UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

PROSPERITY FOR ALL

DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES

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GOAL
Prosperity for all through trade

MISSION
Help developing countries to participate equitably in the global economy

STRATEGY
Carry out economic research to support sustainable development
Make policy recommendations to support government decision-making
Offer a platform for Governments to share experiences and tackle critical issues affecting the global economy
Facilitate dialogue between Governments, academics, the private sector and civil society
Strengthen capacities in developing countries via technical cooperation

ACTION ON MANY FRONTS
UNCTAD works at the interface of trade, investment and technology to promote sustainable development
WHO DO WE WORK FOR?

WHY?
To promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty

POLICY INFLUENCERS
- Parliamentarians
- Academics
- Private sector
- Civil society
- Regional integration organizations
- Intergovernmental organizations

POLICYMAKERS
- Geneva-based
- Capital-based
- New York-based
DO YOU KNOW OUR WORK ON...
HOW DO WE HELP?

- Support countries to formulate and implement trade policy frameworks to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction, and job creation and to share experiences and lessons.
- Conduct policy analysis to help countries assess policy options and practical solutions to their engagement in multilateral and regional trade negotiations.
- Assist countries in better utilizing trade preferences under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and expanding trade opportunities under South-South trade cooperation, including the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP).
- Build national and regional capacities and institutions for trade negotiations and implementation.

Adequately designing and negotiating terms of integration into the international trading system remains a major challenge for developing countries.

Trade policy is a key ingredient of an integrated development strategy linking trade, productive capacity, and job creation.

UNCTAD is the intellectual cradle of GSP and has been instrumental for the development of other trade preferences programmes, including GSTP.

MONITORING TRADE AND TRADE POLICY

WE DELIVER KEY FACTS AND FINDINGS ON RELEVANT POLICIES AND TRENDS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRADE POLICY

NON-TARIFF MEASURES

EXCHANGE RATES

BILATERAL AND REGIONAL TRADE FLOWS

TRADE STATISTICS DISAGGREGATED

TARIFFS AND PREFERENTIAL MARGINS

HOW DOES UNCTAD MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- We study and analyse trade statistics to inform policymakers, practitioners and researchers of key trends and facts.
- We provide our technical expertise to other trade institutions and developing countries.
- We train students from developing countries to understand trade statistics in order to create and develop sustainable trade policies.
SERVICES, DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

SERVICES: A KEY DRIVER OF ENHANCED COMPETITIVENESS AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL SERVICES FORUM
Leads in bringing together key stakeholders from Governments, private sector and academia to share experiences and lessons on services

“Let us work together to maximize the potential of services as an instrument for inclusive and sustainable development. I trust that... the deliberations at the Global Services Forum, will advance our shared goals and objectives.”

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

44% OF WORLD EMPLOYMENT

50% OF WORLD TRADE IN VALUE ADDED

2/3 OF WORLD OUTPUT

RESEARCH
Delivers key facts, case studies and analytical findings on services to support evidence-based and coherent services policymaking

EXPERT MEETINGS
Provide analytical support to a network of experts that examines the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks on services

TARGETED CAPACITY-BUILDING
Provides a menu of policy options and trade liberalization approaches to help countries participate in regional integration and trade negotiations on services in a more informed manner

SERVICES POLICY REVIEWS
Assist countries to develop comprehensive and coherent policies and strategies for services sector development

CREATIVE ECONOMY

WE HELP COUNTRIES HARNES THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THEIR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Adequately nurtured, creativity, knowledge and innovation feed large sectors of the economy and are a key ingredient for job creation, trade and poverty reduction

- Creative Economy Report
- National creative economy reports
- Widely used database on creative goods and services
- Tailor-made advisory assistance
- Policy dialogues
- Academic exchange network for institutions
- Regular e-newsletters

WHERE?

HOW?
NON-TARIFF MEASURES
AN INCREASING CHALLENGE

HOW DO WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- We lead the international effort on official non-tariff measure (NTM) data, classifying and collecting them, to strengthen our understanding of the trade issues related to NTMs.
- We assess the development implications of NTMs and help formulate appropriate policy responses.

"Understanding the uses and implications of these trade policy instruments is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies."

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, former Secretary-General of UNCTAD

PRIVATE STANDARDS

WHY ARE PRIVATE STANDARDS SO IMPORTANT?

- They increasingly govern and shape international supply chains and related market access.
- They have the potential to generate significant economic and social development opportunities related to mitigating economic, food, water and environmental risks in developing countries.
- Their increasing complexity and proliferation risks marginalizing small-scale producers and reinforcing already existing capacity weaknesses.

HOW DO WE HELP?

- Informed policy dialogue on best practice of the proactive use of private standards.
- Analytical and empirical work assistance to implement strategies at the national level.
- Working groups on impact assessment, enhancing interoperability and support to emerging standard initiatives.
- Support for national platforms to foster public–private partnerships at the national level.

NMTs merit closer attention than ever before."

WTO Panel on Defining the Future of Trade, April 2013
COMPETITION POLICY

WHY IS COMPETITION IMPORTANT?
- Competition stimulates innovation, productivity and competitiveness, contributing to an effective business environment and increasing a country’s attractiveness as a business location
- Competition generates consumer welfare

UNCTAD MODEL LAW
INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS
UNITED NATIONS SET ON COMPETITION

PEER REVIEW

TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
WE ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-SENSITIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON A GLOBAL LEVEL

WHAT IS OUR VISION?
- Underinvesting in women limits development and slow poverty reduction and economic growth
- Our aim is to raise awareness on the importance of incorporating gender considerations into macroeconomic policy, in particular trade policy

HOW DO WE HELP?
- National case studies and follow-up activities
- Tailor-made technical assistance to seize gender-related opportunities
- Training policymakers, researchers and academics on trade and gender issues
- Contribution to a United Nations-wide gender action plan
- Assistance to least developed countries (LDCs) in gender-related issues, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework

WHERE?

In 10 years, UNCTAD support contributed to reshaping the existing competitive regimes.
ACCESSION TO WTO

WE SUPPORT COUNTRIES’ EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE TERMS OF WTO ACCESION THAT REFLECT THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

World Trade Organization (WTO) accession is a challenging process requiring wide-ranging economic and trade policy reforms and market opening.

The key challenge for acceding countries is to maximize benefits for their national development in trade reform process.

Since 1995, we have assisted 50 out of the 153 countries that have applied for WTO accession.

HOW DO WE HELP?

- Support negotiating teams through all stages of the accession process with expert advice, impact assessment and training to better attend to their development needs
- Build national trade policy capacity and institutions through support to WTO units in trade ministries, parliamentarians and multi-stakeholder consultative processes

"I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who supported us throughout all these years, especially UNCTAD experts who were our angels guiding us on the long road."

Mr. Chum Prasith, Minister, chief negotiator for Cambodia’s accession to the WTO

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

BENEFITS
- Positive effect on the local environment, biodiversity and soil fertility
- Potential to increase the yields and incomes of subsistence farmers not currently using agrochemicals
- Poverty reduction
- Sustainable rural development

Abundant labour and fewer use of agrochemicals could give developing countries a comparative advantage for the production and export of organic products.

WE SUPPORT COUNTRIES’ EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE TERMS OF WTO ACCESION THAT REFLECT THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Facilitate the harmonization and equivalence of standards related to organic production and trade
- Contribute to easing market access for fresh organic food products
- Strengthens the production capacity of organic producers in developing countries
- Use best policy practice for promoting organic production

WHERE?

COUNTRIES WHERE WE ACTED

Afghanistan
Algeria
Albania
Belgium
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cameroon
Central African
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Kazakhstan
Liberia
Lithuania
Liberia
South Sudan and South
Sudan
Somalia
Syria
Syrian Arab Republic
Tanzania
Yemen

National trade and services policy formulation
Trade policy evaluation building
Sharing of experiences and learning
Training of negotiators or negotiating teams
Assistance to negotiating teams
Multi-stakeholder consultations

What is organic agriculture?

Organic agriculture is a farming system that strives to promote and conserve biological diversity and the ecological integrity of the food system. It avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms. Instead, it relies on natural farming practices like crop rotation, composting, and biological pest and disease management.

Benefits of organic agriculture include:

1. Environmental Protection: Organic farming practices help to conserve and increase soil fertility, improve water quality, and reduce pollution.
2. Health Benefits: Organic foods are free from synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, which can be harmful to health.
3. Economic Benefits: Organic farmers often receive higher prices for their products due to the high demand for organic foods.
4. Social Benefits: Organic farming can help to improve educational opportunities and social cohesion in rural communities.

What do we do to support countries in their efforts to achieve terms of WTO accession that reflect their level of development?

We provide support to negotiating teams through all stages of the accession process, including expert advice, impact assessment, and training. We also build national trade policy capacity and institutions to support WTO units in trade ministries, parliamentarians, and multi-stakeholder consultative processes. Our goal is to maximize the benefits of WTO accession for developing countries.

Why is organic agriculture important?

Organic agriculture plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable and equitable food systems. It enhances biodiversity, protects the environment, and supports local economies. By supporting organic agriculture, we can contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable rural development, and improved access to fresh organic food products.
BIOFUELS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
WE HELP COUNTRIES SEIZE AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS, USE AND TRADE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE?
• Assess the global state-of-play and deliver pioneer analysis
• Conduct studies on the latest challenges involving sustainable energy trade
• Deliver tailor-made proposals and solutions for interested countries
• Train key players on bienergy practices
• Provide a recognized and neutral platform for discussions

CLEAN ENERGY
INCREASING SOUTH–SOUTH TRADE IN BIOFUELS

WHERE?

BIOENERGY
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION
DEVELOPMENT

THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF BIOFUELS CAN STEER COUNTRIES INTO CREATING JOBS, IMPROVE ENERGY SECURITY AND REDUCE THE DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS.

BIOTRADE
A DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABLE USE AND TRADE OF BIODIVERSITY

WHAT IS BIOTRACE?
An initiative to support developing countries to participate in the global economy through the sustainable use and trade of biodiversity products and services.

WHY BIOTRACE?
It combines trade and the use of native biodiversity (species and ecosystems) to become an engine for enhancing sustainable development and enhancing livelihoods in biodiversity-rich countries.

SECTORS BEING SUPPORTED:
• Natural ingredients and products for personal care, food, pharmaceuticals, and fashion industries
• Flowers and foliage
• Handicrafts and decorative objects
• Sustainable tourism

WHERE?
COMPETITION POLICY

Competition Issues in the Tobacco Industry of Malawi (Overview)
Competition Issues in the Transport Sector in Lesotho (Overview)
Competition Policy in Mozambique (Overview)
The Petroleum Industry in Zambia: A study on market structure and competition policy (Full report)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Armenia (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Mongolia (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Serbia (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Tanzania (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: United Republic of Tanzania (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Ukraine (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Ukraine (Full report)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Pakistan (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Pakistan (Full report)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Zimbabwe (Overview)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Zimbabwe (Full report)
Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: United Republic of Tanzania (Overview)

TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Angola? A gender perspective (Overview)
Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Bolivia? A gender perspective (Overview)
Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Cape Verde? A gender perspective (Overview)
Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Lesotho? A gender perspective (Overview)
Trade, Gender and Development: Advocating Inclusive and Gender-sensitive Economic Development: A Global Level (Overview)
Trade Policy and Gender Inequalities: A country-based analysis (Overview)
The fisheries sector in the Gambia: trade, value addition and social inclusiveness, with a focus on women (Overview)

ACCESSION TO WTO

Assessment of the Impact of Trade Policy Reform in Countries According to the Word Trade Organization: The Gender Dimension (Overview)

AGRICULTURE

Mexico’s Agricultural Development: Perspectives and Outlook (Overview)
Do Sensitive Products Undermine Flexibilities? (Overview)
Economic Partnership Agreements: Comparative Analysis of the Agricultural Provisions (Overview)

BIOFUELS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

State of South–South and Triangular Cooperation in the Production, Use and Trade of Sustainable Biofuels (Overview)
The Biofuels Market: Current Situation and Alternative Scenarios (Overview)

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Global Organic Market Access (GOMA)/ Asia Regional Organic Standard (Overview)
Global Organic Market Access (GOMA)/ GOMA Conference Proceedings (Overview)
Global Organic Market Access (GOMA)/ Organic Equivalence Tools (Overview)
Harmonization and Equivalencies in Organic Agriculture, Vol. 6 (Overview)
Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (French)
Organic Agriculture in East Africa (Overview)
Scoping Study for Equivalency and Harmonization of Organic Standards and Technical Regulations in the Asia Region (Overview)

BIOTECH

Trade and Biodiversity: The BioTrade Experiences in Latin America (Overview)
The Business of BioTrade: Using Biological Resources Sustainably and Responsibly (Overview)
Improving International Systems for Trade in Re-processed Medicinal IPRs (Overview)
Guidelines for a Methodology to Support Value Chains for BioTrade Products: From the Selection of Products to the Development of Sector Strategies (Overview)
The BioTrade Impact Assessment System (Overview)
Implications for BioTrade of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Overview)
Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Management Plans for WSS-collected Plant Species used by Organizations Working with Natural Ingredients (Overview)
Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of BioTrade Products: Resource Assessment (Overview)

TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Are There Downsides to a Green Economy? (Overview)
The transition to a green economy: Benefits, challenges and risks from a sustainable development perspective (jointly with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme) (Overview)
The Road to Rio+20: For a development-led green economy (Issue 1) (Overview)
The Road to Rio+20: For a development-led green economy (Issue 2) (Overview)
The Road to Rio+20: For a development-led green economy (Issue 3) (Overview)
Trade and Environment Review 2013 - Wake up before it is too late: Make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate (Overview)
Trade and Environment Review 2009/2010 - Promoting Poles of Clean, Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries to Enhance Resilience to the Interconnected Economic, Food and Climate Crises (Overview)
 WTO Negotiations on Environmental Goods: Selected Technical Issues (Overview)