



Technical assistance by the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC)

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UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

- The EIF is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for the least developed countries.
- UNCTAD carried out 8 DTIS
- UNCTAD long advocated the need for a regional dimension in the Framework that was finally introduced in its second phase in 2016 which “permits projects that have a regional dimension – i.e., involve implementation in more than one least developed country”
- UNCTAD initiative in the Djibouti Addis corridor and West Africa on transit transport and trade facilitation
- In addition UNCTAD has implemented the Benin Trade policy complement and the Gambia and Burkina Faso Trade mainstreaming projects

Market access and rules of origin (RoO)

Context: LDCs are granted preferential tariff treatment under several arrangements. However such instruments are not fully utilized due to RoO and limited supply capacity

- UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute (EUI), Florence organized:
 1. One workshop for LDC Geneva-based delegates in preparation for the Committee on Rules of Origin in October
 2. One executive training seminar on rules of origin in international trade in May.
- Moreover, UNCTAD carried out a number of field missions to Cambodia and Myanmar on market access regulations.
- In collaboration with the Swedish Board of Trade, the publication *“Preference Utilization in the European Union’s Free Trade Agreements”*
- UNCTAD also conducted research on the WTO draft on harmonized non-preferential RoO, with the EUI. The study, is entitled *«Rules of Origin as Non-tariff Measures: Towards Greater Regulatory Convergence»*

Geographical indications (GIs)

Context: UNCTAD provides support on GIs to enhance export diversification and specialization

- ***Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications***, held by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce of China in Yangzhou, China, from 29 June to 1 July.
- UNCTAD was also invited by the City of Bergamo, Italy, to participate in the **Group of 7 Geographical Indications Conference** in October, where the **Bergamo Declaration** on Geographical Indications was finalized and validated
- Furthermore, several consultations with partner institutions and Governments were held to ensure future projects. These efforts secured a **thematic workshop** on GIs for LDC delegates to be held in 2018 with the EUI, FAO and WIPO
- Under the Benin UNCTAD developed the GI's Code of Practice for **"Gari Sohoui"** from Savalou, that was validated in November 2017.



Support to graduation from least developed country status

Context. For decades, helping least developed countries bring to fruition the milestone of graduation from least developed country status has been an important goal of UNCTAD.

- **BEFORE** an LDC is officially considered a graduation case, we assist it in preparing its inputs to the next triennial review of the list of LDCs. This involves a Vulnerability profile of the country, to highlight the main shocks beyond domestic control which the economy is faced with, and the extent to which there has been structural economic progress in the country despite these shocks
- **AFTER** the General Assembly has decided to endorse a recommendation to graduate a given LDC, the graduating country receives UNCTAD's assistance in preparing a "smooth transition strategy"
- Countries presently benefiting from UNCTAD's assistance in this field are **Angola, Bhutan, and Vanuatu**

UNCTAD Landlocked LDCs Section

- ❖ UNCTAD LLDC section has been implementing two major Technical Assistance Projects.
 - A First project relates to building the capacity of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fisheries sectors,
 - A second project on benchmarking and measuring productive capacities in LLDCs for evidence-based policy-making
- ❖ A third project is focusing on a country specific approach thanks to EU funding
 - Based on the experience of the multi-sector, multi-year project implemented jointly by the EU and UNCTAD in Angola, there is a growing shift away from a project-focus to a wider programme-focus in technical assistance and capacity-building activities