



UNCTAD AT A GLANCE



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

THINK



DEBATE



DELIVER



UNCTAD, which is governed by its 194 member States, is the United Nations body responsible for dealing with economic and sustainable development issues with a focus on trade, finance, investment and technology. It helps developing countries to participate equitably in the global economy.

Its work can be summed up in three words: think, debate, deliver.

UNCTAD carries out economic research, produces innovative analyses and makes policy recommendations to support government decision-making.

UNCTAD is a forum where representatives of all countries can freely engage in dialogue, share experiences and tackle critical issues affecting the global economy. It promotes consensus at the multilateral level.

UNCTAD turns research findings into practical applications and offers direct technical assistance to help countries build the capacities they need for equitable integration into the global economy and improve the well-being of their populations.

AREAS OF WORK

Globalization and development

UNCTAD analyses contribute to international debate on the consequences of globalization for developing countries.

- Examines global economic trends and the outlook for developing countries
- Undertakes studies on development strategies

- Analyses debt issues
- Provides developing countries with technical assistance on the management of public debt
- Lends assistance to the Palestinian people in support of their economic development

UNCTAD IN BRIEF

HEADQUARTERS

Geneva, Switzerland

CREATION

Established in 1964 as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly

MEMBERS

194 member States

SECRETARIAT

More than 470 staff members

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mukhisa Kituyi (Kenya), since September 2013

DEPUTY

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Isabelle Durant (Belgium), since July 2017

BUDGET

UNCTAD has an annual regular budget of approximately US\$69 million from the United Nations, and some US\$40 million in extrabudgetary technical assistance funds in 2017.

UNCTAD's research and analysis is published in a number of flagship reports:

- *Trade and Development Report*
- *World Investment Report*
- *The Least Developed Countries Report*
- *Economic Development in Africa Report*
- *Information Economy Report*
- *Technology and Innovation Report*
- *Review of Maritime Transport*

Trade and commodities

UNCTAD promotes development through international trade:

- Produces analyses and collects data to improve understanding of current and future problems in this area.
- Supports the participation of developing countries in international trade and international trade negotiations on an equitable basis.
- Seeks to strengthen international trade in services and promotes an integrated approach to trade, the environment, and sustainable development.
- Analyses issues related to competition policy and consumer protection
- Focuses on the contribution of the commodity sector to development, advocating diversification and risk management.

Investment and enterprise

UNCTAD offers member States expertise on issues related to investment and enterprise development. It also:

- Conducts cutting-edge research and analysis in the field of investment for sustainable development.
- Informs policymakers about the structure and evolution of foreign direct investment in the world and outlines the main trends in investment.
- Provides technical assistance to enable beneficiary countries to attract more investment for sustainable development, including through investment policy reviews.
- Serves as the focal point for issues related to international investment agreements.
- Promotes entrepreneurship and enterprise creation and expansion
- Participates in the setting of international accounting standards.
- Encourages responsible investment through initiatives such as the establishment of principles for sustainable development in agriculture.

Least developed countries

UNCTAD helps more than 90 countries in their efforts to reach the targets they have set for economic progress. These countries belong to categories that receive special attention from the United Nations, and, in many cases, special treatment to compensate for the disadvantages they face in the global economy.

- UNCTAD helps least developed countries – 47 States were recognized as such in 2017 – to achieve the socioeconomic progress that will allow them to graduate from this category.
- It supports landlocked developing countries which refuse to consider their landlocked nature as an obstacle to development.
- It also supports small island developing States in their continuing efforts to become less economically vulnerable, despite the many challenges they face.

Technology and logistics

In a globalized, knowledge-based economy, it is essential to stimulate innovation in developing countries to improve their competitiveness.

- Conducts research in science, technology (including information and communication technology) and innovation for development.
- Helps developing countries design and implement technology and innovation policies for economic growth and sustainable development.
- Carries out a broad programme of work to establish efficient services in transport, trade facilitation and customs.

UNCTAD
PROSPERITY FOR ALL

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