

## 63<sup>rd</sup> Working Party on the Programme Budget

### Proposed Programme Narrative for the Biennium 2014-2015

#### Sub Programme 1: Globalisation and Interdependence

##### Objectives and expected accomplishments

1. UNCTAD's work on globalization and interdependence is **implemented** by the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS).
2. The **overall objective** reflects the broad perspective that the Organization adopts in this sub-programme, which relates development strategies, the enabling environment at all levels and growth, inclusive development and poverty eradication within one coherent goal.
3. The work-programme is organized around **four** distinct expected accomplishments. To achieve these four accomplishments, a total of **nine** indicators have been established to track in a concrete, quantifiable manner the impact of the activities conducted under this sub-programme.
4. The **nine** performance measures adopted are those that best capture or reflect the impact and effectiveness of the sub-programme's complex activities, through quantitative monitoring of gradually increasing:
  - Number of pertinent statements by policy makers and beneficiaries
  - Number of pertinent media citations
  - Number coordinated UNCTAD activities
  - Number of universities using virtual academic services
  - Number of institutions/countries using capacity-building services
  - Number of pertinent international and national policy positions/initiatives
  - Number of countries using statistical services
  - Number of institutions using statistical data
  - Number of development initiatives in response to programme services

5. The targets established for the performance measures reflect past trends and reasonable expectations for future performance, taking into consideration the external factors (mentioned in para 24) which list the potential constraints to a fully satisfactory performance in different areas.

### **Highlights of programmed activities/outputs in 2014-2015**

6. The categories, titles and number of activities/outputs remain largely unchanged from previous biennium, if anything decreasing slightly to reflect continuing control over number of publications and careful use of limited resources expert meeting resources.
7. The Division organizes its work within **seven** Branches/Programmes/Units serving the different **expected accomplishments** in an integrated, coordinated and broad team effort, with available post and non-post resources allocated accordingly:
8. **Under EA (a): *Improved understanding of the global economic environment...*, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch is responsible for indicators **(a) (i)** and **(a) (ii)****
9. Trade and Development Report is the major output regarding this accomplishment and may be seen as "the premier flagship", of UNCTAD. The work in relation to this accomplishment has been challenging, externally, in view of the difficult evolution of the global economy, and internally, given the limited resources for the preparation of such a flagship publication as the TDR.
10. Specific topics of forthcoming TDRs and related research depend on developments in the world economy and related emerging development challenges, which are identified by the secretariat in the course of its constant monitoring of the issues. Continued priority will be given to analysis of interdependence between global macroeconomic issues and trade and development of developing economies Special attention to progress in bringing greater coherence of the global economic governance system, with

developing country interest in the reform of the international monetary and financial system remains at the heart of work.

11. UNCTAD has been requested to play a more active role among international organizations in providing advisory services to the G-20 Finance Ministers track in a number of issues related to macroeconomic and development policies, including employment, global economic governance, global imbalances and capital flows, and commodity price volatility.
12. **Under EA (a)**, the Economic Cooperation and Integration Among Developing Countries Unit is responsible for indicator **(a) (iii)**. As one of the two new components of Sub-programme 1, we will concentrate on two tracks of work: a series of analytical studies on South-South cooperation and regional integration and servicing the four Multi-Year Expert Meetings on South-South Cooperation, organized collaboratively with other Divisions according to substantive focus. Full integration of this component into DGDS in the forthcoming biennium will encourage new synergies with other sub-programme components, especially macroeconomic policies and development strategies as well as debt and development finance.
13. **Under EA (a)** another new component of this sub-programme, the Virtual Institute, is responsible for indicator **(a) (iv)**. To help achieve "Increased understanding of the global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustained development at the national, regional and international levels", it is also important for countries to have university-educated experts knowledgeable of "trade and development" issues, and to have academic institutions which can offer such education and also supply policy-relevant analysis to the government to underpin economic policies. For this reason, Virtual Institute works with universities and research institutes in developing and transition countries to enhance their teaching and research capacities and increase the policy orientation of their work.
14. **Under EA (b): *Progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems...***, the Debt and Development Finance Branch is responsible for indicator **(b) (i)**.

Pursuant to various UN General Assembly resolutions and mandates stipulated by UNCTAD conferences, the secretariat prepares the General Assembly report on external debt sustainability and development and provides substantive support to the intergovernmental debate of the GA on debt. Furthermore research and analytical work in the area of debt and development finance will continue on topics of concern to developing countries, such as the impact of the financial crisis, debt sustainability issues, ODA, etc. Efforts will be redoubled as well to synergize research work with promoting principles and best practices of sovereign financing and technical assistance in debt management and Paris Club advisory services to developing countries.

15. **Under EA (b)**, The DMFAS Programme is responsible for indicator **(b) (ii)**. Since the global financial crisis, the DMFAS Programme has widened its scope to encompass management of all domestic and external public debt, as well as private external debt. The new web-based and modular DMFAS version 6, for example, incorporates the latest features and functionalities requested by countries and its development is ongoing to serve the future needs of debt management offices in developing countries. Every biennium, UNCTAD organizes a UNCTAD Debt Management Conference which is the forum to debate the latest findings of analytical work on debt, issues relating debt management, risk management, etc.
  
16. **Under EA (c): *Improved access to reliable and timely statistics...***, the Development Statistics and Information Branch is responsible for indicators **(c) (i)** and **(c) (ii)**. Reliable statistical information is often the first step when preparing recommendations or taking decisions that will commit countries for many years as they strive to integrate into the world economy. Whether it be for research, consultation or technical cooperation, comparable economic, demographic and social data are essential. UNCTAD will continue: to strengthen its statistical outputs; to further develop its statistical information system; and to assist developing countries and economies in transition to improve their statistical capacities in the area of trade and development.

17. Under **EA (d): *Improved Palestinian policy and institutional capacities...***, the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit is responsible for indicator **(d)**. The secretariat will endeavour to fulfil the expanded mandate of paragraph 31.m of the Doha Mandate. Specifically UNCTAD XIII requested the Secretariat to assess the economic development prospects and to examine the obstacles to trade and development in the occupied Palestinian territory. This will be done through our annual report to the Board and the in-depth sectoral studies that we produce annually as well. We are also expected ensure effective operational activities towards building an independent Palestinian State, and alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people, which APPU will continue to coordinate, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resource.
  
18. The three pillars of our work in this area will contribute to building the institutional capacity of the Palestinian public and private sectors and to building the international and regional consensus on alleviating the adverse conditions imposed on the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent state. However, to maintain and build on UNCTAD's achievements and to fulfil Doha expanded mandate, securing additional resources will be necessary.