Africa, many still do not have up-to-date competition legislation or adequate institutions and expertise for their effective enforcement. UNCTAD continues to assist African countries in improving competition and competitiveness in support of economic growth and development. Assistance was provided on competition advocacy, preparing national competition laws, training competition case handlers, institution-building and consumer protection to Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, São Tome and Príncipe, and Swaziland. Assistance on competition and consumer policies was provided to the regional groupings. A new Competition Programme for Africa (AFRICOMP) was launched by UNCTAD in June to help countries develop appropriate administrative, institutional and legal structures for effective enforcement of competition, consumer law and policies.

B. Capacity development

1. Trade and trade negotiations

25. UNCTAD undertook significant work on enhancing participation of African countries in international trade and the trading system. It expanded efforts to assist developing countries and to assess the impact of the food and fuel crises which have had a major detrimental impact on Africa's trade and development prospects and have reversed progress towards achievement of the MDGs. Economic growth and trade flows dropped drastically in 2009 with severe consequences on employment, income, and access to food, energy and essential services (health, education, water, etc). UNCTAD's assistance included analytical papers, technical assistance, capacity-building and consensus-building on key trade and development policies and strategies.

26. UNCTAD organized a training course on "Productive Capacities, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction – the Example of Angola", for Angolan Government officials in Luanda (November). The course focused on productive capacities in the context of the current crisis in order to achieve development, economic growth and poverty reduction. Policy orientations included infrastructure, trade, foreign investment, technology, agriculture, industry and macroeconomic policy. The course resulted in the formulation of policy recommendations and requests for follow-up activities, such as using the export boom to bolster structural transformation. UNCTAD also held advisory consultations with Angolan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officials on the country's development prospects in terms of the productive capacities paradigm.

27. Non-tariff barriers constitute important impediments to effective export market access by African countries. UNCTAD is leading a multi-agency effort to identify, classify and categorize non-tariff measures in international trade that would address non-tariff barriers. The UNCTAD Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Persons on Non-Tariff Barriers met in November and agreed that UNCTAD should collaborate with several regional groupings in Africa to collect and classify non-tariff measures applied by their member countries. An initial contact was established with the East African Community (EAC) to support this effort. A pilot project, executed jointly with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), covered, inter alia, Tunisia and Uganda. It conducted comprehensive business surveys to understand the challenges that actual traders on non-tariff measures face. Sources on official measures applied by Tunisia and Uganda were identified. UNCTAD also provided support to Rwanda on trade data.

28. The Chief Executives Board Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity is an interagency mechanism dedicated to the coordination of trade and development operations at the national and regional levels within the United Nations system. UNCTAD has led the Cluster's efforts in coordinating the delivering of technical assistance in the eight One United Nations Pilot countries. Countries concerned in Africa are Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Comoros and Lesotho.

2. Support on WTO accession

29. Technical assistance on accession to the WTO was provided to Algeria, Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and the Sudan and included (a) advice on the accession processes; (b) preparation of documentation; (c) answers to questions submitted; (d) market access offers in goods and services; (d) conduct of impact studies and assessments; (e) training of officials in WTO-related issues; and (e) logistical support such as procurement of ICT equipment. Consequently, countries are better prepared for accession negotiations and for undertaking stakeholder consultations on benefits and costs, as well as putting in place institutional and regulatory frameworks to adjust to, and take advantage of, WTO disciplines.

30. In July, UNCTAD organized a WTO accession workshop in Geneva and made a presentation on "Assisting agri-food exporting developing countries and LDCs meet SPS requirements and food quality and safety standards." As a result, the Sudanese Government made an official request to UNCTAD to design and deliver training programmes and projects on food laws and technical regulations.

3. Transport and trade facilitation

31. An Expert Meeting on Public and Private Partnerships and an Ad Hoc Expert Meeting in Transit Ports Servicing Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) were held in December 2009, and included several presentations focusing on corridor and transit port development in African countries. The Annual Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) in November 2009 examined recent progress and future prospects for closer cooperation between African regional development partners and international organizations.

32. UNCTAD provided technical advice to Geneva-based delegates from African countries, and jointly organized with the WTO secretariat capacity-building workshops for Geneva-based and capital-based officials of the WTO trade facilitation negotiations. At the national level, trade facilitation implementation needs and priority assessments were conducted by the WTO secretariat under the lead of UNCTAD facilitators in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mauritius, Senegal and Togo. UNCTAD provided continued support and capacity building to the national task forces on trade facilitation in Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea and Mali. UNCTAD continues to coordinate with the UEMOA Commission. The TrainforTrade Port Training Programmes were delivered in Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania. In 2010, it will also be provided to the International Association of Freight Forwarders in Ethiopia.

33. In 2009, a joint project funded by the French Agency for Development (AFD) and UNCTAD-ITC contributed to Ghana's trade-related capacity development and included (a) a technical mission on trade facilitation; (b) a training of technical tutors in Conakry for distance learning (DL); (c) the monitoring of future training events with a DL component; and (d) a hybrid training, combining DL and traditional face-to-face delivery.

4. Dynamic and new sectors of trade

34. UNCTAD assisted African countries in enhancing their effective participation in dynamic and new sectors of world trade. UNCTAD collaborated with Royal Philips Electronic Corporation and with the Governments of Lesotho and South Africa to establish an assembly plant in Lesotho, producing energy-saving light bulbs for sale in Southern Africa. The factory, operational since March 2009, employs 250, mostly women, as well as handicapped persons, and produces exports to the SADC region. In December, UNCTAD and UNDP organized national and regional workshops on Enhancing the Development of Dynamic Exports and New Exports in Maseru, Lesotho for the business sectors and policymakers of the Southern African Customs Union member countries. UNCTAD is preparing a national study on new and dynamic sectors for Rwanda. UNCTAD is assisting Mozambique, Senegal and Zambia to strengthen public policies for bolstering creative capacities, trade and investment for fostering Africa's creative economy. Two assessment studies were undertaken in Zambia and Mozambique on creative industries in order to identify needs, priorities and to recommend strategies to generate employment and income. They were validated at national workshops in Maputo (June), and in Lusaka (July). In June, UNCTAD was co-organizer of the Euro–Africa Campus for Cultural Cooperation, providing a forum for knowledge-sharing, exchange of experiences and joint ventures.

5. African Oil, Gas and Minerals Conference

35. UNCTAD's thirteenth annual African Oil, Gas and Minerals Conference and Exhibition was held in Bamako, Mali (November) to share experiences on the sustainable management of oil, gas and mineral resources with a view to transforming Africa's natural resource endowment into sustainable wealth. The conference resolution encourages African countries to capture the untapped value from existing data in this sector to optimize natural resource development and management.

6. Commodity development

36. Under the EU-funded 45 million-euro project – All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP) – UNCTAD undertook the following agricultural sector activities. As part of its Web-based commodities information and database portal, InfoComm, UNCTAD implemented a pilot market information system project based on its InfoShare software in Cameroon (training executive staff of the National Cocoa and Coffee Board) as well as trainers (representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, heads of producers' cooperatives and the user representatives of producers' associations and producers). In October, two workshops were organized under the Commodity Exchange component of the AAACP. The first was a capacity-building workshop (in partnership with NCCB) on the possibility of creating a Commodity Exchange in Central Africa to be based in Cameroon. The second workshop took place in Lusaka, Zambia, on improving the functioning of commodity markets in Eastern and Southern Africa through warehouse receipt systems and other market-based instruments. This was held in collaboration with COMESA and the Eastern Africa Grain Council.

7. Market access and agriculture

37. UNCTAD strengthened its work on market access, focusing on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on compliance with food safety standards and quality requirements. UNCTAD implemented trade-related capacity-building projects in Guinea and Mozambique to help small and medium-sized agri-food producers and exporters improve their capacities and build supply-side infrastructure and services (e.g. quarantine facilities) to enhance export competitiveness, raise per capita incomes and reduce poverty. In Guinea, UNCTAD continued to implement the project "A model for the development of

a private/public safety control system for horticultural exports in Guinea.” This project assists producers and export associations in complying with sanitary and phytosanitary measures, attaining GlobalGAP certification, increasing competencies of pool of national technicians, addressing market access exigencies, and enhancing export competitiveness of (pilot) farms. IT equipment with Internet and e-mail at the National Project Management Unit (NPMU) has been installed. The project has trained inspectors from key national agencies and delivered workshops on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices, ISO 9000 and 22000, HACCP and GlobalGAP to key beneficiaries. Three pilot projects (Cooperative Burquiah, Fabik Cooperative, and Kalo Enterprises – Union des Pommes de Terre) benefited as well. The Cooperative Burquia, which represents over 500 farmers, successfully attained GlobalGAP certification.

8. Customs automation

38. The Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme is used by 35 African countries. More than 30 ASYCUDA technical assistance projects were operational in Africa, including five regional projects. For example, in cooperation with the COMESA secretariat, the number of operational sites using the ASYCUDA++ system was extended to Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Seychelles and Swaziland. Activities for the implementation of ASYCUDA++ or for the migration to ASYCUDA++ continued in Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea, Malawi and Nigeria. New projects for the implementation of the ASYCUDA++ system commenced in Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea and Sierra Leone. UNCTAD continued to support activities (training, documentation and regional support) with the CEMAC Secretariat (Communauté Economique et Monétaire d’Afrique Centrale), to improve the current national customs systems and to develop a regional transit system. These activities are funded by the EU. Initial focus was on the Douala-Bangui and Douala-N’djamena corridors and will eventually extend to all seven countries in the region. The Internet-based ASYCUDA version became operational in Côte d’Ivoire, covering the full customs clearance process. Implementation activities continued in Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tome and Principe, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. More than 50 ASYCUDA training sessions were carried out on know-how transfer and capacity-building for the benefit of African user countries at national and regional levels.

9. Information and communications technology

39. UNCTAD and ECA organized two training courses in Africa: one in Addis Ababa for English-speaking countries (July) and one in Rabat for Francophone Africa (December). Through its ICT and Law Reform Programme, UNCTAD continued to assist governments of the East African Community (EAC) (Burundi, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda) in harmonizing their cyber laws. A training workshop on the “Legal Aspects of E-Commerce” was organized jointly with UNCITRAL for officials in Burundi (September). At the regional level, the EAC Technical Committee for Information Technology recommended in October that a draft EAC Legal Framework for Cyberlaws prepared by UNCTAD be submitted to the EAC Sectoral Council for Transport, Communications and Meteorology for consideration and adoption. The Sectoral Council is scheduled to meet in February 2010. UNCTAD supported the workshop on Legal and Regulatory Framework for the Knowledge Economy, organized by ECA during the Meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (April/May 2009). UNCTAD launched its first ICT Policy Review for Egypt. A fact-finding mission to Cairo was conducted in May and a second mission in January 2010.

40. UNCTAD took part in the organization of the first-ever Open Consultations on Meeting the Challenges of Financing ICT for Development, organized by the United

Nations Group on the Information Society. Financing for backbone infrastructure and universal access to ICTs, applications and content, and capacity-building were discussed. High-level officials from NEPAD and AUC made presentations.

10. Tourism and sustainable tourism

41. A five-day validation seminar on sustainable tourism for development took place in November in Angola with 29 representatives from the Angolan public and the private sector at the Ministry of Tourism. In depth analysis of Angola's tourism initiative implemented in São Tomé and Príncipe allowed for strengthening South–South cooperation and transfer of best practices between these Portuguese-speaking countries. Recommendations on the follow up actions were examined.

42. The joint UNCTAD–ITC project on “Promotion of sustainable and community-based tourism in Benin” rolled out activities at the local level, particularly for the communities of Abomey, Ganvié and Ouidah. This resulted in an increased exchange of best practices at the local level and in the strengthening of local capacities in the field of sustainable tourism. A training seminar for 23 participants was held in Benin in September. A rehabilitation plan for historical houses in the city of Abomey to be converted into small lodgings for international tourists was drafted by the Abomey authorities with the technical support of Albi (France) and the technical expertise of a non-governmental organization from Benin (ECO-Benin). This project is currently being presented to the national authorities for validation and possible funding exists within local resources granted through the IF-Window II funds. One hundred and sixty-one port operators and 78 trainers and technical tutors participated in the Modern Port Management course under the TrainforTrade port training programme. Participants from the port communities of Cotonou (Benin), Douala (Cameroon), Conakry (Guinea) and Dakar (Senegal) are now preparing their final assignments to be presented before a panel of network ports' experts, in order to be granted their UNCTAD Port Certificates in 2009/2010. The port of Djibouti joined the network in October.

11. Tourism and environment

43. The Development Account project on “Strengthening SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprise] competitiveness in the tourism sector of six African developing countries of the ECOWAS subregion” provided technical advice, pedagogical guides and tools, including an UNCTAD Free Open Source System (FOSS) software, training of high-level public officials and private stakeholders on e-tourism issues, support to multi-stakeholder dialogue and networking of local consultants. Four high-level briefing sessions were carried out in Mauritania, Burkina-Faso, Guinea and Benin. Additionally, national workshops were held in Mauritania (May), Burkina-Faso (June) and Benin (December). In Burkina-Faso, 33 stakeholders were trained. In Benin, 30 stakeholders attended the workshop. The Guinean seminar was cancelled for security reasons and postponed to 2010. The TrainforTrade/e-Tourism held a workshop on “Tourism for Development” in Possotome, Benin, (September) within the context of the Integrated Framework. Burkina Faso has established a committee to strengthen public–private partnership and monitor the follow-up of recommendations from the seminar, including the implementation of a destination management system for promoting national tourism assets on the Internet.

44. Support was provided to the African Organic Conference (May, Kampala, Uganda), as well as the East African Organic Conference (May). Support was also provided to national workshops in 2009 on organic agriculture in Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. A study was commissioned on an “Overview of Organic Agriculture in East Africa”. UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative continued to support BioTrade mainstreaming into Uganda's national development strategies and to strengthen

competitiveness of its BioTrade SMEs involved in the natural ingredients and wildlife trade sectors. A BioTrade Impact Assessment System for Uganda was finalized. Field testing on sectors such as natural ingredients for cosmetic and food sectors, fauna for leather and pets, handicrafts and sustainable tourism was carried out in Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda.

12. Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

45. UNCTAD's Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme continued to support 21 NEPAD countries in strengthening human and institutional capacity to manage debt in an effective and sustainable way, in support of poverty-reduction, development and good governance. In November, UNCTAD's Seventh Debt Management Conference discussed debt management and public finance with senior debt experts from thirty-four African countries.

46. The DMFAS Programme strengthened partnerships with organizations involved in providing debt management technical assistance in Africa such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Debt Relief International, the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), Pôle Dette, the technical training unit of the Central Bank of West African States, and the Bank of Central African States. The objective is to provide a more holistic approach to meeting the multi-faceted challenges that African countries face in building their debt management capacity. In December, DMFAS and MEFMI organized a regional workshop on debt management systems in Zimbabwe, introducing the latest version of the DMFAS software (DMFAS 6). Participants included Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Three mentors to the MEFMI fellowship programme were provided. In collaboration with Pôle Dette, the Programme is currently organizing a joint workshop in debt portfolio analysis for West African countries, planned for 2010. In November 2009, DMFAS provided input to a Pôle Dette regional workshop on the production of a debt procedural manual in Cameroon (November). Thirteen African countries were represented. At the country-level, the Programme is currently providing direct technical assistance to twenty-two African countries.

47. Nearly half of the countries have funded country-project trust funds; hence, activities have been organized nationally according to signed project documents. For those countries without active projects, the programme has also provided continuing support service from Geneva to DMFAS system users, funded through its central trust fund. This includes helpdesk support and provision of DMFAS system updates and enhancements. The DMFAS Programme has continued to post one of its staff members in Bamako, Mali, to further strengthen regional support to francophone Africa. Country project-funded activities have included the first-time installation of the DMFAS software in Guinea-Bissau (Ministry of Finance), as well as a complete version update installation in Angola (Central Bank) and Djibouti (Ministry of Finance). DMFAS software is available in English, French, Spanish and now Portuguese. Results include improved capacity to manage debt. Capacity-building missions have included debt data validation calendars for the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and the Sudan, as well as statistical bulletins for the Central African Republic, Egypt, Sudan and Togo, along with draft portfolio reviews for Egypt and the Sudan.

48. A seminar on "Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization" was jointly organized by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce of China, in Wuhan (October) for government officials from developing countries. The results of UNCTAD's research on globalization and development strategies were presented. Senior administrators from a number of African countries participated. Similarly, the Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda (Paragraph 166), in Cairo, Egypt, provided the opportunity to share these research results and policy recommendations.

13. Investment policies and capacity-building

49. UNCTAD organized investment promotion training workshops for diplomats from Benin (Cotonou, July), for officials from the Mozambican investment promotion agency and other government agencies (Maputo, Mozambique, December), for low-income countries, including from Africa (Geneva), and contributed to the workshop organized for investment promotion officials of member countries of the Organization of Islamic Countries (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November). In addition, UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce of China jointly organized the Sixth International Investment Promotion Forum (Changchun, China, September). The Forum addressed immediate and longer-term impacts of the economic crisis and provided guidance to policymakers and investment promotion officials on how to retain investment and prepare for the economic recovery. Participants included government officials from 19 African countries. Investment guides are being finalized for Benin, Comoros, Morocco, Rwanda and Zambia. The i-Track system, managing investors' online applications for investment licenses and tracking investors through their investment cycle, is being installed in Benin. UNCTAD provided insights to post-conflict developing countries on attracting FDI to promote economic stability and development. These insights were based on Mozambique's experience. UNCTAD continued to provide tailored e-government applications for enhancing transparency and efficiency in administrative procedures for conducting business to Comoros, Mali, and Rwanda. An advisory report on the development dimensions of intellectual property was finalized for Uganda.

14. International investment agreements

50. Ethiopia requested advisory services on regional agreements and investor-State disputes settlement (ISDS) and a distance learning course on key issues in international investment arrangements (IIAs) for Government officials. Ghana requested an advisory session on specific IIA issues and model bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and a workshop on investment promotion and international investment policies for Ghanaian diplomats. Guinea requested a distance learning and in-class course on IIAs. Assistance was provided to Sierra Leone in negotiating BITs and in preparing a model BIT. Workshops on investment promotion and international investment agreements took place in Botswana and Cape Verde in the framework of the One United Nations programme. The SADC secretariat requested UNCTAD to conduct a review of the draft investment chapter of the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU. In this context, a review of BITs concluded by Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland is underway. A national workshop on investment agreements and competition was held in Swaziland, and ad hoc technical assistance was provided to Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Chad, Togo and Tunisia through a regional training course on Investment Promotion and Protection for Francophone African Countries. A training workshop on trends and emerging issues in IIAs was held in Benin, Ethiopia and Ghana.

15. Enterprise development

51. To facilitate consensus and exchange of best practices in enterprise development among African countries, UNCTAD launched the EMPRETEC Africa Forum, which convenes regular workshops and provides advisory services in countries such as Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The 15 EMPRETEC centres in Africa have contributed to improving business skills of participants. Consequently, more than 2,500 rural SMEs were able to transform their farming activity from subsistence to commercial enterprises. Uganda and Zimbabwe participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Week, an initiative to promote youth entrepreneurship. At the policy level, the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development and Capacity-

building in Science, Technology and Innovation reviewed the policy framework and set of indicators for monitoring and evaluation in these areas.

16. Enterprise governance

52. Representatives from 26 African countries attended UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) held in Geneva (October). Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia were elected to the ISAR Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts. Topics on accounting, reporting and governance were featured. In cooperation with the International Federation of Accountants, UNCTAD organized a workshop on the practical implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The panel featured presentations by experts from Kenya, Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, who shared their experiences with implementing IPSAS. In cooperation with the Egyptian Institute of Directors, UNCTAD convened a June training course in Cairo, Egypt, on corporate governance disclosure.

17. Insurance

53. UNCTAD collaborates with the African Insurance Organization and the African Centre for Catastrophe Risks and leads a project to strengthen access of Moroccan small businesses to financing and insurance products. An analysis identifying difficulties is being carried out in Morocco to provide policy and regulatory recommendations to the Government. A similar project will be launched in Tunisia in 2010.

54. UNCTAD convened a meeting on Capacity-building for the Insurance Sector in Africa (23 February 2009) to discuss challenges and identify areas where UNCTAD could contribute to the strengthening of the insurance sector in the continent. A CD-ROM on the proceedings of the meeting was also prepared with a view to sensitize the international community to the challenges facing the insurance industry in Africa and attract support to projects identified in cooperation with the African Insurance Organization. In the context of the capacity-building project on "Strengthening SMEs' development and access to financing and insurance in Morocco and Tunisia", the secretariat recently finalized two studies on SMEs' access to financial services and insurance products in Morocco, together with specific recommendations.

18. Training activities

55. With Finnish support, the Virtual Institute (Vi) organized three national professional development workshops on trade data analysis for academics from Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. A workshop on trade policy and negotiations and another on international trade logistics were offered to staff at the University of Mauritius. The Vi fellowship programme, sponsored by the Government of Finland, funded the six-week stay of five African academics (from Ethiopia, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) in Geneva to work on specific projects. All were given UNCTAD "mentors". Academics from Cairo University, the University of Nairobi and Makerere University Business School strengthened their expertise on topical international economic issues by conducting research for the adaptation of Vi teaching material on regional trade agreements. The Vi provided advisory and curriculum support to the Makerere University Business School in Uganda, and the Université d'Abomey-Calavi in Benin on the development of their trade-related master's programmes.

56. With a view to keeping delegates at Geneva-based permanent missions up to date on UNCTAD's research on topical international economic issues, three short courses were organized in fall 2009, namely biofuels, non-tariff barriers, and investor-State dispute

settlement. These courses were attended by 19 delegates of 15 African countries. Two more courses will take place in March/April 2010.

57. A train-the-trainer course was delivered in Dakar supported by the Government of Greece. Two trainings of technical tutors were delivered in Conakry, Guinea, in August and in Djibouti in October 2009. TrainforTrade organized two seminars in September on modern management of ports for the Portuguese-speaking network in cooperation with the Port of Luanda. A total of 35 participants from 6 ports of Luanda, Cabinda, Soyo, Namibe, Lobito and Amboim, as well as from the Ministry of Transport, the Directorate General of Customs, and the UNICARGAS SOGESTER, participated. In cooperation with Dublin Port Company (DPC) and with the support of Irish Aid, a second Train-the-Trainers Workshop for English-speaking Port Communities was organized in Dublin (Ireland) in June/July. Participants from the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana and Djibouti, together with Asian port representatives, were trained on methods and tools of management in ports.

58. The first four modules of the Modern Port Management course were delivered in the United Republic of Tanzania for 25 port operators, including six women in the Port of Dar-Es-Salaam. A similar course was held in the port of Tema, Ghana, for 27 port and operation managers, including 6 women.

19. Science, technology and innovation

59. UNCTAD provided technical assistance (10 training sessions) to African countries through its Network of Centres of Excellence (NOCE). In 2009, a training session on cyber security was organized in Tunis, Tunisia, with 15 participants from African countries. In the area of ICT policies for development, UNCTAD helps African countries create a favourable environment to benefit from opportunities created by ICTs.

60. In order to assist African countries to enhance the measuring of the information economy, UNCTAD, jointly with ECA, organized two training courses in Africa: one in Addis Ababa for English-speaking countries (July 2009) and one in Rabat for Francophone Africa (December 2009). UNCTAD continued in 2009 to assist EAC governments (Burundi, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda) in harmonizing their cyber laws through training workshops together with UNCITRAL and carried out workshops with ECA on Legal and Regulatory Framework for the Knowledge Economy.

IV. Conclusions

61. In recent years, UNCTAD has strengthened its support to African countries in areas such as trade, ICT, finance and debt management, FDI, STI, tourism and the environment. The research and policy analysis work of UNCTAD continues to draw the attention of the international community to the development challenges facing the region. Without special efforts to tackle the depth and persistence of underdevelopment and poverty in the region, the number of people living in absolute poverty will increase, with dire consequences for the attainment of the MDGs.

62. There is a growing concern that most of the African LDCs in the region are off-target to meet the MDGs and those contained in the Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2001–2010. This is due in part to the lack of adequate national and international policies to meet the challenge of development and poverty reduction in LDCs. Consequently, there is a need to pursue alternative policy responses as called for in various UNCTAD flagship reports.

63. Although it is difficult to provide full and objective assessment of the impact of the research and analysis work of the secretariat on the institutional and policymaking

capacities of the countries of the region, African countries and their development partners have consistently appreciated the policy findings and recommendations contained in UNCTAD's reports. The conclusions and policy recommendations contained in the research and policy analysis work are contributing to the growing understanding of and building consensus on issues of interest to the countries of the region at the global and the national levels.

64. With regard to technical cooperation, support from UNCTAD has strengthened African countries' human and institutional capacities. African countries appreciate the support provided to them by the secretariat as evidenced by the growing demand for technical assistance and advisory services.

65. UNCTAD has also contributed to the formation of African consensus on global issues of interest to the region. The capacity-building activities provided on multilateral trade and climate change have increased the ability of African countries to protect their interests in the Doha Round and climate change negotiations. UNCTAD will continue its support in these areas to ensure that African countries participate effectively in these negotiations.

66. UNCTAD has partnered with the AUC on a project to enhance the dissemination of policy findings and recommendations of its research. Objectives include creating a regular dialogue with relevant Africa-based stakeholders to discuss research findings and activities in the context of the *Least Developed Countries Report* and the *Economic Development in Africa* report through the joint organization of training seminars and workshops for local and regional African stakeholders, as well as sensitizing development partners on the challenges and needs faced by African countries.

67. UNCTAD has also strengthened partnership with other African organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the Southern Africa Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Economic Research Consortium, and multilateral institutions. These collaborative partnerships have allowed UNCTAD to enhance the impact of its activities in the region.



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
30 June 2010

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Fiftieth executive session

Geneva, 8 July 2010

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour
of Africa**

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Corrigendum

Paragraph 2

In the first sentence, *for* New Partnership for Economic Development (NEPAD) *read* New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
