We acted upon a decision…

to make UNCTAD14 a SUCCESS!

UNCTAD’s DITC Team was represented by ALL divisional branches!... to ensure that the schedule of the 14th UNCTAD Ministerial in Nairobi was filled with a variety of events of different formats and different levels. Kicking off from early breakfast meetings to a late night Fashion Show and official dinners, the events attracted hundreds of people – with security officials having to close the venues’ doors for new entrants at time due to room load. TWENTY events organized by DITC during FOUR working days of the conference covered topics concerning a wide range of work areas of DITC. We worked hard and achieved results to be proud of! Here is some newsfeed…

Our High-level event on ‘Bolstering public policies for vibrant and inclusive markets’ brought together an outstanding panel mixed of Ministers, government officials, private sector and civil society representatives. The session highlighted that to attain Agenda 2030 we need both markets and governments to work together, and public policies should guide investors into SDGs related sectors.

H.E. Khalid Hanafy, Minister of Supply and Internal Trade, Egypt said “The strategy is to make people feel there is a change in their lives, the goal of inclusion as the guiding principle for vision 2030!” Mr. Pascal Lamy, Former DG of WTO, stressed that “the lack of international benchmarking on competition is still a problem”; he also applauded to the work of UNCTAD on competition issues. Ms. Amanda Long, DG of Consumer International, stressed that “the rapid development of technology is changing the consumer patterns so rapidly that governments need to be fully aware to keep up to this developments and react accordingly”. H.E. Aviol Fleurant, Minister of Planning and External Cooperation of Haiti, urged for “A need for a workable correlation between the international rules and domestic development trade concerns in LDCs".
We organized Six Ministerial Roundtables (MRTs) covering wide range of DITC work including: trade policy, competition policy and consumer protection, trade and gender, bio-trade and environmental policy, trade analysis and NTMs collection, etc...

"Development must be in the front as we move forward!" said Dr. Patrick Gomes, SG of ACP at the MRT on ‘Where next for the multilateral trading system’

DSG Reiter opening the MRT on ‘Lowering hurdles for trade: trade costs, regulatory convergence and regional integration’ said, “Non-tariff measures are the most significant hurdles to trade… Data on NTMs collected by UNCTAD can be used to address the challenges of significant regulatory gap between countries.”

H.E. Zeneby Tadesse, Minister for Women of Ethiopia remarked "Agriculture is an important source of self-employment and poverty alleviation for women…Closing gender gaps in agriculture needs robust policies" at the MRT on ‘Women as Agents for Economic Change: smallholder farming, food security, agricultural upgrading and rural economic diversification in LDCs’.

The MRT on 'Fostering green economies through trade, investment and innovation' proclaimed that development must respect planetary boundaries; reduce water; conserve natural resources and biodiversity. "Countries should aim at transforming to less resource intensive economy," said H. E. Alexander Mora, Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica. And "UNCTAD will support Member States to move forward in implementation of SDGs in this challenging time," said Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director of DITC.
Ms. Lise Kubiske, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA said "Challenges to consumers are global but jurisprudence are national, this is where UNCTAD comes in as a forum for information sharing" at the MRT on ‘Empowering consumers and fostering competition to transform markets’.

Speaking at the MRT on 'The trillion dollar question: How to kick-start trade and output growth', H.E. Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade, Lesotho said "We need to revise how we engage in a regional agenda and inter-African trade… South-South cooperation poses potential for countries like Lesotho, but has to come to an agreement on drivers for trade and investment in key areas such as infrastructure”.

We organized a Global Services Forum, comprising three panels and lunch time event...

The half-a-day Global Services Forum provided a unique platform for all stakeholders in services sector to deliberate the ways and means for optimizing the contribution of the services economy and trade in services to the sustainable development goals. The Forum brought together Ministers and high-level policymakers, thought leaders, business leaders, coalitions and associations of services industries, international organizations and services regulators. 

Three panel sessions were organized to discuss the following topics: (a) Leveraging infrastructure services as key enablers of the 2030 Agenda; (b) Facilitating trade in services; (c) Promoting Tourism as an engine of inclusive growth and sustainable Development. A lunch time event presented national and international initiatives to improve measurement on trade in services. Among important outcomes of the Forum was a decision to include services trade facilitation into DITC work plan and a signing of MoU between UNCTAD and UN/WTO that aims to facilitate collaboration between two organizations on tourism issues.
Our Side Events included working breakfast, lunch & late evening meetings:

At the joint UNCTAD-WTO Working Breakfast event ‘Life after accession to the World Trade Organization: Launch of post-accession support strategy’ DSG Reiter proclaimed, “Sustained reform requires sustained assistance” and assured that “UNCTAD is ready to provide it!”

H.E. Raymond Furrer, State Secretary, Switzerland said “the concept of BioTrade with its set of principles and criteria for sustainable use of biodiversity can be a real change maker in favor of ecosystems and livelihood of the poor” at the side event ‘From trade to sustainable development and creative livelihoods: Biodiversity and design’.

At the ‘Working Breakfast on best practices for competition in Africa’ Mr. Francis Kariuki, Director General, Competition Authority of Kenya spoke about the importance of international best practices arguing “we need to craft different messages for various stakeholders in advocating for competition”. He also urged for a need for “credible experts to contribute to national economic agenda…This is how Competition Authority of Kenya moved forward”.

Three full days 'Training on Non-tariff measures (NTMs) data collection' took place during Nairobi Ministerial. Thirty government officials from SADC and COMESA regions participated in the training. In addition to successful outcome of the training itself and much gratitude expressed by participants, DSG Reiter and H.E. Fatima Haram Acyl, African Union (AU) Trade Commissioner, have launched an Initiative on UNCTAD support to AU Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations on NTM matters.
The outstanding work of Competition and Consumer Protection Branch (CCPB) of DITC was appraised during lunch event 'What Role for Competition Policies in Regional Integration? The cases for African and Latin America'. After the adoption of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection, the event proceeded by launching flagship training materials: Manual on Consumer Protection; Competition Glossary on Leniency, and Guidance on Independence and Accountability.

We organized a FASHION SHOW:

We were treated to a spectacular showcase with two displays of the collections of 7 Kenyan designers, with some rousing Kenyan live music by Suzanna Owino during the interval. A marvelous demonstration of Kenya’s creativity, entrepreneurship, and how fashion and biodiversity linkages, including ethical and ecological chic fashion, have an impact on people’s lives.

"The creative industries represent the new frontier of development, moving on from industrialization, commodities exploitation, manufacturing, and now onto the knowledge-based economy," said Mr. Bonapass Onguglo, senior economic affairs officer and chief of the creative industries programme of UNCTAD. "They will widen and deepen opportunities for growth, trade and economic development," he added.

ETHICALLY, ECOLOGICALLY AND SUSTAINABLY CHIC!
We signed a **Fisheries’ Subsidies Declaration** endorsed by 90 countries!

Some 90 countries backed an UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP initiative to signing up to a roadmap towards ending harmful fisheries subsidies.

"Getting 90 countries to sign up to a new initiative in such a short period of time shows both the need for the initiative and the power of UNCTAD in building consensus for meaningful change", UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi said. "I welcome this collaboration with our colleagues at FAO and UNEP, and look forward to engaging the fisheries sector with our trade and economic expertise," he said.

… and prepared an **Exhibition to celebrate 70 years work of United Nations on competition law and policy**: 

On 20 July 2016 at the height of the UNCTAD Fourteenth Ministerial we celebrated the UN's 70 years work on international competition policy and the recent adoption of the UN Guideline for Consumer Protection. The General Assembly designated UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN family on these issues, trusting it will continue to yield ever more effective cooperation among Member State!
We were LIVE on CNBC and KBC!

Briefing on the UNCTAD 14 Ministerial live on CNBC Africa, Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, senior economic affairs officer at DITC, said that the issues discussed at the conference demonstrate how we are contributing to translate decisions to actions - which is the theme of the Ministerial. According to Mr. Onguglo, the conference provided forward thinking of concrete actions on the ground such as ways to facilitate the development of creative economies, green economies, and address trade and gender nexus, among others. The interview discussion also focused on issues related to debt, investment, and means for financing Africa’s own development. The later one “requires to put in place policies and regulatory mechanisms at the national and global levels, and needs intergovernmental collaboration while at the same time provision of financial aid to developing countries and LDCs,” said Mr. Onguglo.

… and we have done MUCH MORE…

EVENTS:

20 Events
75 Panelists mobilized from all regions and spheres of activities (with 30 % women representation)
6 Ministerial Round Tables
   1 High level event
   2 Breakfast meetings
   2 Working lunches
   1 Special event
   1 Fashion Show
3 Events at the Global Services Forum
1 Training session on trade analysis in Africa
3 Parallel events (training on NTMs, trade policy meeting and creative economy)

PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES

45 Policy messages (turned into more than 150 communication pieces pre, during and after each event)

35+ products and deliverables were launched and presented
8 Products on NTMs
7 Products on Competition and Consumer Protection
2 Policy and trade trends
1 Cooperation projects on Gender and Trade
11 Services policies reviews
1 Joint declaration on Fisheries subsidies (signed by 90 countries)
2 MoUs (with UN/WTO, and with Cuba)
1 Exhibition Celebrating “70 years of Competition policy in the UN”

SUPPORTING SERVICES

45 Supporting services produced, including:
15 Speeches
15 Notes for Chair
15 Reports

DITC worked for Team UNCTAD & delivered as one!

This is an unedited publication