The technical cooperation work of the Division on Globalization & Development Strategies is focused primarily on Clusters 10 and 11 and contributes to the achievement of Subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development) of the UNCTAD section of the United Nations' strategic framework.

Let me start with DMFAS, as it is the most important technical cooperation programme in our Division. The Debt Management & Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme successfully completed its previous four-year Strategic Plan in December 2019. Key achievements included improved debt coverage, especially on external and domestic debt, with 95 per cent of supported countries having comprehensive and reliable debt databases with regards to government and government-guaranteed external debt. The programme also contributed to enhanced debt transparency and reporting through assisting countries’ efforts to improve the accessibility and availability of debt information; for example 93 per cent of low- and middle-income countries reported effectively in 2019 to the Debtor Reporting System of the World Bank.

The continued relevance of the DMFAS Programme and its high positive impact in core areas of public debt management relevant to debt data transparency was highlighted by the DMFAS Advisory Group, composed of all member states benefitting from the programme’s support, at its meeting in November 2019. Similarly, donors to the programme stated at the same meeting that the successful implementation of the 2016-2019 Strategy demonstrates the effectiveness and clear added-value of the program. Donors added that ‘In providing its system and support to almost 60 countries, the DMFAS program is a key pillar of debt management efforts globally’.

The programme is now in the first year of its new four-year strategic plan. The plan addresses the serious concerns that have been raised by the international community, including the G20, about the overall outlook for external debt sustainability in developing countries and the related problems with debt data transparency in a number of countries. These concerns remain highly relevant in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. There is broad recognition in the international community that an effective response to COVID-19 by governments requires effective management of a country’s public finances, including its public debt. Good debt management is required for good COVID-19 management. Capacity to record, monitor and report effectively on public debt during the crisis is crucial to mitigate the risks related to debt sustainability while countries need to borrow significantly to address COVID-19 related sanitary and economic crises. This is at the core of the DMFAS Strategic Plan 2020-2023. As such, the Programme can be expected to continue to make an important contribution to improving debt data transparency, decreasing the risks of debt distress, reducing poverty, promoting development and good governance, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We take this opportunity to thank the group of bilateral donors (namely European Union, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and Switzerland) for their continued support to the programme and will welcome support from other countries.

We also continued turning our research and analysis work into policy recommendations and into technical cooperation in the area of debt. In 2019, the Debt & Financial Analysis Unit (DFAU) continued to engage with the Wuhan Economic Globalization Seminar series, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China and UNCTAD since 2004. Since the beginning of the
project, nearly 1000 governmental officials from 89 developing countries and transition economies in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Oceania participated in the programme, organized by the Ministry of Commerce of China, the China–Europe Vocational Training Centre. UNCTAD delivered two seminars in Wuhan in 2019. The first, held from 14-17 October, was entitled ‘Globalization and made in China’, including sessions on industrialization policies, trade under globalization, climate change and structural change. The second, held from 25 to 28 November, was entitled “Financing a Global Green New Deal” with sessions on core policies and reform proposal for a Global Green New Deal, ways to finances these as well as on inclusive growth and gender issues.

Since July 2020, UNCTAD (DFAU) leads a multi-agency project on “Response and Recovery: Mobilising financial resources for development in the time of Covid-19”, in cooperation with UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNECA.

Our work on development strategies has been converted into technical cooperation in various projects. In the framework of the project of South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative, UNCTAD DGDS has made progress in facilitating policy sharing and peer-learning among China and project pilot countries, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The first national consultative meeting was organized in Jakarta in November 2019, with high-level participation from both policy makers and researchers. UNCTAD DGDS shared during the meeting the key findings through a series of research on China’s economic policy making, which was much appreciated by the participants. Eight policy papers on China’s economic policy experiences have also been completed in the areas of macro and finance; trade and industry; digital economy; and debt management and sustainability, which lay a foundation for further research and analysis work for project pilot countries. These papers have been shared widely on UNCTAD BRI Platform. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, UNCTAD DGDS has adjusted project priorities to include the content on combating pandemic related economic policies in China and pilot countries. The pandemic also disrupted some scheduled project activities, and UNCTAD DGDS is now coordinating with national partners to organize a series of online project events.

In the framework of the project Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa, UNCTAD DGDS has been undertaking several activities that contribute to strengthen regional integration and coordination of industrial policy in the SADC region. Inter alias, UNCTAD DGDS organized a series of workshops with the specific objective to strengthen industrial policy capacity and facilitate policy dialogue. Specific attention was posed to the key sectors previously identified by UNCTAD DGDS together with Southern Africa’s governments (agro-processing, mining machinery and energy provision). Preliminary impact evaluation suggests that the joint efforts which led to the identification of the policies and the preparation of the workshops were successful. UNCTAD DGDS is now carrying on a series of follow-up activities upon country request aiming at improving the industrial policy strategic framework (in Mauritius) and facilitate the development of specific value chains (in Tanzania and Mozambique). UNCTAD DGDS is also working on a series of papers aiming at analyzing the key structural challenges posed by the Covid-19 emergency to the economies of the region and the most effective policy responses. Meanwhile, in the context of the OECD initiative on GVCs, productive transformation and development, UNCTAD DGDS in cooperation with the OECD Development Centre, UNIDO and several regional UN agencies is producing a series or Productive Transformation Policy Reviews. After the completion of the reports of Chile, Colombia and Dominican Republic, Egypt is now under review.
Subprogramme 1 also received a request for technical cooperation from the Eurasian Economic Commission related to the SDG 7 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 17 (International cooperation and regional integration policies). The aim of the technical cooperation was to strengthen the research capacity and create a database on inclusive growth of the five countries comprising the Eurasian Economic Union. The database was created and used for an assessment in terms of inclusiveness of growth bases on a composite inclusive growth index, developed jointly by UNCTAD and the Eurasian Economic Commission. The results of the project were published in “Inclusive Growth of the Eurasian Economic Union Member States: assessments and opportunities”, and presented at a side-event during the Trade and Development Board in June, 2019.

Our Statistics Branch has a number of projects, most of them with other UN and non-UN organizations and entities. First, there is a Joint UNCTAD - UEMOA project to improve Trade in Services. Final stage is making excellent progress. IT system is being developed and should be ready by the end of this year. We are in discussions with UEMOA about how to conduct roll-out with COVID restrictions. Actual delivery of IT system may be delayed until 2021 as we haven’t been able to find a viable virtual solution. But no final decision has been taken yet.

**Joint DSIB – TrainForTrade e-learning**
The e-learning for merchandise and services trade continue to grow from strength to strength. In the past 2 years, 2019-2020 more than 2,800 participants from more than 170 countries have availed of the course. 52% of participants were female. Although designed with developing countries in mind, we have seen in the past 2 years growing subscriptions from NSOs and ministries in developed countries, including USA and Europe.

**Joint UNCTAD – UNODC – UNECA – ESCAP Illicit Financial Flows**
The first phase of this project, design of conceptual framework is now concluding. A joint UNCTAD – UNODC publication is currently being prepared. A summary of this work has been reported to the GA and is also summarized in this years’ SDG Pulse. Work on phase 2, the development of specific methodologies for countries to test has begun. Actual roll-out will not begin until containment measures and travel restrictions are lifted.

**Joint UNCTAD – UNECA – UNECE – UN Women Gender in Trade**
This project has begun well. The conceptual and methodological work is progressing well. UNCTAD has already published 2 policy briefs arising from this work, along with a report ‘Gender and Trade’ published jointly with the ILO, the European Commission and UN Women. 2 research papers have also been published. The next phase, testing in countries, will again depend on containment measures and travel restrictions.

**Joint UNCTAD - UEMOA project to improve Trade in Services**
Final stage is making excellent progress. IT system is being developed and should be ready by the end of this year. We are in discussions with UEMOA about how to conduct roll-out with COVID restrictions. Actual delivery of IT system may be delayed until 2021 as we haven’t been able to find a viable virtual solution. But no final decision has been taken yet.

**Joint DSIB – TrainForTrade e-learning**
The e-learning for merchandise and services trade continue to grow from strength to strength. In the past 2 years, 2019-2020 more than 2,800 participants from more than 170 countries have availed of the course. 52% of participants were female. Although designed with developing
countries in mind, we have seen in the past 2 years growing subscriptions from NSOs and ministries in developed countries, including USA and Europe.

The first phase of this project, design of conceptual framework is now concluding. A joint UNCTAD – UNODC publication is currently being prepared. A summary of this work has been reported to the GA and is also summarized in this years SDG Pulse. Work on phase 2, the development of specific methodologies for countries to test has begun. Actual roll-out will not begin until containment measures and travel restrictions are lifted.

Joint UNCTAD – UNECA – UNECE – UN Women Gender in Trade
This project has begun well. The conceptual and methodological work is progressing well. UNCTAD has already published 2 policy briefs arising from this work, along with a report ‘Gender and Trade’ published jointly with the ILO, the European Commission and UN Women. 2 research papers have also been published. The next phase, testing in countries, will again depend on containment measures and travel restrictions.

We are proud to have been providing technical cooperation to Palestine for many years. For over four decades, UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people through policy-oriented research, the implementation of capacity-building and technical cooperation projects, the provision of advisory services and the promotion of international consensus on the economic development needs of the Palestinian people and how to mitigate the impact of the occupation on their economy.

In 2019, UNCTAD continued its support to the Palestinian people in coordination with PNA, Palestinian civil society, international organizations, donors and the United Nations Country Team.

In 2019 and 2020, UNCTAD updated its macro-econometric model of the Palestinian economy and enhanced its capacity to respond to different requests for support and advisory services to Palestinian public and private sector institutions. UNCTAD continued to provide advisory services to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Forecasting Unit, which uses UNCTAD macro-econometric and is run by professional staff trained by UNCTAD. PCBS forecasts are used by the Ministry of Finance for budget preparations and by other Palestinian agencies for forecasting and scenario analysis. Most recently the model was used by PCBS to project the economy under different COVID-19 scenarios. Furthermore, in April and May 2020, UNCTAD provided Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) with a series of advisory services on modelling and assessing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNCTAD continued its dialogue with the Palestinian Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the donor community, to (i) reintroduce UNCTAD’s Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) to enhance the quality and scope of Palestinian public financial management; and (ii) establish a new round of cooperation to modernize and update the version of ASYCUDA World (Automated Systems for Customs Data) presently used by Palestinian Customs.

Finally, within the work of the Virtual Institute, in late 2018 and early 2019, we partnered with Global Development Policy Center of Boston University and Rockefeller Brothers Fund to craft a series of workshops and consultations among stakeholders from the global policy, advocacy, and research communities.
The outcome of these efforts, the report, “A New Multilateralism for Shared Prosperity”, synthesized those efforts and advanced a set of “Geneva Principles for a Global Green New Deal” and was launched in Washington DC on April 12 alongside the spring World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings.

Furthermore, the 2019 UNCTAD Summer School, which was attended by 70 participants from developing countries in August 2019, was organized around the theme of global Green New Deal and generated significant interest in member States and among the general public in raising awareness of the possibility of a new deal.

As part of the project, three workshops were organized on the topic of Green New Deal in New York in collaboration with the New School, in Cape Town, South Africa in partnership with Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, and in Mexico in partnership with Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico-UNAM).

The objective of these workshops was to disseminate the messages, i.e., the goals and principles of Global Green New Deal and hence popularize a narrative and set of guiding principles to help rethink the aims, rules and governance structures for international economic cooperation in general and the multilateral trade and investment regime in particular. Bringing in a wide set of stakeholders, including civil society and labour representatives, was an important part of this exercise with the aim of creating a network of advocates for economic justice and environmental sustainability around the global green new deal narrative.

Looking forward, we will continue to adjust our technical cooperation to the evolving economic situation of developing countries, given the still uncertain trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic. More broadly, the economic and the public health crises of 2020 are making it even more difficult for developing countries to achieve SDGs by 2030. Our Trade and Development Report 2020, to be launched next week on 22 September, is providing policy recommendations on how to avoid mistakes which were made after the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. We hope that donors will recognize the importance of these issues and accompany us in the provision of technical cooperation to developing countries to help them cope with the current crisis and enable them to achieve SDGs.