



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
3 September 2020

English only

Trade and Development Board
Working Party on the Strategic Framework
and the Programme Budget
Eightieth session
Geneva, 14–16 September 2020
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the technical cooperation activities
of UNCTAD and their financing**

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD


Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2019*

* This document has not been formally edited.

GE.20-11427(E)



* 2 0 1 1 4 2 7 *

Please recycle 



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations	4
Country/territory/region codes	6
Introduction	9
I. Theme A: Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development.....	9
A1 Investment policy reviews	9
A2 Services policy reviews	15
A3 Trade policy framework reviews	16
A4 Science, technology and innovation policy reviews	18
A5 E-commerce and the digital economy.....	20
A6 Investment guides	25
A7 Non-tariff measures	26
A9 Trade negotiations and the international trading system.....	30
A10 Sustainable trade and the environment	38
A11 Investment promotion and facilitation	43
A99 Other	46
1. Trade and creative economy.....	46
2. Voluntary sustainability standards	52
3. Investment trends and issues	54
4. Macroeconomic and development policies	56
5. International cooperation on science, technology and innovation under the auspices of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.....	61
II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience.....	62
B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status	63
B2 DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System.....	67
B4 UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework	70
B5 Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries.....	73
B6 Breaking the chains of commodity dependence	79
B9 Sustainable and resilient transport and logistics services	81
B99 Other	85
1. Assistance to the Palestinian people.....	85
2. Productive capacity-building in vulnerable economies.....	88
3. Trade-related capacity-building in the least developed countries	95
III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance.....	96
C1 Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies	96
C2 Business facilitation	99
C3 Trade facilitation.....	101

C4	ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data	105
C5	Statistics.....	113
C7	Enabling accounting and reporting on the private sector’s contribution to implementation of the Sustainable Development goals	115
C8	Investment and public health	119
C9	International investment agreements	121
C10	Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks	125
C99	Other	131
	1. Capital markets and responsible investment	131
	2. Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization	133
IV.	Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future	134
D1	Trade, gender and development.....	134
D3	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development.....	138
D6	Train for Trade	148
D99	Other	156
	1. Management and coordination	156
	2. Virtual Institute	157
	3. Course on key issues on the international economic agenda – paragraph 166	157

Abbreviations

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DFQF	duty free and quota free
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
DTIS	Diagnostic trade integration study
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GSTP	Generalized System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
IFFs	illicit financial flows
IIA	international investment agreement
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPR	investment policy review
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	least developed country
LLDCs	landlocked developing countries
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MSMEs	microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	small island developing States
SIGADE	Sistema de Gestión y Análisis de la Deuda
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Country/territory/region codes

AFG	Afghanistan	COI	Comoros
ALB	Albania	COL	Colombia
ALG	Algeria	COS	Costa Rica
ANG	Angola	CPR	China
ANL	Anguilla	CUB	Cuba
ANT	Antigua and Barbuda	CVI	Cabo Verde
ARG	Argentina	CZE	Czechia
ARM	Armenia	DJI	Djibouti
ARU	Aruba	DMI	Dominica
AZE	Azerbaijan	DOM	Dominican Republic
BAH	Bahrain	DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
BAR	Barbados	ECU	Ecuador
BDI	Burundi	EGY	Egypt
BEN	Benin	ELS	El Salvador
BER	Bermuda	EQG	Equatorial Guinea
BES	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	ERI	Eritrea
BGD	Bangladesh	EST	Estonia
BHU	Bhutan	ETH	Ethiopia
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Europe
BKF	Burkina Faso	FIJ	Fiji
BOL	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	GAB	Gabon
BOT	Botswana	GAM	Gambia
BRA	Brazil	GBS	Guinea-Bissau
BRU	Brunei Darussalam	GEO	Georgia
BUL	Bulgaria	GHA	Ghana
BYE	Belarus	GIB	Gibraltar
BZE	Belize	GLO	Global
CAF	Central African Republic	GRN	Grenada
CHD	Chad	GUA	Guatemala
CHI	Chile	GUI	Guinea
CMB	Cambodia	GUY	Guyana
CMR	Cameroon	HAI	Haiti

HON	Honduras	MOT	Montserrat
HUN	Hungary	MOZ	Mozambique
IND	India	MYA	Myanmar
INS	Indonesia	NAM	Namibia
INT	Interregional	NCA	New Caledonia
IRA	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	NEP	Nepal
IRQ	Iraq	NER	Niger
IVC	Côte d'Ivoire	NIC	Nicaragua
JAM	Jamaica	NIR	Nigeria
JOR	Jordan	NIU	Niue
KAZ	Kazakhstan	OMA	Oman
KEN	Kenya	PAK	Pakistan
KIR	Kiribati	PAL	Palestinian Authority
KOR	Republic of Korea	PAN	Panama
KUW	Kuwait	PAR	Paraguay
KYR	Kyrgyzstan	PER	Peru
LAO	Lao People's Democratic Republic	PHI	Philippines
LAT	Latvia	PNG	Papua New Guinea
LEB	Lebanon	POL	Poland
LIB	Libya	PRC	Congo
LIR	Liberia	PUE	Puerto Rico
LIT	Lithuania	QAT	Qatar
LSO	Lesotho	RAF	Africa (regional)
MAG	Madagascar	RAS	Asia and the Pacific (regional)
MAL	Malaysia	RER	Europe (regional)
MAR	Mauritius	RLA	Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)
MAU	Mauritania	ROM	Romania
MCD	North Macedonia	RUS	Russian Federation
MDV	Maldives	RWA	Rwanda
MEX	Mexico	SAF	South Africa
MLI	Mali	SAM	Samoa
MLW	Malawi	SAU	Saudi Arabia
MOL	Republic of Moldova	SEN	Senegal
MON	Mongolia	SEY	Seychelles
MOR	Morocco	SIL	Sierra Leone

SIN	Singapore	TIM	Timor-Leste
SLO	Slovakia	TOG	Togo
SOI	Solomon Islands	TON	Tonga
SOM	Somalia	TUK	Turkmenistan
SPM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	TUN	Tunisia
SRL	Sri Lanka	TUR	Turkey
STH	Saint Helena	TUV	Tuvalu
STK	Saint Kitts and Nevis	UAE	United Arab Emirates
STL	Saint Lucia	UGA	Uganda
STP	Sao Tome and Principe	UKR	Ukraine
STV	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	URT	United Republic of Tanzania
SUD	Sudan	URU	Uruguay
SUR	Suriname	UZB	Uzbekistan
SVN	Slovenia	VAN	Vanuatu
SWA	Eswatini	VEN	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
SYR	Syrian Arab Republic	VIE	Viet Nam
TAJ	Tajikistan	YEM	Yemen
TCI	Turks and Caicos Islands	ZAM	Zambia
THA	Thailand	ZIM	Zimbabwe

Introduction

1. This annex provides a description of the main technical cooperation projects undertaken by UNCTAD in 2019. It is presented in accordance with the four themes specified in the *UNCTAD Toolbox*: transforming economies, fostering sustainable development; tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience; fostering economic efficiency, improving governance; and empowering people, investing in their future. Under each theme, there are a number of products around which projects are grouped. For projects that are not linked with any of the 28 *Toolbox* products, they are reported under the category “Other” of the pertinent theme. A table showing the individual projects implemented under each product and under the category “Other” of each theme is provided. The technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which draw on research conducted by UNCTAD and on policy suggestions arising from the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Theme A: Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development

2. Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals requires building productive capacity and transforming economies by shifting resources to more productive and sustainable sectors and enhancing their competitiveness. Investment, trade and technology are important channels for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation. Trade and trade-related investment, combined with technology upgrading, could enable countries to improve productivity, develop productive capacities and climb regional and global value chains.

3. UNCTAD technical cooperation helps developing countries attract foreign direct investment (FDI) towards sectors that would lead to economic transformation and sustainable development; better integrate into regional and global value chains; and foster the nexus between trade, productive capacity and employment. It also supports these countries in formulating a services-driven development strategy, developing electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy, promoting sustainable trade and leveraging science, technology and innovation for productive capacity-building.

4. In this section, 10 products under the theme “Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development” are reported on. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2019 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked to any of the existing 10 products under this thematic area, are reported on under “Other”.

A1 Investment policy reviews

Table A1
Investment policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/0T/3AW	Examen des Politiques d’Investissement et Programme de Suivi	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN

5. **Development Context.** To fully reap their associated benefits for development, which are not automatic nor evenly spread across countries, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows should be directed towards activities and projects that lead to enhanced economic and social development. To support beneficiary countries in their efforts to diversify the economy, attract higher levels of FDI and promote sustainable development, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment: The Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs). The Reviews, which are country-specific, provide action-oriented policy advice and concrete recommendations. To foster their implementation and further build capacity for investment policymaking, UNCTAD provides follow-up support through technical assistance activities.

6. **Objectives and features.** The IPR process promotes ownership and learning, and is conducted in five phases:

(a) Ensuring government ownership of the IPR process. A Review begins at the request of a government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and the entire government takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

(b) IPR evaluation and advisory report. The diagnostic phase includes desk research and a fact-finding mission by UNCTAD technical staff. Policymakers at the highest level and a wide range of stakeholders are brought into the process, including line ministries and agencies, universities and other research institutions. Interviews and consultations are also held with representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and the donor community active in the country.

(c) Dialogue on IPR recommendations and intergovernmental review. Once the draft report is ready, beneficiary countries agree to go through a review process which includes a national stakeholders' workshop to discuss the findings of the draft report and review its recommendations. It is followed by an intergovernmental peer review, which draws upon the experiences of other countries in attracting and benefiting from investment, including benchmarking against international best practices.

(d) Implementation and follow-up technical assistance. The review process is designed with one key purpose: making FDI work for sustainable development. The finalization and publication of the IPR report is the preamble to the core focus of the programme, namely the delivery of technical assistance to help beneficiary countries meet their development objectives by attracting higher levels and more diversified types of FDI inflows, whilst maximizing their developmental benefits and limiting potentially negative impact. The implementation phase is carried out through short-term action plans and multi-agency medium-term technical assistance.

(e) Implementation report and additional follow-up actions. About five years after the completion of the Review, UNCTAD conducts an assessment of implementation of its recommendations and explores the need for further technical assistance.

7. **Outputs.** In 2019, the main outputs delivered by the programme included:

(a) Preparation and publication of the IPRs of Angola, Armenia, Chad and Côte d'Ivoire.

(b) Organization of two intergovernmental presentations for the IPRs of Armenia and Chad.

(c) Preparation and publication of the report on the implementation of the IPR of Nepal.

(d) Background research for the IPR of Seychelles as well as for the implementation reports of t Mongolia and the Republic of Moldova.

(e) Technical assistance activities and advisory services to support the implementation of the IPR recommendations and to deal more effectively with issues related to investment policies, promotion strategies, international investment agreements and business facilitation. The beneficiaries from these activities included, at the country level, Angola, Armenia, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Seychelles. Regional activities on capacity-

building for investment policymaking have also been delivered, targeting notably French-speaking African countries.

8. The following activities were implemented in 2019 at the country level and for group of countries:

9. *Angola.* UNCTAD finalized the preparation of the IPR of Angola. In addition to undertaking background research and analysis to draft the report, UNCTAD has conducted a fact-finding mission, in March 2019, to gather all the information to complete the draft report. During the mission, it met with a wide range of stakeholders, including from the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and development partners. The mission also provided the opportunity for capacity-building on investment policymaking and best practices. The draft was completed in July 2019 and shared with the Government for comments and suggestions. It was finalized after a national workshop which took place in Luanda in September 2019. The workshop was followed by a two-day capacity-building training in investment for development, covering issues related to the country's investment law, its content and implementation. The Government endorsed the IPR recommendations and committed, within the context of the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II project, to implement them. The report was published, in English and Portuguese, in December 2019.

10. *Armenia.* The country's IPR was completed in 2019. Following the fact-finding mission, which took place in March-April, the draft IPR was finalized and shared with the Government in September, prior to a national workshop, which was organized in early October 2019. The IPR provided an opportunity for a broad-based dialogue on investment policy issues and on overall objectives for the Government to achieve through increased FDI inflows. The IPR was published in December 2019, following an intergovernmental discussion of the report at UNCTAD in November. The representatives of the Government of Armenia praised the work done by UNCTAD in the IPR and committed to implementing the recommendations. UNCTAD member States and representatives of the private sector and development partners also congratulated the secretariat for the IPR and the Government for committing to improve the country's investment environment.

11. *Cabo Verde.* Following the publication of the IPR of Cabo Verde in 2019, UNCTAD continued its cooperation with the country to support the implementation of the recommendations. In this context, UNCTAD participated in an interagency mission in October-November 2019 to elaborate the content of the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) and the Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF) for the country. As Cabo Verde is part of the group of volunteers to pilot the INFF, the mission was notably guided by a request of the Prime Minister of the country to UNCTAD for continued technical assistance in the implementation of IPR recommendations related to business operations, linkages, investment promotion and entrepreneurship development.

12. *Chad.* A national workshop was held in N'Djamena, in February 2019 to share the findings and recommendations of the draft IPR. At the workshop, stakeholders in the public and private sector, civil society, academia and development partners exchanged on the main challenges and issues related to investment in the country. Following the publication of the IPR, which reflected the rich discussions held in N'Djamena, the IPR was presented at an intergovernmental meeting in Geneva on 12 November 2019. The Government delegation was led by the Minister of mining, industrial and commercial development and private sector promotion. She stressed the importance of the Review, as it provides a comprehensive overview of Chad's economic strengths and weaknesses. She committed to the implementation of the recommendations and highlighted measures that had already been adopted to enhance the capacities of the investment promotion agency, operationalize the normalization agency and reinforce public-private partnerships. A representative of the ministry stressed that additional measures were being taken to support the implementation of the report's recommendations, including in the areas of competition, human capital, trade, corruption, entrepreneurship, special economic zones and business establishment. He also emphasized that new entities had been created to guide business reforms and requested UNCTAD's assistance in the implementation of the IPR recommendations and the introduction of an UNCTAD eRegulations programme for the country.

13. *Côte d'Ivoire*. Following a request from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNCTAD undertook the preparation of the country's IPR. The process included a scoping mission in February 2019 to discuss with stakeholders the strategic focus of the report. It was followed by a fact-finding mission in June-July to gather all relevant information to draft the report. A national workshop was held in Abidjan on 25 November 2019 to share the findings and recommendations of the report with a wide range of stakeholders, including public and private sectors representatives, civil society, academia and development partners. The report was completed and submitted for publication in December 2019. The IPR focuses on attracting more investment, increasing the value addition derived from it, and ensuring that it is distributed more evenly within the country, so as to address the most pressing development issues facing Ivorians. The IPR will be presented at an intergovernmental meeting in Geneva during the first half of 2021.

14. *Kenya*. UNCTAD provided comments and inputs on the draft Kenya Investment Policy (KIP). Prepared by the Government of Kenya, in close cooperation with the World Bank and UNCTAD, the KIP was adopted in November 2019. The document is the framework that drives policy actions to attract and grow investment in Kenya, both from local and foreign sources.

15. *Lebanon*. The IPR of Lebanon was launched at a high-level event held in the Grand Serail (the Prime Minister's Office) on 6 March 2019. The event was attended by a cross-section of the senior leadership of Lebanon, including ministers and directors-general from different ministries and the Prime Minister's office, and representatives of development partners, including ambassadors, and private sector. The timeliness and relevance of the IPR and its recommendations were highlighted by all stakeholders, who indicated that it should serve as a guiding tool. A series of bilateral meetings also took place to present the findings of the IPR and discuss the next steps for the implementation of the recommendations. These were held with the President of the Council of Ministers and several ministers. In parallel, a capacity-building training on the revision of the investment law was held on 5 and 7 March with the participation of several governmental entities and the private sector. The content of the training was directly in line with the recommendations of the IPR.

16. *Mongolia*. At the request of the Government, UNCTAD started preparing the assessment of the degree to which the recommendations of the IPR, completed in 2013, have been implemented. A fact-finding mission is expected to take place in 2020 to fill data and information gaps and finalize the assessment. In the meantime, UNCTAD also contributed inputs and comments to the preparation of the National Investment Policy (NIP) of Mongolia. The process, driven by the investment promotion agency, also involves notably the World Bank. It is expected that the NIP will be completed in 2020 and submitted to adoption to the Government.

17. *Nepal*. At the request of the Government, UNCTAD assessed the degree to which the recommendations of the IPR, completed in 2003, have been implemented. A fact-finding mission to Kathmandu took place at the end of May 2019 and the IPR team met with a wide range of stakeholders to gather all relevant information on reforms undertaken to improve the investment environment. The mission also enabled UNCTAD to exchange with stakeholders on new and emerging challenges faced by the country and on actions that could be taken to meet the SDGs. The Report on the implementation of the IPR, completed at the end of year, summarizes the main findings as well as some actions proposed to further reform and improve the investment regime in the country. The report was completed in December 2019.

18. *Republic of Moldova*. UNCTAD participated, by video link, in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) retreat to discuss the preparation of the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) and the Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF) for the Republic of Moldova. The discussion was informed by the IPR of the country which was published in 2013 as well as the analysis of the IPR South-East Europe completed in 2017.

19. *Serbia*. UNCTAD briefed a Serbian Delegation on investment policymaking issues and on the analysis and recommendations of the IPR of South-East Europe. The meeting,

which took place through video link in June 2019, also discussed best practices for investment attraction and for enhancing its impact for development.

20. *Seychelles*. In 2019, UNCTAD launched the preparation of the Investment Policy Review of Seychelles. To this end, it undertook a scoping mission to Seychelles in May to exchange with national stakeholders on key issues affecting the investment environment and limiting the capacity of the country to benefit more from foreign direct investment. On the occasion, UNCTAD also conducted a capacity-building event on investment policies for development and best practices. The IPR of Seychelles should be finalized by the end of 2020.

21. *French-speaking African countries*. On 4 July 2019, UNCTAD participated in the annual conference of the Réseau international des agences francophones de promotion des investissements. Organized in Morocco (Rabat), the meeting took place under the theme “Industrialization in French-speaking countries: territorial attractiveness”. The presentation made by UNCTAD highlighted the importance of conducting investment promotion activities in line with defined objectives, notably the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, designing them with a view to fostering South-South exchanges and measuring their results and impact against the defined objectives. The meeting gathered more than 100 participants, including from French-speaking investment promotion agencies in Africa and many representatives from other United Nations agencies (UNDP and UNIDO), Government, private sector and civil society.

22. **Results and impact.** Overall, the IPRs have played a key role to strengthen the investment policies and strategies of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This has enabled them to attract higher levels of FDI and derive larger development gains, while minimizing as much as possible the potential costs, in line with the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD). Furthermore, many activities to support the implementation of the IPR recommendations have been undertaken under the programme. Evidence of impact can be illustrated at three levels – country commitment and endorsement of recommendations, implementation of IPR recommendations as well as impact on investment flows and the investment environment.

Commitment at the highest level and endorsement of recommendations

23. The importance and relevance of the IPR work is reflected by the involvement of Heads of State or Government in the process and their commitment to implement its outcome. In most cases, the IPRs have been presented to and discussed with Heads of State and cabinet ministers. Development partners have also directly expressed their interest, as the following endorsements received throughout 2019 show:

(a) “The core of future investment policy amendments will be based on the IPR”. Minister of Economy of Armenia (4 October 2019, Yerevan).

(b) “UNCTAD’s recommendations will be instrumental to implement a reform agenda through the prism of the SDGs”. Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia (12 November 2019, Geneva).

(c) “We, in Kyrgyzstan, did the review and the IPR outcomes were instrumental for improving the investment climate and achieve development outcomes”. Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations (12 November 2019, Geneva).

(d) “The IPR programme is not only at the core of UNCTAD’s mandate, it is highly useful for moving forward in the path towards the SDGs.” Representative of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (12 November 2019, Geneva).

(e) “The IPR has uncovered many potential ideas for value chain development. We believe the report will help the country to attract quality investment in the path of sustainable development”. Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply of Nepal (12 November 2019, Geneva).

(f) “The IPR provides national Governments with tailored policy recommendations. It will assist the Government of Chad to improve the investment policy

environment and achieve development objectives”. First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Sudan to the United Nations (12 November 2019, Geneva).

(g) “The IPR is an objective and substantive document, with well targeted recommendations and it will help Chad to improve its investment climate”. Counsellor Minister of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (12 November 2019, Geneva).

Implementation of IPR recommendations

24. Another benchmark of the impact of IPRs is the extent to which governments find the recommendations useful and have implemented them.

25. UNCTAD published 17 implementation reports (Benin, Botswana, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Nepal, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) by 2019.

26. Based on the 15 countries that had been reviewed by 2017, UNCTAD undertook a stocktaking exercise (Implementation Reports: Lessons learned, UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2018/3). The exercise shows that beneficiary countries have been active reformers, with all of them implementing or partially implementing over 80 per cent of the recommendations contained in their IPR (they have made efforts to implement 360 of 442 total recommendations). In some economies, this figure rises to 96 per cent. Given that almost half of the implementation reports were published more than four years ago, the total number of implemented reforms could today be even higher.

27. A significant number of the recommendations were implemented with the assistance of UNCTAD (about 40 per cent of them). The assistance took different forms, including advisory services on policy, legal, regulatory and institutional matters.

Direct impact on investment flows and improvement of the investment environment

28. It is difficult to assess the correlation between the implementation of an IPR’s recommendations and an increase in FDI flows, although this is one of the principle objectives of the requesting country. Another objective of the review is to improve the quality of FDI and ensure that it contributes more effectively to sustainable development. In this respect, countries could experience a decline in flows but an improvement in the development impact of FDI and the operations of investors. Nevertheless, the 15 countries for whom an implementation report was completed saw their annual FDI inflows increase by an average 206 per cent in the five years following the IPR compared to average annual inflows in the five years before the IPR.

29. It is difficult to compare the FDI performance of the countries that have completed an implementation report, which range widely in geographic location, income level and political context, against a similar panel of economies that had not received an IPR. But within the group of 15 economies used for the stocktaking exercise, it is possible to discern a positive correlation between the increase in FDI flows and the rate of implementation of IPR recommendations: that is, countries that implement more, experience a greater increase in FDI.

30. Another indicator of IPR impact is countries’ commitment to reform as measured by their progress in international business rankings, which assess the operational environment for the private sector. Two thirds of the economies with an implementation report have featured as a top ten reformer in the Doing Business rankings since 2006. Of these, six economies were featured in multiple years.

31. Finally, another way to attest for the overwhelming expression of interest in the IPRs is illustrated by the number of countries that have requested to benefit from the programme, including follow-up technical assistance. Official requests for investment policy reviews are in the pipeline for 27 countries: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Central African Republic, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

A2 Services policy reviews

Table A2
Services policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
No projects			

32. **Development context.** Globally, trade in services reached \$5.8 trillion in 2018. This all-time best confirms the dynamism of services exports, higher than for goods. In developing economies, services' exports grew 7.6 per cent annually between 2005 and 2018, increasing services' direct contribution to total exports from 14 to 17 per cent. These trends come short of reflecting the full importance of trade in services. There is substantial value added of services, which is not captured in this data, incorporated in goods exports, from services intermediate inputs and from services bundled with goods. While services direct exports in 2011 accounted for 14 per cent of total exports in developing economies, services represented a much higher share of the value-added in total exports: 32 per cent. In addition, while directly exported value added has increased, close to two-thirds of the growth of services value-added in exports is due to an increase in services embodied in exports of all sectors. UNCTAD technical cooperation for countries to benefit from services' value added has thus an impact on SDG 17, namely in increasing exports of developing economies and least developed countries. Through these indirect roles, services can induce efficiency and effectiveness, reduce productive and trade barriers, and contribute to more productivity, increased productive and export capacity and higher participation in global value chains. This highlights that services are not an alternative to agriculture or industrial development, but rather provide key means to complement and strengthen agriculture and industrialization strategies. As such, UNCTAD technical cooperation related to services contributes to attaining SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.

33. **Objectives.** UNCTAD conducts Services Policy Reviews (SPRs) to assist developing countries in assessing their services economy and trade and reviewing their existing policy and regulatory frameworks to inform their efforts to formulate best-fit national services regulatory and institutional frameworks to develop competitive productive capabilities in services sector and better engage in international trade negotiations and agreements dealing with services. SPRs serve as a toolkit for assessing the potential of services-related productive capacities and trade in order to identify constraints that may impede development of the services sector and ascertain practical solutions and policy mixes.

34. **Outputs.** UNCTAD provides demand-based assistance on services assessments – services policy reviews, including specific country- and sector-focused services assessments – that examine policy and regulatory frameworks and the potential impact of trade liberalization. Such assessments provide beneficiary countries with the data and information necessary for making informed policy choices about accelerating national services development and about the liberalization and regulation of services sectors at the national, regional and international levels.

35. To date, SPRs have been conducted for Bangladesh, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda and Uganda.¹ In 2019, a national services policy review was initiated at the request of the Government of Morocco. At the request of the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional services policy review was initiated to help to support the deepening of regional integration and negotiations in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). In

¹ Kyrgyzstan, 2010; Nepal, 2010; Uganda (phases I and II), 2010 and 2013; Lesotho, 2012; Nicaragua, 2013; Peru, 2013; Rwanda, 2013; Paraguay, 2014; and Bangladesh (phases I and II), 2015 (see <https://unctad.org/en/conferences/gsf/2013/Pages/documents.aspx>).

2019, UNCTAD received formal requests respectively from Ecuador, Cuba and Malawi to review their services sectors and policies.

36. In 2019, UNCTAD organized and contributed to the following activities:

(a) First National Stakeholder Workshop on the SPR of Morocco (21–22 October, Casablanca, Morocco);

(b) Scoping mission to prepare for the SPR for Morocco (jointly with UNDP, Regional office for Arab States) (7–9 May, Rabat, Morocco).

37. **Results and impacts.** Services Policy Reviews for selected countries are undertaken to assess and improve their policy and regulatory frameworks and trade policies, along with the impact of trade liberalization on specific sectors and countries and trade policy options that advance national sectoral development objectives. SPRs have provided policy recommendations and action plans to implement recommendations, legislative actions, improved institutions and new and innovative strategies to enhance services economy, trade and development. UNCTAD continued to receive requests for support on Services Policy Reviews from a variety of countries (Ecuador, Cuba and Malawi). To meet the needs of these countries, it is necessary to secure adequate funding for technical assistance on Services Policy Reviews.

A3 Trade policy framework reviews

Table A3

Trade policy framework reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/2CT	Training in the least developed countries and developing countries in trade policy formulation	2003–	Norway

38. **Development context.** The comprehensive, development-centred trade policy is an engine for economic growth that can contribute to promoting sustainable development. Effectively done, trade policy can drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including in progressing towards the achievement of SDG 17.11 on increasing the exports of developing countries, Goal 8 (economic growth) and Goal 9 (industry, innovating and infrastructure). Many developing countries, however, have limited capacity to analyse the relationship between trade, productive capacity and employment, assess policy options and formulate and implement adequate national trade policy frameworks.

39. **Objectives.** Developing countries and countries with economies in transition continue to face significant challenges in the formulation of development-oriented trade policy framework that are best-fit to their national circumstances and development needs. UNCTAD devotes particular attention to strengthening the national capacity of policymakers on trade policy formulation. UNCTAD provided support to individual countries in the assessment and reassessment of national trade policy regimes to help them elaborate new comprehensive, development-centred Trade Policy Frameworks. The objective of support is to assess, develop, elaborate and implement a new generation of trade policy measures and strategies as well as to promote and strengthen self-sustainable national institutional capacities on trade policy and negotiations and in participating effectively in, and benefiting from, international trade. These activities contribute to enhancing the understanding of trade policy community of the contribution of trade to economic recovery, growth and sustainable development, and equipping the countries concerned with policy analysis and policy framework that promote policy coherence to support inclusive and sustainable development. Trade Policy Frameworks (TPFs) have helped countries in a systematic, comprehensive, and strategic manner. These TPFs focus on identifying key sectors for diversification with the potential to bring higher economic value, setting the best-fit trade policies to back up those development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and establishing a trade policy framework

to ensure an effective and coherent implementation of such strategies. The reviews provide the tools to policy makers and all stakeholders to enable them to set their own priorities, make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at sectoral level.

40. **Outputs.** UNCTAD assisted beneficiary countries in assessing and preparing MDG/SDG-oriented trade policy frameworks. Up-to-date reviews have been conducted for nine countries (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia)² and focused on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating an enabling environment through the international trading system. These analyses and policy recommendations were reviewed and validated by national stakeholders and associated advisory and capacity-building support have strengthened stakeholders' understanding and analytical skills. This has supported the formulation, updating and reformulation of actual trade policies, and fostered inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations for inclusive trade policymaking. Several countries have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures. Such experience could be usefully replicated in a broader number of countries in need. Related activities to enhance national capacity to design and implement national trade policy frameworks are planned under the UNCTAD/UNIDO project on supporting trade and development in Mozambique. In 2019, UNCTAD received requests from the Government of Namibia to finalize the development of national trade policy and by the request of the Government of Guyana initiated review of national trade strategy. More concretely, UNCTAD conducted an advisory mission and organized a workshop on development of the Namibia Trade Policy on 1–3 November in Windhoek.

41. **Results and impacts.** UNCTAD contributed substantially to the strengthened capacities of developing countries to design and implement trade policies. UNCTAD support activities contributed to enhanced understanding of developing countries' policymakers and trade negotiators on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development, and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating enabling environment under the international trading system. The UNCTAD intervention had strong positive impact in strengthening human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade-related policies and negotiations in these countries. UNCTAD support contributed to improved ability of policymakers and trade negotiators to analyse, formulate and implement trade policies and strategies that are best fit with holistic and comprehensive approaches to ensure that increased trade contribute to greater resilience of productive capacity and employment; awareness and appreciation of the importance of the coherence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system; better-informed and better-trained trade officials in country groupings such as Africa, the LDCs and the ACP; the advancement of multilateral and regional trade negotiations with greater focus on the development dimension.

42. UNCTAD continued to receive requests for support on Trade Policy Frameworks from a variety of countries and organizations (Namibia, ECOWAS, Agadir Technical Unit, D-8 Organization of Economic Cooperation, African Union). To meet the needs of these countries, it is necessary to secure adequate funding for technical assistance on Trade Policy Frameworks.

² See <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/TNCD/Trade-Policy-Framework-Reviews.aspx>.

A4 Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

Table A4
Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
PAN/0T/HCO	Implementation of the STIP Review of Panama	2019–	UNDP
ROA-1819 (L11)	Strengthening policy coherence and integration to ensure that science, technology and innovation support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and Asia	2018–	Development Account

43. **Development context.** The basic assumption that underpins this work is that innovation, particularly innovation based on knowledge and technology, is a key driver of economic growth, productivity, structural transformation and sustainable development. Among the capabilities that developing countries need to generate in order to harness science, technology and innovation for development, sound policymaking frameworks leading to the establishment of effective innovation systems are key. While this is recognized by the Governments of many developing countries, designing and implementing national science, technology and innovation strategies and policies present considerable challenges for many of them. There is a clear need to support a process of science, technology and innovation policy learning, experimentation and the dissemination of good practices.

44. **Objectives and features.** The science, technology and innovation policy review programme provides policy advice to countries requesting assistance in building and maintaining a dynamic and responsive science, technology and innovation framework that can foster technological capabilities, create effective innovation systems, facilitate technology acquisition and improve national innovation performance. It aims to ensure that national science, technology and innovation programmes become an instrument for supporting the national development agenda and promoting sustainable development. The reviews assess the strengths and weaknesses of a country's innovation systems, including the policy framework, institutions, capabilities, and innovation effort as well as performance. Reviews generally include an analysis of the technology and innovation challenges and opportunities in specific industries (such as agriculture, textiles, oil and gas or pharmaceuticals) or issue areas of high priority for the beneficiary country (such as information and communications technology, biotechnology, human capital or energy). Key science, technology and innovation issues that affect the productivity and competitiveness of industries are identified. The reviews include recommendations for action to revamp policy frameworks, including policies, regulations, measures and practices that can improve technological and innovation capacity, increase investment in innovative activity, raise productivity and upgrade firm and industry competitiveness. The primary beneficiaries of the reviews are the major players in the national innovation system, such as policymakers (from science and technology ministries or similar bodies, trade and industry ministries and other ministries of importance to science, technology and innovation), the business community, academic and research institutions, civil society and development and sustainability interest groups with a role in science, technology and innovation, in particular those related to any specific areas to be adopted as a focus for a review.

45. **Outputs.** In 2019, UNCTAD began to move towards implementation of its revised framework for STI policy reviews that underpins the programme³ and aims to assist countries in aligning science, technology and innovation policy with development

³ *A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews: Harnessing innovation for sustainable development* was issued in April 2019, replacing the previous 2011 framework.

strategies, while ensuring that such policies promote sustainable development and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The revised framework goes beyond how science, technology and innovation can support the traditional economic development goals of growth, higher productivity, structural transformation and economic diversification, to consider the role of science, technology and innovation in reorienting development towards more inclusive and environmentally sustainable outcomes. The new framework was presented at the twenty-second session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva, May 2019.

46. In 2019, UNCTAD finalized the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review (STIP Review) of Panama and Ethiopia, continued work on the STIP Review of Uganda, and started reviews in the Dominican Republic and Zambia. In Panama, implementation started in February with fact-finding missions and workshops held on an accelerated schedule, with the review finalized late in the year. The review was prepared in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT) of Panama, and was financed by Panama. In Ethiopia, UNCTAD conducted a fact-finding mission and held several stakeholder workshops and capacity building workshops on STI policy and sustainable development in collaboration with the national counterparts, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) of Ethiopia. In November 2019, UNCTAD concluded the STIP Review of the country with the launch of the Report by the Minister of Innovation and Technology (MINT). Following the successful conclusion of the STIP Review, the Minister of Innovation and Technology requested UNCTAD to support MINT with the formulation of the new STI Policy of Ethiopia. In February 2020, the Minister of Science and High Education (MOSHE) echoed that request and asked UNCTAD to align its work with the activities of MOSHE to promote science and technological learning in the country. In 2020, UNCTAD will provide technical advisory services to MINT and MOSHE to assist these Ministries in the formulation of the new STI Policy and the development of an implementation plan to operationalize the required actions and serve as a roadmap for STI for SDGs and national development of Ethiopia. Follow-up technical cooperation with Ethiopia is scheduled to follow in 2020. In Uganda, UNCTAD conducted a fact-finding mission, prepared a draft of the STIP Review and held stakeholder discussions in Uganda as well as capacity building workshops on STI policy and development. Activities were implemented in collaboration with the national partner, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) of Uganda. Partnering agencies, namely UNESCO, the United Nations Technology Bank, the UNDP and UNIDO in Kampala, were engaged in advisory and substantive contributions. In the Dominican Republic, discussions took place in Geneva in October 2019 with the country's Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MHEST) and a fact-finding mission took place in November 2019. In Zambia, a first scoping mission for the STI Policy Review was conducted in September 2019. Planning for a STIP Review in Botswana started early in 2019. The search for funding delayed the start of implementation of the project. Discussions also started on cooperation with SADC on STI policy in SADC member countries. This project has also been delayed due to the need to mobilize funding.

47. UNCTAD also held a regional capacity-building workshop on *"Rethinking Technology Transfer for Sustainable Development and Transformative Change in Africa"*, in Abuja, Nigeria, during 26–27 November 2019 with 35 participants from Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The event was hosted by the Nigerian National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) and their partners and was conducted in cooperation with the Science Policy Research Unit of Sussex University (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

48. **Results.** As at the end of 2019, UNCTAD had completed science, technology and innovation policy reviews in 15 countries, in which they had often ignited a renewal in science, technology and innovation policy, raised its profile in national development strategies and facilitated the inclusion of related activities in international cooperation plans. A key feature of the reviews is the systematic effort made to involve a broad range of stakeholders. This participatory process can mobilize networks of actors towards transformation through policy experimentation and learning. These activities under the STIP Reviews have enabled policymakers and other STI stakeholders in these countries to reach a better understanding of the key strengths and weaknesses in their STI systems,

policies, institutions and capacities, and identify strategic priorities and policy options for improving STI capacity and becoming more innovative.

49. For example, in Ethiopia, the STIP Review was a catalyst for the Ministry of Innovation and Technology to promote several rounds of capacity building on STI Policy for governments officials of MInT, other relevant Ministries and State and local innovation agencies. The successful conclusion of the STIP Review also triggered the request by MInT for UNCTAD to support the formulation of the new STI Policy of Ethiopia, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of the STIP Review. Through the homegrown economic reform and the 10-year strategy, Ethiopia aims to become a middle-income economy. Innovation and technology are the main drivers for attaining this goal and the Government has indicated that the STIP Review process has helped the Government to move towards this objective. In Panama the recommendation made in the STIP review to revive the interministerial committee on STI was implemented within weeks of the document being shared with the Government. The National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation has indicated that the outcome of the STIP review will be a major input to the STI policy revision currently under way in the country.

A5 E-commerce and the digital economy

Table A5
E-commerce and the digital economy

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BOT/0T/HBM	ICT Policy Review: National E-commerce Strategy for Botswana	2018–	Botswana
IRQ/0T/HCM	Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Iraq	2019–	International Islamic Trade Finance
KIR/0T/HCI	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Kiribati, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
LES/0T/HBO	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Lesotho, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
MLW/0T/HBN	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Malawi, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
MYI/0T/IAT	EIF – Myanmar E-commerce Strategy	2019–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
RWA/0T/FAV	Information and communications technology policies for development: E-commerce strategy for Rwanda	2016–	Rwanda

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
TUV/0T/HBR	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Tuvalu, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
INT/0T/FAQ	eTrade for all coordination	2016–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/GAP	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments, German Agency for International Cooperation	2017–	Germany
INT/0T/GAT	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments, EIF	2018–	Germany
INT/0T/HAT	Information and communications technology policies for development, German Agency for International Cooperation	2018–	Germany
INT/0T/HCE	Strategic partnership Netherlands (linked to INT/0T/HCJ)	2018–	Netherlands
INT/0T/IBN	E-commerce and the Digital Economy (ECDE) for Development – BMZ	2019–	Germany
RAF/0T/HCC	Africa E-commerce Week	2018–	Germany
ROA-1819 (N11)	Leapfrogging skills development in e-commerce in South-East Asia in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2018–	Development Account

50. **Development context.** E-commerce and, more generally, the rise of the digital economy, are rapidly transforming the way in which enterprises are interacting with each other, consumers and Governments. Digitalization is creating new opportunities for technological leaps, productivity gains across the economy, the rise of new sectors and more trade. At the same time, the transformation is raising new challenges and costs for countries. Some of the greatest dynamism in e-commerce and information and communications technologies (ICTs) can be found in developing countries, but the potential is far from fully realized. The evolution of the digital economy calls for unconventional economic thinking and policy analysis. Policymakers need to make choices that can help reverse current trends towards widening inequalities and power imbalances wrought by the digital economy. This involves the adaptation of existing policies, laws and regulations, and the adoption of new ones. While some issues can be addressed through national policies and strategies, the global nature of the digital economy will require more dialogue, consensus-building and policymaking at the international level. Many developing countries need to establish legal, institutional and policy frameworks, as well as effective national strategies, to leverage the dynamism of e-commerce and digitalization for value creation and capture. It is important for policymakers to have better statistics and to receive evidence-based guidance on the design of sound policies and to learn from best practices in securing development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. Special efforts are also needed to ensure that women have equal opportunities in e-commerce and the digital economy.

51. The Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2) led to the establishment of the annual Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy. UNCTAD was given a stronger mandate to position itself as an important enabler and a centre of excellence for leveraging e-commerce and the digital economy for sustainable development. With the launch of the UNCTAD-led eTrade for all initiative, the annual

multi-stakeholder E-commerce Week, including at the regional level, as well as the launch of the eTrade for Women initiative, UNCTAD has continued to show leadership in the area of e-commerce and the digital economy for development through its three pillars of work: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation.

52. **Objectives and features.** The e-commerce and digital economy programme ultimately aims to improve the ability of people in developing countries, in particular LDCs, to reap inclusive and sustainable development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. This should be achieved through improved decision-making and policy formulation in member States and development partners on e-commerce and the digital economy for development, in a gender sensitive manner; and improved efficiency among member States, development partners, international organizations, civil society and the private sector in addressing issues and providing assistance on e-commerce and the digital economy for development.

53. **Outputs.** In 2019, extrabudgetary funding contributed to production and dissemination of the *Digital Economy Report 2019*. The report was published on 4 September 2019 and launched in Geneva, New York, Addis Ababa, Lusaka, Nairobi, Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Mexico City and Moscow. It was presented at the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) on 30 September 2019. This was the first time that this flagship publication was officially discussed at an UNCTAD intergovernmental meeting. The report was also presented at various international conferences and seminars, including at the 2nd African Union E-commerce Conference in Dakar, the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, to the eLAC Community (by video) and at the AfriLabs Annual Gathering in Addis Ababa. Extrabudgetary funding also contributed to the UNCTAD business-to-consumer e-commerce index 2019. The latter served as an input to discussions at the first meeting of the new Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy in December.

54. UNCTAD E-commerce Week has become the leading global forum at which public and private stakeholders, as well as civil society, can engage in dialogues about the development implications of the digital economy. The fifth edition, on the theme “Form Digitalization to Development”, attracted about 1,500 registered participants from 135 countries, including 35 LDCs, who contributed to more than 60 sessions (1–5 April 2019). As many as 26 partners of the eTrade for all initiative attended and organized more than 35 sessions. At the same time, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy held its third session, which was attended by 120 countries, including 30 LDCs and many representatives of other stakeholder groups.

55. The preparation of a national e-commerce strategy for Oman was finalized. The work on such a strategy for Rwanda was almost completed, pending a validation workshop in the country. Similar work was also initiated in Botswana and Myanmar. New requests for national e-commerce strategies have been received from, among others, Bhutan, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay and Togo. Requests for regional e-commerce strategies were received from Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, ECOWAS and the EAC. This is indicative of the rapidly expanding demand from member states.

56. Under the Development Account project on leapfrogging skills development in e-commerce in South-East Asia in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in cooperation with Train for Trade, a training course on Digital Identity for Trade and Development was prepared in cooperation with the World Bank, UNCITRAL and Estonia. It consists of a blended-learning course aiming at policymakers and stakeholders of the public and private sectors, to identify and draft policies on digital identity related to trade and development. The distance learning component was successfully delivered from 26 August to 27 September 2019 to 188 representatives (70 women) mainly from ASEAN countries. A regional face-to-face workshop was organised in October in Singapore by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore with the participation of representatives from UNCITRAL and UNESCAP. Twenty-six participants from ASEAN countries took active part in the course, which aimed to identify and draft policies on digital identity related to trade and development.

57. In the framework of the eTrade readiness assessment programme (see below), UNCTAD was able to review the legal framework of Samoa – which was one recommendation of the assessment conducted in 2017. Through the eTrade for all platform (see below), UNCTAD received a request to assist Kiribati to build capacity around an eTransaction Bill prepared by UNCITRAL. The request was channelled to UNCITRAL which was able to organize a three-day workshop in December 2019.

58. The global database on cyberlaws (the cyberlaw tracker) developed in 2015 is updated every two years and a survey was circulated to member States in January 2020. An update will be released during the UNCTAD E-commerce Week 2020.

59. The eTrade for all initiative supports more effective collaboration among international organizations, civil society and private sector bodies, to make e-commerce work for development. Its online platform has generated more than 40,000 visitors (up from 18,000 in 2018), with almost 50 per cent of users from developing countries.⁴ The platform offers a gateway for those in need of technical assistance to find those who will be able to assist them. The initiative was also of great value for the successful organization in 2019 of E-commerce Week. More than 25 partners contributed to that event, organizing or co-organizing more than half of the sessions scheduled during the week. To create shared value and raise the visibility of core issues on the agenda of partners of the eTrade for all initiative, a monthly newsletter has been released since July 2017, reaching more than 2,100 subscribers as of December 2019.

60. In 2019, with the support of the Government of Germany, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), UNCTAD published new rapid eTrade readiness assessments with concrete policy recommendations for seven LDCs (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali and Tuvalu) and commenced work for another 3 LDCs (Benin, Niger and United Republic of Tanzania) to be finalized in 2020. It also conducted the first eTrade readiness assessment for a non-LDC, Iraq. It involved an enhanced version of the assessment with eTrade for all partners being invited to join UNCTAD during the in-country missions and reflecting the priorities identified by the requesting government. It allows for a deeper analysis of some policy areas and leads to the preparation of actionable project documents to be submitted to the beneficiary countries and donors at the end of the process.

61. In 2019, UNCTAD also started to define a strategy for monitoring progress regarding the implementation of the recommendations made in each assessment. Following requests from developing countries and donors, UNCTAD in cooperation with beneficiary countries developed a monitoring strategy that helps beneficiary countries and development partners to assess progress in implementing effectively recommendations emerging from the eTrade readiness assessments.

62. **Results.** The ongoing work of UNCTAD on e-commerce and the digital economy continued to raise considerable interest among donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Between September and December 2019, the *Digital Economy Report* was downloaded over 38,000 times, and its Overview more than 22,000 times. Compared to its predecessor, the *Information Economy Report 2017*, this represented a 148 per cent increase in downloads of the full report and a 309 per cent increase for the overview in the first month of the launch (English versions only). Compared with other UNCTAD flagship reports, it was one of the most downloaded reports when looking at the downloads in first four months after publication.

63. The UNCTAD secretariat received a rising number of requests from member States for capacity-building activities and the number of participants at E-commerce Week rose from 1,200 to almost 1,500, compared with 2018. Moreover, the number of partners of the eTrade for all initiative has increased considerably since its creation in 2016. As at December 2019, 30 partners from the public sector and civil society had subscribed to the collective vision of supporting developing countries on their journey to e-commerce for development, while championing successful initiatives. New partners included the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

⁴ <https://etradeforall.org/>.

64. The eTrade for all initiative underwent an independent evaluation in 2019 as part of an agreement between UNCTAD and one of the donors (Government of Finland). The evaluation found that:

eTrade for all is a highly relevant project, providing unique value added to ecommerce stakeholders. To date the project has largely met its objectives based on stakeholder perception and also generated positive spin off effects. Most stakeholders highly appreciate the project team's role as a neutral facilitator and its multi-stakeholder approach. The latter shows a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sustainability of eTrade for all is mostly given concerning knowledge creation and capacity-building, while the financial sustainability of the project, is its 'Achilles' heel'.

65. Activities related to eTrade for Women helped to raise the visibility of women digital entrepreneurs in e-commerce in developing countries and started building a valuable network of peers. The first 7 eTrade for women Advocates were presented to the international community at an induction ceremony on the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2019 with considerable attention in traditional and social media. They also gave the Advocates an opportunity to interact with policymakers, for example, during the first masterclass held in Skopje. Individual Advocates have also contributed to the policy dialogue in their countries. The Advocate from Rwanda provided inputs to the national e-commerce strategy that UNCTAD is preparing for that country. The masterclass provided an inspirational platform for next generation of women digital entrepreneurs in Western Balkans and allowed them to learn from each other. About 86 per cent of participants found that the masterclass helped them find answers to some of the challenges they faced as women digital entrepreneurs. The masterclasses also help to identify existing networks of women digital entrepreneurs at the national/regional level that could be linked up to the eTrade for Women network.

66. The rapid eTrade readiness assessments contributed to raising awareness on e-commerce in the beneficiary countries. The 25 assessments conducted for LDCs since 2017 show that the countries are inadequately prepared to capture the many opportunities emerging as a result of digitalization. Given the cross-cutting nature of e-commerce, better synergies and cooperation between development partners and governments are needed to accompany the implementation of the recommendations contained in the assessments. The Stocktaking Workshop on lessons learned and best practices for the conduct and implementation of the eTrade readiness assessments, held during the UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2019, generate concrete action proposals to achieve these goals and stressed the urgent need for scaling up international support.

67. In preparation for the stock-taking workshop, UNCTAD carried out a survey of the focal points from countries that benefited from an assessment. Out of 16 beneficiary countries, 90 per cent of respondents recognized that the assessments had catalysed a public and private dialogue on e-commerce – often for the first time. It was observed that the assessments have had a number of important impacts:

(a) Generation of inputs in seven policy areas to enable countries to better understand the issues related to the digital economy and to take part in e-commerce-related discussions at national and international levels.

(b) More awareness about the role of e-commerce for development among LDCs. In some countries, the assessments have been used as an advocacy tool and to kick-start interministerial and multi-stakeholder discussions.

(c) New analysis that can benefit international organizations, development partners, NGOs and civil society. The assessments are a globally recognized source of credible information in this area.

(d) A network of focal points in relevant institutions. In some LDCs, a national committee on e-commerce has been established.

(e) Strong engagement at the ministerial level with concrete actions taken at national level. In Myanmar, the Government organized donor-pledging events to act upon several recommendations.

(f) More multi-stakeholder interactions, often with relevant actors from the private and public sectors meeting for the first time.

(g) Enhanced synergies and cross-learning between development partners. For example, the World Bank, ITC, UNCITRAL and UPU shared their expertise with UNCTAD throughout the process, participated in the peer review process and helped to enrich the assessments.

(h) Growing demand from LDCs for UNCTAD and other partners to support the development of national e-commerce strategies, review laws and regulations and conduct other capacity-building activities.

(i) Greater ability of countries to formulate their needs to potential donors/partners and better awareness about what partners to contact for certain type of assistance.

(j) Greater attention to e-commerce in some development partners. For example, the EIF is now devoting more funding to e-commerce and the digital economy and has mainstreamed e-commerce in the country-specific trade analysis conducted in the form of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and Action Matrices. As a result, the EIF decided to fund the e-commerce strategy of Myanmar in 2019, which is currently being developed by UNCTAD.

A6 Investment guides

Table A6

Investment guides

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/H CJ	Strategic Partnership the Netherlands	2018–	Netherlands

68. **Development context.** The investment guides (iGuides) programme provides developing country Governments with the necessary capacity to better market their countries or territories as investment destinations to the global investment community, in order to attract quality FDI in pursuit of their development goals.

69. **Objectives and features.** The iGuides online platforms, designed by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce, provide international investors with essential up-to-date information on rules, economic conditions, procedures, business costs and investment opportunities in developing countries. The platforms are developed jointly with beneficiary Governments, at their request. Content includes the following:

(a) Locally available costs. In addition to taxes, social contributions or the state of infrastructure, iGuides provide indicative price ranges regarding wages, rents, consumer goods and transportation costs. This hard-to-find information enables investors to build a basic business model for their projects.

(b) Relevant licences, procedures and useful contacts. iGuides platforms give an overview of procedures and licences required to start a business, obtain work permits, acquire land, clear imported goods or repatriate funds. Contact persons are also identified in the most useful institutions and offices. iGuides can integrate seamlessly with existing eRegulations systems to provide full information on start-up and business procedures.

(c) Experiences of established investors. Whether the topic is paying taxes, hiring labour or obtaining electricity, iGuides platforms summarize the experiences of established investors and provide case studies of their investment history.

70. During a project, UNCTAD creates a national iGuides platform for the country and trains the government staff assigned to the project in researching and compiling the necessary information and entering it into the system. Once completed, an official launch is organized in the country, and the platform is made publicly available to investors. At the

end of project implementation, the beneficiary country has its own iGuides platform and trained staff to administer and update it under the continuous guidance of UNCTAD. The iGuides online platforms replace the previous practice of publishing printed investment guides. It is essential that the new iGuides allow information to be kept up to date by Governments and may be accomplished in a third of the time and at half of the cost.

71. **Outputs.** In 2019, iGuides were completed in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Curaçao, in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA) and Caribexport. Work was started on Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Turks and Caicos Islands. An event on iGuides was also held at a regional investment event in Saint Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with Caribexport, where beneficiary Governments were able to provide useful feedback on possible innovations for the online platform. The event also led to new country requests. It was also decided to create a dedicated Caribbean investment portal.

72. **Results.** Unlike sit-on-the-shelf publications, iGuides are web-based, and any element may be easily updated at any time to reflect changes in legislation, infrastructure, costs or taxes. iGuides therefore remain relevant and useful to their audience. In addition, Governments (not UNCTAD) are responsible for researching, inputting and updating data based on information standards and training provided by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. The iGuide launches enjoy high-level participation and receive extensive press coverage. Governments have updated their sites, showing retained capacity to update the website in an effective manner and the continued relevance of the website. The availability of online training allows staff working on iGuides to more easily transfer knowledge and capacity to their peers.

A7 Non-tariff measures

Table A7
Non-tariff measures

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GHA/OT/HBC	Sector project trade and investment for sustainable development	2018–	Germany
MYA/OT/HBI	United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, Myanmar	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
INT/OT/CBG	Non-tariff measures trust fund (under Transparency in Trade programme)	2013–	World Bank
INT/OT/HAS ^a	Non-tariff measures data update and conversion for selected Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation economies	2018– 2019	Public donation
INT/OT/IAQ	NTM data update and conversion for selected APEC economies	2019–	Public donation - National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
RAF/OT/HBT	AfCFTA support programme to eliminate non-tariff barriers, increase regulatory transparency and promote industrial	2018–	Germany

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAS/OT/HAQ	Transparency in trade regulation and facilitation in Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on statistics and data	2016–	Development Account

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2019

73. **Development context.** Regulations, including behind-the-border regulations protecting safety, health and the environment, affect 90 per cent of merchandise trade. Such non-tariff measures are policy measures, other than customs tariffs, which often have an impact on international trade in terms of quantities traded or prices. These measures, although mostly legislated with non-protectionist and non-discriminating intents, can have important implications for international trade in terms of both increasing trade costs and the effects of trade diversion. Non-tariff measures affect trade by raising trade, compliance and procedural costs, which often disproportionately burden small enterprises and poorer countries. LDCs and smaller producers in developing countries are disproportionately affected, hampering trade and economic development. However, most non-tariff measures have important public policy objectives such as protecting health and the environment. More than 40 per cent of non-tariff measures are directly and positively linked to SDGs. Striking a balance between trade costs and regulatory benefits requires transparency, policy coherence and international-level regulatory convergence. Concrete actions in this regard are often coupled with regional economic integration and domestic regulatory reforms. For developing countries, understanding the uses and implications of such measures is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

74. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD Programme on Non-Tariff Measures aims to increase transparency and understanding of trade control measures and regulations so that policies can better promote sustainable development. The programme covers the entire chain of non-tariff measures, ranging from classification,⁵ data collection and dissemination, to research, policy advice and capacity-building in countries and regional integration groupings. UNCTAD leads international cooperation (working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the International Trade Centre, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and WTO) on the development and revision of the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures and with regional and international partners (African Development Bank, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, ECOWAS, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, International Trade Centre, Latin American Integration Association, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Southern African Development Community, World Bank and WTO) on data collection. This ensures a globally coordinated and resource-saving approach. UNCTAD assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in enhancing transparency and building analytical capacity on non-tariff measures by the following means: collecting and making available online data on such measures to enhance transparency in this regard; conducting regional reviews of the integration of non-tariff measures; providing online and in-country training on data collection on non-tariff measures and on data sources, tools, methods and policy-relevant research questions on such measures; and providing advisory services upon request to countries and regional groupings in building capacities to address such measures and remove non-tariff barriers.

⁵ Classification focuses on the identification of policies and regulations that determine trade and market access and how information about non-tariff measures can be structured.

75. **Outputs.** UNCTAD delivered the following in 2019:

(a) Receiving approval of agencies of the international cooperation for the revised and extended International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures, including now a detailed taxonomy for government procurement, intellectual property, rules of origin and subsidies. In March 2019, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures for data collection across countries and for reporting on internationally comparable data on non-tariff measures;

(b) Data on non-tariff measures for some 20 countries were updated or newly collected. The UNCTAD database on non-tariff measures, the Trade Analysis and Information System, is the world's largest and most comprehensive, covering 90 per cent of world trade, and data on non-tariff measures are publicly available through the dissemination tool for non-tariff measures;⁶

(c) Capacity-building activities conducted through online training and face-to-face workshops on non-tariff measures. The fifth edition of the online course on non-tariff measures and data collection had 51 participants (32 women and 19 men, 12 August–27 September 2019) and over 90 per cent of participants found that the knowledge acquired during the course very much or extremely contributed to deepening their understanding of non-tariff measures. Three region-specific online courses were finalized for government officials from 7 member countries of ASEAN, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam (July – December). Face-to-face training sessions were conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America and in economies in transition;

(d) African nations recognized the significance of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and adopted an Annex to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement specifically dedicated to eliminating NTBs. UNCTAD supported the African Union (AU) in developing and implementing an AfCFTA NTB online reporting, monitoring and eliminating mechanism. On <https://tradebarriers.africa>, anyone can now report an NTB to intra-African trade. The online tool is inclusive to micro, small and medium-sized companies, informal traders, and youth and women business operators. It enhances transparency and gives equal voice to all stakeholders, small or large. To resolve NTBs, governments have appointed national NTB focal points. These officials were trained by UNCTAD and the AU (9–12 December in Nairobi) in the use of the online tool. The focal points receive NTB complaints in real time and are mandated under the AfCFTA to resolve the barriers reported within the set deadlines. Communication and exchange of relevant documents is facilitated through the online tool. The online tool also translates communication from 16 African languages into the official languages of the AU. Data on NTMs have also been collected with African Tripartite countries;

(e) Support on regulatory policies affecting trade provided, upon request, to countries and regional secretariats, including the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In Poland (19–21 June), experts from several countries were trained in non-tariff measures data and discussed the implications of regulatory cooperation during the annual meeting of the global trade analysis project. With the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Standards Organization (ISO), UNCTAD conducted a training for about 30 experts from the Asia and Pacific region (12–14 March). UNCTAD, jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, conducted face-to-face non-tariff measures data collection trainings and validation workshops in Armenia and Azerbaijan (10–11 June and 9 December). UNCTAD conducted a training course with the government of Singapore for about 20 experts from all over the world on trade negotiations on goods trade including tariffs and non-tariff measures (26–28 November);

(f) Support for nine SIDS signatories in the Pacific (Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Niue) under a project on transparency under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, to

⁶ See <https://trains.unctad.org>

build capacity to fulfil transparency commitments under the agreement. The non-tariff measures component of the interdivisional project developed and implemented a legislation tab in each signatory's trade portal (for example, <https://kiribati.tradeportal.org/Regulations/Index>). Also, UNCTAD provided training on the substance of the PACER Plus commitments and how to use the legislation tab, as well as assisting in the organization of national contact points. Based on the gap analysis of regulatory framework, the non-tariff measures component supported the signatories to collect and disseminate laws and regulations that are related to trade in goods and services. UNCTAD undertook the activities through face-to-face workshops in eight signatories (Vanuatu, 16–19 July; Tuvalu, 20–25 July; Niue, 28 July–2 August; Tonga, 9–13 September; Solomon Islands, 16–20 September; Nauru, 24–27 September; Samoa, 30 September–4 October; Kiribati, 7–11 October) and online communication where more than 210 national policymakers and business owners (52 per cent women) participated in total. The activities with respect to the Cook Islands were on hold, as they paused their ratification process, but resumed in the last quarter of 2019;

(g) Support for regional integration and economic development in ASEAN, working with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Training on non-tariff measures and workshops on data collection and validation for the region were conducted in Thailand (23–23 August), Viet Nam (26–27 August), the Philippines (29–30 August), Indonesia (23–27 September), Cambodia (21–22 November), Myanmar (25–26 November) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (28–29 November);

(h) Non-tariff Measures Week (14–16 October) gathered almost 200 government officials and experts in trade regulations. It has become a global event on mandatory trade regulations, including discussions on technical cooperation projects.

76. **Results.** With regional and national ownership, the Tripartite Free Trade Area is working to increase transparency in non-tariff measures and address their trade impact. The regional transparency initiative has adopted the data collection approach of UNCTAD and is receiving technical support. UNCTAD assistance in the data collection process has also led to the stronger involvement of national standard-setting bodies with the ministries of trade, which is leading to greater national and regional policy coherence (Sustainable Development Goal 17.14 and indicator 17.14.1).

77. Based on a Heads of State mandate, the project led by UNCTAD and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia significantly increased transparency in non-tariff measures in the ASEAN region. The forty-ninth meeting of ASEAN economic ministers (7–10 September 2017) recognized the UNCTAD–Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia data and dissemination portal as a foundation to address non-tariff measures and mandated a regular review of the database.⁷ The ASEAN Ministers thanked the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and UNCTAD for the work developing the non-tariff measures database and the in-country trainings on NTMs collection, classification and analysis at the fifty-first meeting of economic ministers (9 September 2019). The data is “a good resource in assisting ASEAN Member States in populating and developing the NTMs section of their National Trade Repositories (NTRs)”. Furthermore, the data has been used in the implementation of customs single windows in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. ASEAN members are using the joint data to explore possibilities for harmonizing non-tariff measures in ASEAN. Malaysia is using the data for a cost-benefit assessment to streamline national regulations, and other countries have requested UNCTAD support in this area.

78. The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus is already raising awareness of transparency in non-tariff measures and the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD in island countries in the Pacific, as evidenced by local media coverage. Around 60 to 100 pieces of laws and regulations that are related to not only trade in goods and services, but also business and foreign direct investment are now publicly available with detailed explanation in the Pacific trade portals, except that of the Cook Islands. Collection

⁷ <http://asean.i-tip.org>.

of regulatory information also contributed to identifying and clarifying mistakes and confusions regarding a signatory's regulatory system such as legislative index. Moreover, national contact points were defined and trained in eight signatories. The face-to-face workshops raised much attention from both public and private sectors on the PACER plus and the transparency in non-tariff measures. Local media of almost every signatory covered the workshop and 93 per cent of the participants who responded to the assessment found the overall workshops "Good" or "Excellent". After completion of the project in 2020, increased transparency in trade regulations could serve as a basis for conducting further policy analysis, strengthening the rule-based trade system and promoting regional economic integration.

79. UNCTAD's development of the AfCFTA NTB online reporting, monitoring and eliminating mechanism was reviewed a dozen times during the formal AfCFTA negotiations by officials at different levels of the hierarchy – from technical experts to chief negotiators, senior trade officials and ministers. This resulted in strong buy-in and ownership. Finally, it was adopted and launched by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the President of the Niger before of Heads of State at the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Niamey on 7 July 2019. Until the end of 2019, 43 countries had nominated national focal points and 36 countries joined the pilot phase of the online mechanism. The training workshop for focal points, organized by UNCTAD with the AU, was held in 9–12 December in Nairobi, Kenya, and attended by 59 participants from 41 African countries. It was evaluated by 85 per cent of participants to have an "Excellent"/"Very good" impact on establishing a functioning AfCFTA NTB mechanism. All remaining participants responded with "Good". After the online mechanism went "live", first cases of NTBs were reported within the first week of operations and governments initiated the resolution process.

80. The Latin American Integration Association is continuing to promote trade through the continuous provision of updated information on non-tariff measures to policymakers, exporters and importers, based on UNCTAD methodology and technical support. Southern Common Market countries are revitalizing their efforts towards deep economic integration, including based on an UNCTAD regional non-tariff measures integration review providing background data on and an analysis of non-tariff measures.

81. The dissemination of research results on non-tariff measures has improved awareness of the importance of non-tariff measures for international trade and export-led development strategies and of the need to devise policies to minimize the negative effects of non-tariff measures. In particular, transparency on non-tariff measures was increased through the collection and dissemination of data and through a series of studies that helped to provide better understanding of the implications of these measures for developing countries. A milestone was the research and launch of the joint ESCAP and UNCTAD Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019 which sheds light on the close link between non-tariff measures and SDGs (October).

A9 Trade negotiations and the international trading system

Table A9

Trade negotiations and the international trading system

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/9X/77I	Technical cooperation on market access, trade laws and preferences	1997–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/9AU	Trust Fund on WTO Accession	2009–	Multi-donors

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9BG	Trust Fund on Services, Development and Trade	2009–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/HAA	Measurement of services value added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies	2018–	European Union

82. **Development context.** The multilateral trade cooperation is essential for SDG 10 and 17 to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, especially its target 17.10 to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO. UNCTAD contributed actively to SDG 10 and 17 through three pillars of its work. Important challenges confronted policymakers in their endeavour to harvest trade's potential for sustainable development. Recently the outlook for multilateral trade cooperation has come under pressure with the rise of anti-globalization and anti-multilateralism discourse. Inward-looking and beggar-thy-neighbour policy stances in major trading nations have resurged. The WTO reform, corrections, setbacks and renegotiations of existing and proposed trading arrangements were brought to the forefront of international trade policy debates aimed at adapting and modernizing different aspects of the multilateral trading system, not to mention the protracted WTO negotiations and the proliferation of bilateral and regional initiatives. Along with the proliferation of regional trade agreements, the drive towards regionalism will be a major focus of the trade policy agenda over the coming years. Favourable economic realities have also contributed to increased South-South trade. In this light, reaping effective development benefits from participation in the multilateral trading system, as well as parallel and proliferating plurilateral, regional and sub-regional trade integration processes, remains an important challenge for national policymakers and trade negotiators. Nonetheless, the multilateral trade architecture continues to play a central role, acting as a major stabilizer in the global economy and as a global public good for all countries. It should therefore be continuously supported and strengthened so that it could serve as an essential enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Against this backdrop, UNCTAD continued trade negotiating support, including in the context of WTO accession, remains critically important for developing countries, particularly for LDCs, Africa and small vulnerable economies, as various substantive negotiating agenda issues are of particular relevance to sustainable development. Such support would be required particularly on agriculture, food security, domestic support, cotton, non-agricultural market access, non-tariff measures, services market access, domestic regulations, services trade facilitation, services preferences, duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access and rules of origin, special and differential treatment (SDT) and fishery subsidies.

83. Services economy is the new frontier for the expansion of trade, productivity and competitiveness, providing jobs and universal access to essential services. The role of services as inputs into other sectors of the economy is crucial. Infrastructural services such as financial services, telecommunications, transport and energy are important for economic diversification and enhancement of domestic supply capacity. The work on services, trade and development is aimed at building the human and institutional capacities of key national stakeholders – including civil society, entrepreneurs, policymakers and trade negotiators – to harness the opportunities arising from strengthening of the services sector and services trade. This is important because the integration of developing countries into the global services economy through increased services trade requires them to design and implement appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks, negotiate and manage trade agreements that cover services, establish institutional structures, create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, and build competitive services supply capacities. UNCTAD work on services is expected to contribute to achieving Goal 8, Goal 9 and Goal 17.

84. The provision and utilization of trade preferences for LDCs (duty-free quota-free) is a key goal of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, as further reaffirmed in Goal 17.12.

85. At the South–South level, UNCTAD provides technical support to Generalized System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) participants. Following the successful conclusion of the São Paulo Round of GSTP negotiations in December 2010, UNCTAD continued to support GSTP participants in their efforts towards effective implementation of the Round and in follow-up discussions. UNCTAD assisted them in coordinating and backstopping their activities in various GSTP activities.

86. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD provides capacity-building support aimed at helping developing countries, in particular LDCs, and regional groupings, African countries, small and vulnerable economies and countries with economies in transition to reap benefits and handle challenges in the areas of multilateral and regional trade negotiations, services-related regulatory and institutional frameworks at the national level and WTO accession. UNCTAD promotes the coherence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system; and supports regional cooperation mechanisms and the utilization of trade preferences. Given the limited progress in the Doha Round and renewed interest in regional trade arrangements, UNCTAD also places greater emphasis on the development impact of the regional dimension of trade (South–South and South–North).

87. UNCTAD support in the area of services is aimed to enhance expertise and human, regulatory and institutional capacities to elaborate and implement national services regulatory frameworks, services sectoral assessments and preparations for (a) regional negotiations with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade; (b) participation in WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations; and (c) responding to the challenges associated with parallel negotiations between the multilateral track and regional tracks. The particular objective of the project on the measurement of services value added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies is to reduce the knowledge gap in developing countries on measuring services value added in exports (mode 5) and on analysing policies that affect this value added. This should allow for evidence-based policymaking, as aimed at in the Goals, in particular with regard to trade and services-related policies that contribute to efficiency, increased productive and export capacity and greater participation in global value chains.

88. UNCTAD comprehensive work on services includes advisory services on legal, economic and policy issues; support for stakeholder consultations; and support for services negotiations at regional and multilateral levels. These activities are informed by evidence-based research and analysis on such issues as market trends and the economic and legal aspects of the services economy and specific services sectors, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and international trade negotiations. Synergies were created with ongoing analytical and intergovernmental work, especially through the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, on the regulatory and institutional dimension. The follow-up of meetings and deliberations of the WTO services council and bodies has also been synergic with work in support of services-related objectives of developing countries.

89. The objective of UNCTAD support for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other preferential arrangements is to help developing countries, in particular LDCs, to increase the utilization of GSP and other trade preferences. Such support includes raising awareness and enhancing understanding among exporters and government officials in beneficiary countries of the trading opportunities available under the schemes; strengthening understanding of technical and administrative regulations and laws governing preferential market access, in particular rules of origin; and disseminating relevant information for users of preferential schemes.

90. The objective of UNCTAD support for GSTP is to increase trade among developing countries by facilitating market access negotiations and the operation of GSTP and benefiting from it, and to provide substantive and administrative support to GSTP participants for them to implement the results of the third round of negotiations.

91. **Outputs.** The main outputs in 2019 in the area of trade negotiations and the international trading system are reported as follows:

Trade negotiations

92. UNCTAD assisted African countries, the African Union Commission and grouping and individual countries in all the areas of the negotiations particularly trade in goods and services. As the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations progressed, UNCTAD intensified its support to African countries in 2019 to assist them in building and strengthening their trade negotiating capacities and enhancing better understanding on technical issues arising from AfCFTA negotiations. Such support was provided in close cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC). UNCTAD prepared technical notes, policy analysis and advisory support, especially on options for negotiating modalities for trade in goods and services, to the AfCFTA negotiating and advisory processes, as well as to the AUC, African regional economic communities (RECs) and individual AU member States. Continuous UNCTAD support will be required in completing outstanding issues and proceeding to the preparation of tariff and services offers and request and offer processes, as well as with regard to competition, investment and intellectual property rights.

93. In 2019, UNCTAD organized and contributed to the following meetings:

(a) Scoping mission on technical assistance for Mozambique to design the project on the legal and institutional framework required to use Economic Partnership Agreement's safeguards provisions (4–8 February, Maputo);

(b) Videoconference with a group of eight officials, researchers and industrial confederation managers from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan visiting the United Nations with sponsorship from the Department of State of the United States of America (16 June, Geneva);

(c) Workshop on Zambia Capacity-Building for AfCFTA Negotiations (25–27 June, Lusaka);

(d) Training workshop on Trade Negotiations organized by the Organization of International Francophonie (OIF) for Francophone African trade officials (13–14 November, Geneva);

(e) Capacity building workshop on understanding the intra-Africa trade of Zimbabwe and the relationship with Africa free trade area (2–3 December, Harare);

(f) Workshop and presentation of the UNCTAD study “Impact on Zambia of the Africa continental free trade area” (5 December, Lusaka);

(g) UNCTAD/ECA workshop on regional value chains, funded by the United Nations Development Account (12–13 June, Addis Ababa).

94. UNCTAD expanded its technical assistance to Arab countries. UNCTAD contributions helped to improve the technical capabilities of participants in trade negotiation skills. In 2019, UNCTAD contributed to the following meetings for Arab countries:

(a) Workshop on current WTO negotiations for the permanent missions in Geneva of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (14–15 November, Geneva);

(b) Regional workshop on “Transportation Services and Trade Facilitation for Arab Connectivity” (24–25 October, Casablanca, Morocco).

95. UNCTAD assisted more than 20 countries acceding to WTO, including all LDCs negotiating or preparing for accession.⁸ UNCTAD technical assistance on WTO accession

⁸ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Comoros, Ethiopia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Nepal, Samoa, Seychelles, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

targets building human resources, regulatory, policy and institutional capacities in WTO acceding countries to deal more effectively with the challenges of the international trading system and take advantage of emerging opportunities as well as to build up their ability to implement their obligations associated with WTO membership. The technical assistance provided by UNCTAD has increased the awareness among the acceding country's negotiating team and stakeholders of the multifaceted issues in the accession process, and has enabled them to better understand WTO rules and disciplines, including the special and differential treatment and other developmental provisions. It has therefore enabled them to participate more effectively in the accession negotiations. The programme further assists countries in maintaining coherence between undertakings at multilateral and regional levels including South-South. In 2019, the following advisory services, field missions, capacity-building activities and technical consultations were undertaken on WTO accession:

- (a) Technical consultation with delegates from Turkmenistan on issues related to the assessment of technical assistance and capacity-building needs for WTO accession (6 January, Geneva);
- (b) Advisory meeting with delegates from Serbia on WTO accession (7 June, Geneva);
- (c) Advisory meeting with trade negotiators from Belarus on issues related to WTO accession (12 December, Geneva);
- (d) Advisory mission to Uzbekistan on WTO accession issues and national workshop on WTO accession issues (30 September–5 December, Tashkent);
- (e) Advisory mission to Uzbekistan to assist the Government in the next phase of WTO accession negotiations, and Workshop "Uzbekistan on the Road to the WTO: The impact of WTO Accession on the Agriculture of Uzbekistan", jointly organized with the Government of the Republic of Korea (2–6 December, Tashkent).

96. In implementing work on the WTO accession process, UNCTAD collaborated and maintained close cooperation with the WTO secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank, the Swedish International Development Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. An extensive network of cooperation had been established with national trade institutions and trade policymakers and regular contacts are maintained with donors.

Services, development and trade

97. The objective of the seventh session of Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade (1–2 May 2019) was to define implication of productive capacity on poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth, the reduction of inequality, the increasing of exports from developing countries and increasing of the least developed countries' share of global exports. It was agreed that countries seeking to enable the services sector to play its role in enhancing their productive capacity might wish to: adopt and implement national policies and establish institutions that encourage the development of infrastructure, telecommunications, financial and business services, such as professional and research and development services; provide vital government support, including financial assistance, to help small and medium-sized enterprises to enhance their productive capacity through the use of information and communications technology services; consider creating production centres through the development of transport services, including through the establishment of a trans-shipment port, which could act as an enabler for other industries; improve transport infrastructure to foster tourism development, for instance, through a tourism development fund; import services (where a country has put proper regulations in place), including through foreign direct investments, an approach that could make up for the shortfall in critical services provision at the domestic level. Moreover, international cooperation and partnerships, including South–South cooperation, can help developing countries enhance their productivity capacity through services. The meeting was conducted on the basis of an exchange of experiences and lessons learned from some Arab countries, the Republic of Korea, academicians and international experts.

98. UNCTAD carried out numerous activities aimed at enhancing national and regional capacities of developing countries on trade policy and trade negotiations as they relate to services. Technical assistance and customized support, including specialized training, was extended to policymakers and negotiators in developing countries and country groupings such as the LDCs, the African Group, small and vulnerable economies, in defining national and regional strategies and policies to build services supply capacities and in preparing themselves for General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and other trade negotiations. Advisory services were provided to developing countries regarding debate on GATS and regional trade negotiations, defining strategies for services negotiations at the national, regional and multilateral levels, and at the interface between regional services negotiations and GATS negotiations.

99. UNCTAD supports to African countries in preparing for the AfCFTA services negotiations aim at strengthening the expertise and capacity of policymakers and trade negotiators with respect to services policy issues and negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. UNCTAD supported training activities for African Union Services Sectoral Development Programme (13–18 May, Nairobi)

100. Under the European Union–UNCTAD joint program for Angola, Train for Trade II, UNCTAD organized a training workshop on trade in services (25–28 March 2019, Luanda). The main objective of the workshop was to enable negotiators from Angola to prepare services offers in the context of services negotiations, including in SADC. The workshop focused on contents related to services economy and trade for development; main concepts of trade in services in multilateral and regional instruments; scheduling techniques, including practical exercises; the stake of Angola in multilateral and regional trade in services processes; generally applicable laws and regulations; and to Angolan services priority sectors: tourism, financial and transport services.

101. UNCTAD organized an international meeting on services value-added in exports: Services and trade policies for diversification and upgrading (22–23 October, Brasilia), bringing together over 100 participants from governments, private sectors and research community to generate insights into services value added in exports, otherwise known as “Mode 5” of services exports. The meeting represented a culmination of activities conducted under the European Union-funded UNCTAD project “Measurement of services value-added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies”. The meeting deliberated the outcome of the project and launched an UNCTAD Guidebook on the Methodology for Measuring Services Value Added in Developing Countries. The idea of the project emerged from the comprehensive UNCTAD work programme on services, development and trade, which combined policy research, intergovernmental deliberations under the Multi-year Expert Meeting, the Global Services Forum, and capacity-building support on the ground. The expert deliberations in the platform of the Multi-year Expert Meeting and the Global Services Forum have led to the identification of new research agenda relating to services value-added, which in turn led to the formulation of the above project proposal with the support of the European Union, thereby creating exemplary synergies between three pillars of work. UNCTAD seeks to further pursue this work and replicate the methodology in other countries to the benefit of developing countries.

102. In 2019 substantive contribution were made to national and regional technical and consultative meetings, such as:

- (a) UNDP/UNCTAD workshop on Trade in Services for Iraq in collaboration with the League of Arab States (31 March–4 April, Amman);
- (b) High-level Panel on the e-commerce issue in the WTO during the 2019 UNCTAD E-commerce Week (5 April, Geneva);
- (c) Workshop on Recognition of qualification to facilitate Mode 4 (3 May, Geneva);
- (d) International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) Training of Trainers (5–6 May, Kampala);
- (e) China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) side event and Training of Digital Trade (28–31 May, Beijing);

- (f) International Logistics Conference (1–2 August, Colombo);
- (g) Workshop on Trade in Services to the Government and Stakeholders of Palestine (10–11 September, Amman);
- (h) Awareness Building Seminar on Trade in Services for the Private Sector in Saudi Arabia (24–28 November, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia);
- (i) International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations Training of Trainers (9–11 December, El Salvador);
- (j) Organization and participation of the “2019 Export to China” Forum on 6 November 2019 during the Second China International Import Expo in Shanghai upon invitation from and in collaboration with China Council for Promotion of International Trade and in partnership with China Association of Trade in Services (28–31 May, Beijing).

103. UNCTAD provided support to LDCs in negotiating their specific interests including the implementation of the Preferential Treatment in Favour of Services and Service Suppliers of LDCs and their participation in services trade. Training provided under paragraph 166 courses also included services components.

104. UNCTAD has emphasized the importance of potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad as well as the issue of maximizing the development impact of remittances. UNCTAD continues to participate in the United Nations Network on Migration and in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) to highlight the linkages between trade, services, migration and development. With the Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch (TNCDB) of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC) as the focal point in UNCTAD, this work includes the participation in the process of setting up the United Nations Network on Migration as the successor of the Global Migration Group (GMG). Further to participating in the first annual meeting of the Network on 11 December 2019 in Geneva, UNCTAD has supported the communication launch of the Start-up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund. UNCTAD participated in the definition of the format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums, namely by participating in a meeting with the Ambassadors co-facilitating the process on 28 May 2019. These shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including on the trade-related aspects. UNCTAD also took part in the preparatory meetings in Geneva for the GFMD Summit, on 19–21 February 2019 and on 11 September 2019.

Market access and trade preferences

105. With regard to GSP and other trade preferences, UNCTAD has continued to promote enhanced awareness among developing countries on ways to better utilize the preferences available under GSP and other preferential schemes through the periodic provision of information on a dedicated website, administrative support on certificates of origin, collection of data, publication of handbooks on GSP schemes and technical cooperation and capacity-building services. UNCTAD ensured the dissemination of relevant information by updating and revising GSP handbooks of individual GSPs and related schemes and preparing related studies. In 2019, the following publication were prepared: GSP Handbook of Norway and GSP Handbook of the Republic of Korea. UNCTAD also continued to compile and update the GSP database based on data submitted by GSP donor countries, which provide useful information on trade conducted under each preferential scheme.

106. With regard to GSTP, UNCTAD continued to provide substantive, technical and administrative support for the implementation of the GSTP Agreement and the follow-up and implementation of the third round of GSTP negotiations. GSTP participants continued to strive to secure operationalization of the results of the São Paulo Round. In 2019, UNCTAD intensified efforts to reinvigorate GSTP and the operationalization of the

outcome of the third round of GSTP negotiations, including by holding GSTP Committee of Participants (17 October 2019). In 2019 UNCTAD published Policy Brief No. 74: Energizing South–South trade: The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries.

107. The trade negotiation capacities of countries were also built through the provision of training courses organized under paragraph 166, including a regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for Africa (28–29 March, Nairobi), for the Asia-Pacific region (24–27 November, Singapore) and UNCTAD Pilot Interregional Course on Key Issues on the international Economic Agenda (26 June, Geneva). These contributed to better preparedness and enhanced technical capacities with regard to trade policy and multilateral and regional negotiations.

108. **Results and impacts.** UNCTAD contributed positively to the strengthening of capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate effectively in the international trading system. It contributed to enhancing the understanding of developing countries' trade negotiators, policymakers and stakeholders on developmental implications of trade negotiations and improving their ability to analyse, formulate and implement trade policies and strategies in promoting their developmental interests. UNCTAD has helped to understand the emerging issues in the international trading system, such as the WTO reform, in particular the debate on the categorization of developing countries in the use of special and differential treatment in future trade agreements and the importance of aligning multilateral, regional or bilateral trade agreements with national goals on inclusive and sustained development. UNCTAD activities in these areas have sustained positive impact and strengthened human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade-related policies and negotiations in developing countries, particularly on trade and development, national trade policy formulation and implementation, and multilateral and regional trade negotiations with special focus on LDCs, Africa and small and vulnerable economies. UNCTAD received a number of requests for support on trade negotiations (from the Gambia, Pakistan, Zambia and the Agadir Technical Unit). Adequate funding for technical assistance needs to be secured to address the requests of these countries.

109. UNCTAD successfully supported the accession negotiations of a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The following beneficiaries under the General Trust Fund for WTO Accession recently became WTO members: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Liberia and Seychelles. These countries expressed appreciation for UNCTAD assistance. UNCTAD continued to receive an increasing number of requests for support on WTO accession from a variety of countries, including LDCs (Comoros, Somalia, Seychelles, South Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). To meet the needs of acceding countries, it is necessary to secure adequate funding for technical assistance on WTO accession.

110. UNCTAD work on services, trade and development has helped developing countries better understand this area, and the potential opportunities this field can provide. There is close synergy between the three pillars of UNCTAD work in its services. For example, synergies with the analytical work developed for the seventh session of the Multi-year expert meeting on Trade, Services and Development, “Enhancing productive capacity through services(TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/20)” have been relevant for the technical cooperation activities on services economy and trade. Through country- and sector-specific assessments and field support, UNCTAD has assisted countries with the development of their services sector.

111. Sharing of experiences and lessons learnt is a special feature of UNCTAD support. The outcome of the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade has been widely disseminated and shared through international and national conferences. The dissemination of findings of the intergovernmental meetings and analyses of UNCTAD helped countries to consider steps towards strengthening their regulatory and institutional mechanism in support of infrastructure services and identify best-fit national policies, so that they can have a stronger positive impact on development. UNCTAD work in this area has helped to reform sector policies and regulations, improved access to essential services, and generated important data and reference material for

multilateral and regional trade negotiations as well as for national services policy formulation. The developmental benefits of international migration and related remittances received added emphasis by UNCTAD in the light of its growing impact on development prospects.

112. UNCTAD support in this area has contributed to building the knowledge base and to wider dissemination of GSP-related information, including through the preparation of GSP handbooks, and collection and analysis of GSP trade data, as well as improved understanding and awareness of GSP among exporters and government officials in some individual beneficiary countries. UNCTAD contributed to making LDC preferences more effective, so that they better contribute to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and further, towards achieving the Goals. UNCTAD support provided to GSTP participants has ensured the operation of the Agreement and effective follow-up of the São Paulo Round results towards its effective implementation by the signatories. Further efforts are needed towards effective implementation of the São Paulo Round results, which could provide an important impetus for robust expansion of South–South trade and deepening South–South cooperation.

A10 Sustainable trade and the environment

Table A10
Sustainable trade and the environment

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/0T/7BS	Climate change programme	2007–	Norway
INT/0T/HAI	BioTrade Facilitation Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development	2019–	Switzerland
INT/0T/HBD	Sustainable manufacturing and environmental pollution programme	2018–	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
ROA-1617 (I10)	Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security	2016–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (K11)	Evidence-based and policy coherent oceans economy and trade strategies	2018–	Development Account

113. **Development context.** The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development recognized that countries' transition to a green economy can make increasing contributions to sustainable development and poverty eradication through economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, environmental protection and social equity. Sustainable products, defined as internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced and promote sustainable consumption, offer considerable export opportunities for developing countries. Many sustainable products are produced in rural areas by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), by lower- and medium-skill workers including women and youth, and their production can contribute significantly to environmental protection, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, economic diversification, job creation and poverty reduction in economically marginalized rural areas of developing countries. To seize these new inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities, developing countries need strengthened capacity to

identify their production and export strengths for sustainable products, sustainable use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services, and put into place national policies, regulations and institutions needed to create an enabling environment for their production and export.

114. **Objectives/features.** Programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in designing and implementing mutually supportive trade, environment, climate change and sustainable development strategies while integrating sustainable development objectives at all levels. UNCTAD explores the trade opportunities arising from multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment-related negotiations. It promotes sustainable trade in sectors that contribute to further economic growth, job creation and opportunities for social inclusion, and biodiversity conservation. UNCTAD work is based on requests from developing countries to examine the development impact and economic repercussions of existing and potential multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment negotiations and how best to address the challenges and seize the opportunities related to trade. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles under the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCTAD facilitates multilateral and expert processes in areas in which the environmental aspect is central to trade. Making economic growth compatible with sustainable development requires adequate policies and mechanisms, and UNCTAD programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment work towards stimulating economic diversification, creating jobs, raising income levels, fostering environmental protection and conserving biodiversity resources, thereby improving living standards.

115. **Outputs.** In 2019, the first-ever United Nations Trade Forum was organized from 9 to 13 September 2019 in Geneva. In addressing the climate challenge, the theme of the week-long forum was on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change. It featured events on trade and climate change, oceans economy, circular economy, plastic pollution and trade and biodiversity. The trade and climate change event, which focused on the plight of the most vulnerable – the small island developing States (SIDS) urged the international community to factor disaster reduction and economic resilience into trade and financial policies to help them in managing the multiple risks of climate change. The third Oceans Forum: Oceans economy, climate and harmful fish subsidies stressed the importance of having an integrated interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach, along with coordination and policy coherence at all levels in achieving the trade-related targets of SDG 14. The problem of plastic pollution, which threatens the world's oceans, affecting biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods was also addressed. The forum examined the research, industrial and behavioural initiatives required in dealing with this problem. The fifth BioTrade Congress: Linking trade and biodiversity highlighted the need for a concerted and transformative action at all levels, including in the way we trade in curbing biodiversity loss.

116. UNCTAD continued to coordinate the Global BioTrade Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development and supported countries such as Ecuador and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in enabling a policy environment and improving regulatory framework for BioTrade companies at the national and international levels. The programme has also facilitated market linkages between buyers and BioTrade partners in the commercialization of BioTrade-related products. In keeping the BioTrade concept and framework relevant, UNCTAD started the revision process of its BioTrade Principles and Criteria, which was developed in 2007. The revised Principles and Criteria will strengthen UNCTAD work in mainstreaming BioTrade in relevant multilateral, regional and national processes, and in building the case of the positive role that trade can play when conducted under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria. The 5th BioTrade Congress was held from 12 to 13 September 2019 as part of the United Nations Trade Forum. The Congress explored how sustainable trade in biodiversity-based products and services can contribute to biodiversity conservation. It also discussed possible policy frameworks and incentive measures to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity-based products at all levels.

117. UNCTAD continued to implement the Development Account project on Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies – OETS (1819K) aimed at building capacity in identifying oceans-based products and services with potential in Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica. National stakeholders' workshops were organized in Barbados and Costa Rica to identify and select promising ocean-based sectors and present a strategy and plan of action in integrating and strengthening different linkages and stages of the value chains to access local, regional and international markets.

118. UNCTAD, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme launched the joint Inter-agency Plan of Action (IAPoA) on 13 June 2019 in Geneva. The IAPoA aims at accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 through trade, including achieving its trade-related targets. Improving trade and trade-related policies safeguarding food security could contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources and improve livelihoods. On the side lines of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, a side event was organized on 28 November 2019 in Vigo, Spain to provide interested parties with a better understanding on the proposed functioning, activities, and outcomes of the IAPoA. The side-event provided an opportunity for the three agencies to respond to questions on relevance, scope, content and proposed benefits of the IAPoA as well as gather feedback.

119. Under the work on Circular Economy and the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme, UNCTAD participated in the World Circular Economy Forum 2019 from 3 to 5 June 2019 in Helsinki. The Forum brought together 2,000 key circular economy thinkers and doers. Discussions focused on investing into circular economy businesses, adopting new technologies and creating innovative policies in scaling up its transition. On the side lines of the Forum and in building a network for the SMEP programme, UNCTAD organized a side session on Tackling manufacturing-based pollution in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa: the SMEP research programme on 4 June 2019. The discussions provided insights and strategic direction in implementing the programme. In partnership with the University of York and the Stockholm Environment Institute, a baseline research study on manufacturing pollution conditions in the sub-Saharan Africa and South Asian regions is under way.

120. The Development Account project on Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security (1617I) was concluded in 2019. A workshop to validate the Malawi national report was held from 21 to 22 November 2019 in Lilongwe. National reports on Harnessing Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development in Guatemala, Malawi and Vanuatu were prepared and finalized.

121. Under the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme of Support for Angola to strengthen and diversify its economy towards more sustainable products, UNCTAD organized a provincial workshop to increase the capacity of national stakeholders in analysing national policies in promoting and developing the honey and timber sectors. The workshop, which included harmonization and product certification issues, transferring cross-cutting knowledge on green product promotion, certification and export processes was held from 17 to 21 June 2019 in Luena, Moxico province, where the production of these 2 products is most concentrated. Another stakeholders' training workshop for the coffee and tropical fruits value chains was organized from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Uíge province, Angola. The workshop aimed at increasing the capacity of stakeholders in analysing policies related to the promotion and development of the coffee, banana and other tropical fruits value chains.

122. In increasing the awareness and understanding of issues related to sustainable trade and the environment by public and private stakeholders, UNCTAD organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences as well as relevant discussions of international development processes. A complete list of events is below:

(a) United Kingdom. Department for International Development (DFID)-UNCTAD Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme, Early Market Engagement, 15 January 2019, London;

- (b) Barbados. First National Stakeholder Workshop: Ocean-based sectors assessment and selection, 26 to 27 February 2019, Bridgetown;
- (c) Finland. World Circular Economy Forum 2019, 3 to 5 June 2019, Helsinki;
- (d) Finland. Presentation of upcoming funding opportunities under the SMEP programme at the World Circular Economy Forum 2019, 4 June 2019, Helsinki;
- (e) Ghana. SWITCH Africa Green⁹ Regional Sector Meeting on Integrated Waste Management, 11 to 12 June 2019, Accra;
- (f) Switzerland. Towards an Inter-agency Plan of Action for achieving the trade-related targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14, 13 June 2019, Geneva;
- (g) Angola. National Green Export Review (NGER) training workshop on honey and timber, 17 to 21 June 2019, Luena, Moxico province;
- (h) Costa Rica. Stakeholder Consultations on Draft Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies Report, 26 June 2019, Puntarenas;
- (i) Webinar on BioTrade and Access and Benefit-Sharing: Issues and Experiences in Implementation, 2 July 2019;
- (j) Switzerland. WTO A4T Side Event: Moving beyond SPS and TBT - Challenges of the Green Market, 4 July 2019, Geneva;
- (k) Switzerland. United Nations Trade Forum: Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change, 9 to 13 September 2019, Geneva;
- (l) Costa Rica. Second National Stakeholder Workshop: Discussion and validation of an Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy, 30 to 31 October 2019, Puntarenas;
- (m) Malawi. National Workshop: harnessing agricultural trade for sustainable development and food security, 21 to 22 November 2019, Lilongwe;
- (n) Angola. NGER training workshop on coffee and tropical fruits value chain sectors, 25 to 29 November 2019, Uíge Province;
- (o) Belgium. Dialogue on sustainable food and agriculture, 3 December 2019, Brussels;
- (p) Viet Nam. Second Regional Coordination Workshop on BioTrade and Access and Benefit-Sharing in the Mekong Region, 4 to 5 December 2019, Hanoi;
- (q) Belize. Second National Stakeholder Workshop: Discussion and validation of an Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy – Marine finfish species and seafood manufacturing, 4 to 5 December 2019, Belize City.

123. The following reports and publications were prepared and/or finalized:

- (a) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Angola – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/1;
- (b) Fact sheet: Política Nacional de Exportación de Productos Verdes, Ecuador – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/2;
- (c) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Ethiopia – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/3;
- (d) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Lebanon – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/4;
- (e) Fact sheet: Examen National de l'Export Vert, Madagascar – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/5;

⁹ Switch Africa Green is developed and funded by the European Union, in partnership with United Nations agencies, notably UNDP, UNEP and the UN Office for Project Services, as well as national Ministries of Environment. See www.switchafricagreen.org.

- (f) Fact sheet: Examen National de l'Export Vert, Maroc – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/6;
- (g) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Republic of Moldova – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/7;
- (h) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Oman – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/8;
- (i) Fact sheet: Examen National de l'Export Vert, Sénégal – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/9;
- (j) Fact sheet: National Green Export Review, Vanuatu – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/10;
- (k) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Legal and Institutional Framework for Ocean Affairs in Belize: Sustainable Marine Fisheries, Marine Aquaculture, Seafood Processing, Marine and Coastal Tourism – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/11;
- (l) Synthetic biology and its potential implications for BioTrade and Access and Benefit-Sharing – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/12;
- (m) Overview of Economic and Trade Aspects of Fisheries and Seafood Sectors in Costa Rica – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/13;
- (n) The Legal and Institutional Framework Governing Ocean-Based Economic Sectors in Barbados – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/14;
- (o) Advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Sustainable fish, seafood value chains, trade and climate – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2019/3;
- (p) A development perspective on WTO fish subsidies negotiations – UNCTAD/SER.RP/2019/7;
- (q) Transparency in fisheries subsidies: Notification-driven analytics of country performance and disclosure requirements – UNCTAD/SER.RP/2019/8;
- (r) Linking trade and biodiversity: Fifth BioTrade Congress Report – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/5;
- (s) An Overview of Economic and Trade Aspects of Fisheries and Maritime Tourism Sectors in Belize – meeting document¹⁰;
- (t) Harnessing Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development: Vanuatu Cocoa and Coconut – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2019/1;
- (u) Harnessing Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development: Guatemala Cardamom, Cocoa and Potato – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2019/2;
- (v) Harnessing Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development: Malawi Groundnuts, Sunflower and Soybeans – UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2019/4.

124. **Results.** UNCTAD successfully organized the first UN Trade Forum: SDGs and Climate Change. World leaders, heads of institution and organization gathered in Geneva and called on the international trade community to take steps in ensuring global trade policy changes in addressing the climate challenge. Promoting sustainable trade could be part of the solution in achieving the SDGs and UNCTAD could play a pivotal and prominent role in moving this forward. At the 3rd Oceans Forum, UNCTAD was called upon to assist developing countries in analysing the diversification of their production base for selected blue value added exports, and to connect them to relevant markets. The fifth BioTrade Congress reinforced UNCTAD's strategic role in championing the inclusion of sustainable trade as a means of implementation in the on-going discussions and negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), including the role of trade in the future

¹⁰ Document accessible at <https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ditc-ted-04122019-belize-Economic-7.pdf>.

biodiversity agenda. Trade can be a force for good – with legal, sustainable and traceable trade of biodiversity-based products and services.

125. UNCTAD continued and strengthened its partnership with FAO, UN Environment Programme, UNECE, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the ACP Group and the International Ocean Institute. This is crucial in developing a coherent strategy, coordinating actions, and implementing activities in achieving SDG 14. This partnership promotes consensus building, works in identifying technical solutions and undertakes dialogues in addressing complex and sensitive political issues in a non-negotiating mode.

A11 Investment promotion and facilitation

Table A11

Investment promotion and facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/1BN	Capacity-building in investment promotion	2001–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/FBI ^a	Investment promotion partnerships for the development, marketing and facilitation of bankable Sustainable Development Goals projects	2017– 2019	Netherlands
ROA-1819 (M11)	Facilitating investment into Sustainable Development Goals sectors in developing countries	2018–	Development Account

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2019

126. **Development context.** With the globalization of economic activities, more and more developing countries are seeking foreign direct investment (FDI). This has resulted in proactive policies by these countries to attract and retain foreign investment, including investment in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) sectors, in order to generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth and build resilient infrastructure while safeguarding the environment.

127. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD's work on investment promotion aims to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to create and manage the policy and institutional framework for attracting and retaining foreign investment and in developing an operating climate in which international business can thrive and contribute to sustainable development. The investment promotion programme provides tailor-made training, advisory and networking services, and prepares publications related to investment policies, investment promotion strategies and practices, investment facilitation, aftercare services, and institutional arrangements and good governance in attracting and retaining sustainable FDI. Special attention is being paid to strengthening investment promotion programmes in least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS).

128. **Outputs.** In 2019, the main outputs of the programme were as detailed below.

Publications, training material and newsflashes

129. Overview of FDI in LDCs: Trends and Issues 2019. This publication is the third annual UNCTAD investment monitor with analysis and updates on investment trends, opportunities and challenges in LDCs. The monitor is prepared annually by UNCTAD as part of a set of activities that were recommended to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) to help increase the coverage, scope and

effectiveness of the United Nations system's support to investment promotion in LDCs (CEB/2017/HLCP33/INF.1).

130. Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Diplomats. A note on the important contribution that diplomats and commercial attachés can have in attracting foreign investment to their home countries and how their involvement could be enhanced in the promotion of investment in SDG-related projects.

131. Partners for Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Strategic Approach. A training brochure on the development of pipelines of bankable SDG-related project proposals and on outward investment agencies (OIAs) as partners in the marketing and financing of Goal-related investment opportunities.

132. Smart Promotion Network newsflashes were published two times in 2019. The newsflashes, which reach over 2,000 investment promotion stakeholders, were related to the launch of the UNCTAD publication *Promoting Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Investment Promotion Awards 2019*.

Workshops, seminars and conferences

133. From 10 to 12 April 2019, UNCTAD conducted a Regional Seminar on Facilitating Investment in Sustainable Development Goal Projects in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The seminar, which was co-organized with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat had 40 participants, including 12 women, from investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and ministries from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania as well as representatives of international organizations, banks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. The seminar covered investment promotion strategies, facilitation practices and the financing of SDG projects through public-private partnerships. It also included sessions on the role of NGOs in supporting SDG investments, the fostering of sustainable business linkages, the impact of investment and business activities on gender equality and women empowerment and reforms of the international investment agreements (IIAs) regime.

134. On 17 April 2019, an SDG Investment Fair was organized in New York in partnership with UN-DESA. A special UNCTAD session on Building SDG Project Pipelines had 30 participants of whom 50 per cent were women.

135. On 20 June 2019, a videoconference was held with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Investment of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to brief governmental officials on findings from the newly published *World Investment Report 2019: Special Economic Zones*. Fifty officials of whom 20 women participated.

136. On 5 and 6 September 2019, in the context of the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II project, a capacity-building workshop was held in Luanda, on investment policies, investment promotion, and responsible investment in agriculture. This national stakeholders' workshop had over 80 participants from the national investment promotion agency of Angola, ministries, academia, and private sector, including industry associations. About 30 per cent of the participants were women.

137. From 14 to 15 November 2019, a Workshop on Investment Policies for Sustainable Development was held in Geneva for a delegation from Saudi Arabia. The workshop covered IIAs as well as investment promotion and facilitation for sustainable development. In total 15 officials participated, including 5 women.

138. From 20 to 21 November 2019, several sessions on investment promotion and facilitation were organized during a workshop for African IPAs on Investment Promotion Policies and FDI Trends at the Investment for Africa Forum in Cairo. The workshop gathered 93 government officials, including 40 women, from 40 African countries of which 24 were LDCs.

139. From 26 to 28 November 2019, UNCTAD organized in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA) a Regional Seminar for the Caribbean entitled Facilitating Investment in SDG Projects: Spotlight on Small Island Developing States. The seminar had 50 participants, including 40 women, representing

IPAs from 20 Caribbean countries and territories, international organizations, regional initiatives and the private sector. Topics covered include the facilitation of investment in SDG projects, online business registration platforms, special economic zones (SEZs), and the impact of investment in key SDG sectors in the region. Sessions were also held on gender equality in business and global reform of the IIA regime.

140. On 5 and 6 December 2019, UNCTAD gave presentations at the Barranquilla Investment Conference in Colombia on investment in SDG-related sectors. In total, 49 investment promotion officials and private sector representatives participated, including 36 women.

Advisory services

141. In June 2019, UNCTAD provided advisory services on challenges in mobilizing foreign investment for developing innovation ecosystems at the Matchmaking Forum for Investment and Innovation in Cairo. The Forum was organized by the ANIMA Investment Network of Mediterranean IPAs.

142. A survey of IPAs, OIAs, SEZs and related associations was carried out from July to September 2019 in the context of the 2019 United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Development aimed at recognizing and disseminating best practices in promoting sustainable investment in SEZs.

143. In November 2019, Caribbean IPAs were familiarized through briefings and a site visit with Goal-related investments financed from the Saint Kitts and Nevis Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP). The Saint Kitts and Nevis CIP was established in 1984 and was the first of such a programme.

144. On 11 November, the United Nations Investment Promotion Awards were presented at the second Ambassadors' Round Table on Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2019 Awards for excellence in promoting sustainable investment in SEZs went to the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, the Guangzhou Development District Administration Committee from China and Invest Durban and Dube Trade Port SEZ from South Africa. The awards were widely reported in the press and the winner's best practices are being used in UNCTAD training courses.

145. During 2019, the investment promotion programme worked with CAIPA and the UNCTAD iGuide programme on the development of online investment guides for Caribbean countries and territories. These iGuides are hosted and maintained by individual IPAs but will also be presented on a shared CAIPA platform. iGuides have been completed for Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Curaçao. Online investment guides for Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Turks and Caicos Islands are under development.

146. SustainableFDI.org is a platform for IPA professionals, policymakers and other investment stakeholders. The website seeks to meet the learning and networking needs expressed by IPAs worldwide in promoting investment in sustainable development. It features a resource centre with publications related to sustainable investment, a newly updated network of IPA contacts, and information on UNCTAD activities, including workshops and seminars with training material on the promotion of investment in sustainable development. In 2019, the platform was updated with further emphasis on the SDGs and new features such as the ability to view publications and tools related to investment for each of the Goals. The domain name of the platform was also changed from greenFDI.org to sustainableFDI.org. The redesigned site with an SDG focus was launched in June 2019 through the UNCTAD World Investment Network and social media channels.

147. **Results and impact.** During 2019, over 400 investment promotion officials and investment policymakers, of whom nearly 50 per cent were women, were trained in the promotion and facilitation of investment for sustainable development. Comments of participants in investment promotion and facilitation capacity-building events include: "The regional seminar was extremely insightful and relevant for IPAs promoting SDGs for the development of their respective countries"; "Very informative and useful to IPAs in their role of streamlining SDGs in their promotion work"; "These workshops give to small

countries hope and suitable information to continue their strive for sustainable goals and productivity”; “Useful, relevant and an important capacity building seminar, likely to have significant impact on investment facilitation activities”; “The session helped bring to our attention the necessity to focus on SDGs and gender in policy development”.

148. Cooperation with partner organizations continued and contributed to a higher programme output and quality. Partners during 2019 were the ANIMA network of Mediterranean IPAs, CAIPA, EAC, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). Cooperation with United Nations entities included joint activities with ILO, UN-DESA, UNECA, UNOHRLLS and UNIDO.

149. In 2019, the sustainableFDI.org platform (formerly named greenFDI.org) was visited a combined 3,900 times by users from 164 countries and territories, including 121 developing and transition economies.

150. The IPA of Costa Rica, CINDE, has started to explicitly integrate the SDGs into its investment impact evaluation strategy. The decision to follow this approach came after the CEO of CINDE participated in a seminar organized by UNCTAD in November 2017 on how the SDGs can be incorporated in the work of IPAs. CINDE now evaluates and reports its activities in line with four specific SDGs, notably SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 9 on industry innovation and infrastructure.

A99 Other

Table A99
Other

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Division on Investment and Enterprise</i>			
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN
INT/0T/H CJ	Strategic Partnership the Netherlands	2018–	Netherlands
<i>Division on International Trade and Commodities</i>			
ROA-1617 (AI10)	Fostering the development of green exports through voluntary sustainability standards in Asia and the Pacific	2016–	Development Account
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
<i>Division on Globalization and Development Strategies</i>			
INT/0T/HCD	Reclaiming multilateralism for global development	2018–	Public donation
INT/0T/HBY	South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in key partner countries of the Belt and Road Initiative	2019–	Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-1617 (L10)	Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	2017–	Development Account
<i>Division on Trade and Logistics</i>			
INT/0T/7CB	Special Trust Fund for Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society	2007–	Switzerland

1. Trade and Creative Economy

151. **Development context.** Over the last fifteen years, the topic of creative economy has become well-inserted into the international economic and development agenda. Today, creative industries are among the most dynamic sectors in world trade. UNCTAD research shows that between 2010 and 2015, creative goods exports outpaced global merchandise exports. In terms of creative services, exports had an annual growth rate of 4 per cent between 2011 and 2015.¹¹ The creative economy generates jobs, innovation and trade, while contributing to social inclusion and cultural diversity.

152. Recognition of the scope, role and impact of the creative economy on countries' socio-economic development has only accelerated, alongside increased demand for insight into the creative economy. The creative economy is thus increasingly high on both the global agenda and that of emerging and developing economies seeking to diversify their economies.

153. The United Nations General Assembly recently adopted for the first time a resolution on the creative economy (A/RES/74/198). This resolution, which was co-sponsored by 81 countries and agreed by consensus, highlights the creative economy as an important tool for the attainment of the SDGs and declares 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. This resolution gives UNCTAD the mandate to inform the General Assembly in a dedicated section of the Creative Economy Outlook of UNCTAD on how the implementation of the GA resolution 74/198 "is aligned with and advances the 2030 Agenda, including recommendations on concrete actions that would help Member States and the United Nations system to accelerate their efforts in the implementation of the Agenda".¹²

154. **Objectives and features.** Since the creation of the Creative Economy Programme in 2004, UNCTAD has played a leading role in supporting developing countries to enhance understanding of the economic contribution of the creative industries from a trade and development perspective through capacity-building, analysis and consensus-building.

155. The programme's core focus is on trade in the creative industries and the role of the creative economy in the growth of developing economies. UNCTAD data-driven insights on trade in creative goods and services make a unique contribution to understanding the creative economy.

156. Reliable and consistent data on the trade in creative goods and services remain the key drivers of the UNCTAD Creative Economy Programme. A key component of the UNCTAD Creative Economy Programme is its proprietary statistical database on trade in creative goods and services. The data offering is one our key unique selling points. However, data need to be interpreted, analysed and used to inform decision-making at both a policy and practical level. Flowing from UNCTAD data offering on the creative economy are a range of services that make use of this data to provide effective support for member states that is aligned with the three pillars of UNCTAD, including:

¹¹ https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcted2018d3_en.pdf.

¹² A/RES/74/198, paragraph 6, 19 December 2019.

- (a) Advisory services;
- (b) Policy-orientated research;
- (c) Improving market access;
- (d) Building synergies;
- (e) Intragovernmental debates;
- (f) Promoting entrepreneurship;
- (g) Capacity-building;
- (h) Sharing knowledge.

157. The UNCTAD Creative Economy Programme generates economic information through a trade lens, to understand past trends and project into the future and to promote data-led understanding of trade in creative goods and services, intellectual property, ideas and imagination. This information is translated into insight for countries wanting to expand and support their creative economies. It also:

- (a) Promotes the creative economy as a new source of growth;
- (b) Supports government initiatives for the development of integrated creative economy public policies and institution-building;
- (c) Liaises with Governments, artists, creators, academia and civil society to strengthen the creative economy in developing countries;
- (d) Provides demand-driven policy advice and technical assistance to Governments;
- (e) Builds synergies within the United Nations system through the United Nations Multi-Agency Informal Group on Creative Industries;
- (f) Organizes and/or participate in international conferences, national seminars or sectoral workshops;
- (g) Promotes networking through the UNCTAD Creative Economy Network;
- (h) Contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16.¹³

158. **Outputs and results.** On 14 January 2019, UNCTAD launched its publication: *Creative Economy Outlook and Country Profiles: trends in international trade in creative industries (2002–2015) and country profiles (2005–2014)*. This report outlines trends in the world trade of creative goods and, for the first time, services by country for the period 2005 to 2014, and provides an outlook on the global creative economy for the period 2002 to 2015. The report includes country profiles for 130 economies and highlights potential opportunities for developing countries to increase their production, exports and share in creative industries markets. The report makes the case for increased public and private sector investment in creative and cultural industries.

159. The report was the most downloaded publication of DITC in 2019 and it appeared in 90 press articles around the world. The report gives global visibility to the international trends in creative goods and services trade, providing data-driven policy analysis to facilitate policy making. The publication highlights the opportunity for developing countries to tap into their creative industries and develop their creative economies as part of

¹³ Goal 3 “Good Health and Well-Being for People”
 Goal, 8 “Decent work and economic growth”
 Goal 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”
 Goal 11 “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”
 Goal 17: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”.

diversification strategies also in alignment with the SDGs. The report is available in the UNCTAD website.¹⁴

Event in the E-commerce Week

160. In the context of the UNCTAD E-commerce Week, the Creative Economy Programme co-organized the event “*Digitalization of the Creative Economies: The Case of the Music Industry in Geneva*”¹⁵ on 4 April 2019. This session discussed ways in which developing countries can fulfil the economic potential of the digitalization of the music industry.

161. The event brought together over 80 participants from Governments, academia, private sector and NGOs. Experts proposed ways in which developing countries can fulfil the economic potential of the digitalization of the music industry and provided recommendations on (a) policies and measures to support digital music creation, (b) expansion of existing markets and improving digital skills, and (c) boosting responsible investment in the digital music industry by using technical assistance programmes.

Interagency collaboration events

162. High-level Luncheon on the Creative Economy and the Future of Work,¹⁶ New York, 20 May 2019. This working luncheon was convened by the President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the High-level Event on Culture and Sustainable Development, held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/229.

163. The event provided a platform to exchange good practices and identify opportunities for the creative economy to support the acceleration of progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: harnessing the potential of culture specifically for progress on Sustainable Development Goal 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

164. The fourth edition of the Beijing International Forum on Creative Economy: Creativity, Technology and Sustainability Shape the Future of Fashion,¹⁷ Beijing 29 May 2019. The event was organized jointly with Beijing Municipal Government and the World Trade Point Federation in the framework of the 2019 China Trade in Services Fair (CIFTIS).

165. Design goods, from fashion to furniture, are the global leaders in terms of demand for creative industries. Rapid technological advances and growing concerns about sustainability are changing the path of the fashion industry, opening up opportunities for it to become a critical sector in the fostering of inclusive development. The panel gave the opportunity to advocate for more sustainable fashion production and consumption; highlight the increasing contribution of the creative economy for local development; raise awareness of government, businesses and consumer initiatives that support trade and sustainable development through the creative industries, in particular in the design and fashion industries; increase understanding of the fashion value chain; enhance knowledge of sustainable fashion and its linkages with cultural heritage; and promote more effective collaborative platforms and policies for achieving a creative economy for sustainable development.

166. The Geographical Indications Symposium, Beijing, 30 May 2019. UNCTAD highlighted the importance of appellations of origin for the creative industries given their linkage to the cultural milieu of production and ways of life and encourages their use to preserve and protect cultural traditions. UNCTAD emphasized the benefits of using geographical indications to protect culturally based products and the importance of its inclusion in trade policy.

¹⁴ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=2328>.

¹⁵ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2116>.

¹⁶ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2179>.

¹⁷ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2236>.

167. On 14 June 2019, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Creative Economy Programme took part in the fifth edition of *Afrodyssée*,¹⁸ an annual spring time event that includes debates, a fashion show and an international market, at which some 40 designers based in Africa and Europe took part.

168. UNCTAD contributed to delivering key messages about the fashion industry in Africa. African creative industries face a wide range of challenges in terms of the distribution and marketing of their goods and services and especially in terms of developing sustainable careers. The recommendations included the need for improved infrastructure, institutional capacity, and dialogue between the state and the private sector.

Interagency cooperation

169. UNCTAD Creative Economy Programme collaborated with relevant United Nations agencies, including UNESCO, WIPO, ITC and UNIDO, as well as WTO, British Council and City University of London.

170. UNCTAD Creative Economy Programme provided inputs to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on Culture and Development.

171. The United Nations resolution on “International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021” was adopted by consensus by 81 countries at the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 14 November 2019. It highlights the Creative Economy as an important tool for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and declares 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. The Resolution gives UNCTAD a mandate to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, through a dedicated section of the Creative Economy Outlook.

172. Participation at the UNIDO conference “Industry 4.0 and Creative Economy”¹⁹ held in Vienna on 8 July 2019. UNCTAD, UNIDO and the Government of Indonesia raised awareness of the impact that technological progress has had on industrial policy in the creative economy at a seminar in the Vienna International Centre.

173. The conference provided a proactive platform to find creative approaches to manage the transition to Industry 4.0. It raised awareness about the advances in technology and how they have revolutionized some of the creative industries such as advertising, publishing, crafts, etc., as well as their relationship with the rest of the economy.

174. Participation at the preparatory working meeting of the Culture Summit Abu Dhabi 2020 organized by the Department of Culture and Tourism in Abu Dhabi on 30 September 2019. The meeting brainstormed and discussed Summit programme, topics, speakers and formats for the Culture Summit Abu Dhabi that will be held from 5 to 9 April 2020.

175. The meeting led to a joint collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi to contribute to organizing two Panels on Creative Economy at the 2020 Culture Summit. UNCTAD is a leading partner organization together with the Royal Academy of Arts, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, the Economist Events, Google, UNESCO, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Emirates Diplomatic Academy and Berklee Abu Dhabi.

Sustainable development

176. Organization of a cultural event and exhibition, Cultural Heritage and Tradition for Sustainable Trade and Development: The role of women in the Creative Industries of the Philippines,²⁰ in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Philippines, held in Geneva on 7 October 2019. The event shed light on how cultural heritage and tradition can provide opportunities for value addition and product differentiation that can generate

¹⁸ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2235>.

¹⁹ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2345>.

²⁰ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2346>.

important economic gains domestically and internationally. Using a unique production method originating from traditional folk craft, the Philippines has developed a piña-seda cloth that is considered one of the finest fabrics in the world.

177. The event provides an example of how cultural heritage and tradition can provide opportunities for value addition and product differentiation that can generate important economic gains domestically and internationally. The Philippines' fashion and art crafts (which includes hand-woven and needlework rugs, embroidery among others) is a good case. The Philippines have capitalized on their culture, creativity and natural resources to nurture a silk yarn and woven fabric industry that supports a growing textiles and clothing industry.

Expert Meeting and Forum

178. Organization of an UNCTAD Ad hoc Expert Meeting on Creative Economy for Development,²¹ in partnership with the University of London and the Commonwealth, held in Geneva on 28 October 2019. The expert meeting provided an opportunity to discuss challenges at hand, current developments related to creative economy and implications for developing countries, and to formulate recommendations.

179. Over 130 participants, including Governments, cultural institutions and practitioners and civil society, benefited from the best practices of the Governments of Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Denmark, Jamaica, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and from small island developing States.

180. The expert meeting helped to raise awareness of the importance of the creative economy for sustainable development, advance the development agenda connected to creative economy, including recommendations for the development gains of developing countries and create and strengthen networks and partnerships for the advancement of key related issues including those related to statistics related to creative economy, intellectual property, market access, entrepreneurship, digital economy and innovation.

181. Participation in the Third International Creative Ukraine Forum: the role of innovation in creative industries' development, held in Kiev on 14 November 2019. UNCTAD presented the main trends in the international trade of creative goods and services and the position of Ukraine in the creative industries market and contributed to the expert panel discussion on the policy environment for creative industries.

182. The forum raised awareness about the trend of integrating innovation into the development of creative industries and the importance of developing cultural policy options that use digital technologies as a tool to provide equal access to culture, promoting the diversity of creative expression, generating high value added creative products.

Course on paragraph 166

183. Organization in collaboration with the Division on Technology and Logistics, of a Short Course for Geneva-based Diplomats on Creative Economy²² on 6 December 2019. The short course shed light on Creative Economy as an important tool for the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The first presentation identified key trends and developments in the area of creative economy and the opportunities and challenges for developing countries. The second presentation focused on the importance of intellectual property from a creative economy perspective. It also shed light on the importance of intellectual property from a creative economy perspective.

184. The short course provided the opportunity to disseminate the findings of the recent research on Creative Economy Outlook publication released in January 2019 and to update recent developments on the intellectual property frameworks impacting the creative industries.

²¹ <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2234>.

²² <https://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2343>.

European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Creative economy component

185. The UNCTAD creative economy component under the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II is intended to support the Government's objectives to promote the cultural and creative industries of Angola and encourage economic diversification. It will directly contribute to the implementation of Programme 1.7.2: "Promotion of Cultural and Creative Arts and Industries" under the National Development Plan 2018–2022 of Angola.²³ The objectives of the Angola Creative Economy Component, which are in line with the objectives of the overall Train for Trade II Programme, are: (a) to assess the trade (export) potential of the creative economy of Angola; (b) to identify key bottlenecks that undermine efforts to harness the socioeconomic potential of the creative economy of Angola; and (c) to build the institutional and human capacities of Angola to formulate and implement policies and strategies to unlock binding constraints.

186. The UNCTAD creative economy component under the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola carried out its first activity on 28 and 29 October 2019 when an official delegation from Angola representing the creative and cultural industries came to Geneva.

187. The delegation participated at the first UNCTAD ad hoc expert meeting on the creative economy, which took place on 28 October. The meeting brought together leading experts from Government, business, academia and international organizations to enhance awareness of the crucial relationship between creative industries and economic development. Angolan officials had the opportunity of sharing experiences and best practices on creative economy. The meeting was also an opportune occasion to showcase the vision of Angola on the creative economy and the Creative Economy Component under the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola.

188. On 29 October, the Angolan delegation met with the UNCTAD creative economy team to discuss about the areas of work that the Angolan delegation considers important for the Angola project and agree on the activities for 2020. It was agreed that the next activity was for UNCTAD to carry out the first fact-finding mission in 2020.

2. Voluntary sustainability standards

189. **Development context.** With global demand for nature-based, healthy, eco-friendly, and socially correct products on the rise among consumers, major retailers increasingly opt for products that claim to be sustainable. One way a product can claim to be sustainable is by carrying eco-labels that confirm products meet voluntary sustainability standards. Such norms and standards aim to ensure that a product in question is produced, processed or transported in accordance with certain sustainability qualities, such as minimal or zero environmental impacts. Around 500 voluntary sustainability standards exist today for the key exports of many developing countries, such as coffee, tea, bananas, cocoa, palm oil, timber, cotton and organic agri-foods. These norms and standards are developed by bodies such as Fairtrade International, the Marine Stewardship Council and the Rainforest Alliance.

190. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD undertakes analyses, builds the capacities of countries and provides a forum for intergovernmental discussion and consensus-building on the impact of voluntary sustainability standards on market access and market entry conditions facing exports from developing countries. It facilitates collaboration among interested United Nations agencies on supporting developing countries in strengthening national capacities to address voluntary sustainability standards and in conducting analysis on the trade and development implications of such standards. It also supports developing countries in making use of such standards, including through capacity-building

²³ Angola, National Development Plan 2018-2022, Programa 1.7.2: Fomento da Arte e das Indústrias Culturais e Criativas, April 2018. Page 117. https://www.info-angola.com/attachments/article/4867/PDN%202018-2022_MASTER_vf_Volume%201_13052018.pdf.

programmes, in promoting trade in a manner that brings about economic, social and environmentally sustainable benefits.

191. **Outputs.** Under the project “Fostering Green Exports through Voluntary Sustainability Standards”, implemented in three developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific region, namely, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Vanuatu, UNCTAD undertook the following activities in 2019:

(a) The voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit developed in this project was revised and improved based on the feedback obtained at an expert meeting organized in Geneva and on the experience of the cases deployed the previous year. The voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit is designed to collect evidence in the field on the opportunities and challenges faced by actors with respect to voluntary sustainability standards in value chains with green export potential. An online version of the voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit will be publicly available in 2020.

(b) National multi-stakeholder meetings were held in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Vanuatu to discuss findings and policy recommendations of the case studies conducted in the previous year using the voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit (for coffee, virgin coconut oil and coconut oil, respectively). Discussions held at these meetings led to agreement on action plans outlining who-does-what and when, to be incorporated into policies. Exceptionally in the case of the Philippines, after a fruitful meeting in 2019, final agreement on an action plan has been postponed due the coronavirus situation.

(c) UNCTAD work on this project, and specifically the preliminary findings from the case study in the Philippines, were also disseminated at the 55th International Coconut Community Session and Ministerial Meeting, held in Manila on 26–30 August.

192. Within the framework of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), supported by UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the following activities were implemented:

(a) Support for the second International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards convened by the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 16 to 18 September 2019. This event covered topics such as the challenges of standards in global value chains, the transparency of voluntary sustainability standards, the role of national platforms to foster collaborative sustainability standards framework and the approaches towards a mutual recognition of voluntary sustainability standards, while the third day was a full day workshop that focuses on the technicalities of moving the convention’s dialogue outcome into action. More than 600 participants, with over 60 international speakers and 20 countries represented in dialogue among Governments, private sectors, standard bodies and civil society on voluntary sustainability standards and development. The activity was self-financed by participants.

(b) Co-organization of a stakeholder awareness meeting with the German Development Institute on “South African Initiative on Voluntary Sustainability Standards – Stakeholders’ Perspectives on Sustainable Development and Bio-economy”, which was held in Pretoria on 6 and 7 November 2019. This meeting was meant to promote public awareness in South Africa on the potential of voluntary sustainability standards, engage and empower multiple stakeholders to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as to initiate the momentum to establish a national platform on voluntary sustainability standards in South Africa.

(c) Through the year, support for voluntary sustainability standards national platforms in Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Indonesia and South Africa. UNFSS established a sustainable-standards-related work agenda in Indonesia. This multi-stakeholder platforms help to advance the dialogue on voluntary sustainability standards in each of these countries between Government, public institutions, private sector and civil society.

(d) Support for the University of Leuven to receive a research grant through the Flemish Research Foundation, with which the University will co-author the forthcoming fourth UNFSS Flagship Report on “Scaling Up Voluntary Sustainability Standards through Sustainable Public Procurement and Trade Policy” that will be published during the third quarter of 2020.

(e) Organization of three workshops on “Andean Community Sustainable Trade Opportunities” to Bolivian and Ecuadorian exporters and government officials. The first workshop was organized in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Plurinational State of Bolivia) on 13–14 May, the second in La Paz on 15–16 May and the third workshop in Quito on 20–21 November 2019. Over 60 government officials and private sector representatives were trained on issues related to voluntary sustainability standards in each workshop. The workshops covered topics such as sustainability trends and global markets, in particular the European Union market, understanding voluntary sustainability standards and their impact on development and export potential, European Union export requirements and food and vegetable regulations, non-tariff measures and their impact on Bolivian and Ecuadorian exports, as well as the trainings on ITC Sustainability Map and the study presentation on “Sustainable Trade among Andean Community-European Union”. These workshops were also an opportunity to launch the study “Andean Community Sustainable Exports to the European Union” prepared by UNCTAD and the Andean Community Secretariat.

193. **Results.** Given the different priorities among actors in global value chains, voluntary sustainability standards certification may benefit some while excluding others. The UNCTAD voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit designed and made widely available through the project “Fostering Green Exports through Voluntary Sustainability Standards” provides a systematic means to visualize the different needs and challenges faced by different stakeholders and can help policymakers gather substantive information to draft policies that are both economically beneficial and inclusive towards local communities. The national multi-stakeholder meetings held in 2019 based on the findings and recommendations of the toolkit led to specific action plans, and more generally, they increased actors’ capacities to jointly design, assess and implement strategic options to increase the effectiveness of voluntary sustainability standards in fostering green exports.

194. The United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards continues to serve as a strong partnership platform to foster inter-agency support for national-level efforts to support national consultations and the development of beneficial voluntary sustainability standards. **Activities** related to such standards will eventually contribute to substantial understanding among stakeholders on the impacts of domestic and international voluntary sustainability standards on the development of green exports and sustainable development objectives, improving the capacity of multi-stakeholders to jointly design, assess and implement strategic options for making the best use of such standards to develop green and sustainable exports, and facilitating understanding by other countries within regions and beyond on how to make effective use of such standards for sustainable development.

3. Investment trends and issues

3.1. *Technical assistance on data collection on foreign direct investment and activities of multinational enterprises*

195. **Development context.** Scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency in existing data reporting systems can cause severe problems in formulating policies and strategies regarding FDI. There is also a shortage of studies on the role of FDI and its impact on sustainable economic development and contribution to the transfer of technology, human resource development and export performance. In response to recommendations made by an expert meeting on capacity-building in the area of FDI: Data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries (December 2005) and endorsed by the tenth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (Geneva, 6–10 March 2006), UNCTAD continues to provide technical assistance in the area of FDI statistics.

196. **Objectives and features.** The overall objective of the project is to increase FDI inflows to developing countries, in particular LDCs, by formulating FDI policies based on quality FDI data and information on multinational enterprises operating in a region or country. This project aims to enhance the capacity of government agencies in these countries to compile, disseminate and analyse data on FDI and multinational enterprise activities by implementing internationally recommended methodological standards and enabling national authorities to maintain high-quality and up-to-date databases. It also intends to strengthen networking among national authorities involved in FDI data compilation and reporting and in FDI policy issues and investment promotion activities, to facilitate the exchange of experience.

197. **Outputs.** Technical assistance focused on improving FDI data collection methodologies through verification of data sent by national authorities and standardization, by requesting countries to report FDI data based on directional basis rather than asset or liability basis, showing a synergy between research in the *World Investment Report* and Global Investment Trend Monitor and technical assistance on improving FDI data.

198. UNCTAD continued inter-agency cooperation in the area of FDI technical assistance by participating in the Working Group on International Investment Statistics of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The latest methodological standards on FDI statistics were discussed, reflecting the views and concerns of developing economies not members of these groups. In addition, in 2019 UNCTAD provided technical assistance to Egypt and the Cook Islands to improve collection of FDI statistics and activities on multinational enterprises.

3.2. *Technical assistance on investment reports*

199. **Development context.** An important pillar of UNCTAD activities is to support developments in member countries through analytical work and technical cooperation. In 2019, UNCTAD continued to extend technical assistance to ASEAN to prepare the ASEAN Investment Report 2019: FDI in Services – Focus on Health Care.

200. The annual ASEAN Investment Report series provides up-to-date analyses and data coverage pertaining to FDI and operations of multinational enterprises in the region. It also serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving the competitiveness of ASEAN to attract FDI. The series aims to promote a better understanding of the relationship between regional integration and FDI, and vice versa.

201. **Objectives and features.** The objective of the series is to present analyses of the latest developments in FDI and the regional investment environment in an integrating ASEAN, including implementing an ASEAN investment work programme in relation to the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. The report aims to provide analytical inputs for discussion by relevant ASEAN bodies of key investment issues and related policy.

202. **Outputs.** The ASEAN Investment Report 2019 was published in October 2019. The report is part of the efforts of ASEAN to promote transparency and investment opportunities in the region. In the preparation of the ASEAN Investment Report, a series of consultative meetings between staff members of UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat were held to discuss the key issues, the research process and the production of the report. A consultative forum on investment and the development of the health care industry in ASEAN was jointly organized by UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat (Bangkok, 20 and 21 June 2019). The two-day forum was participated by about 50 people (experts, policy makers and industry representatives).

203. **Results.** The report was launched and presented at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (Bangkok, 3 November), which was participated by 1,000 people. Interviews with media were also conducted at the Summit. The report was well received by stakeholders. The contents of the report were used by ASEAN bodies and in ASEAN discussion on issues pertaining to FDI and investment in the health care industry in the region. The report was also distributed at various official ASEAN and private sector meetings, including dissemination through the websites of the ASEAN secretariat and of UNCTAD.

3.3. *World Investment Report series*

204. **Development context.** As the focal point in the United Nations system for investment and technology, UNCTAD promotes understanding of key issues, particularly on FDI-related matters, and assists developing countries in attracting and benefiting from FDI and building their productive capacities and international competitiveness. The *World Investment Report* series provides up-to-date and comprehensive data on issues pertaining to FDI and multinational enterprises, analyses trends and developments in FDI, examines the implications of activities by multinational enterprises related to these trends, and assesses both international and national policy issues of relevance to developing countries. It serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving national capacities to attract and benefit from FDI, and as a capacity-building tool.

205. **Objectives and features.** The *World Investment Report* series is a key instrument in helping policymakers improve their understanding of emerging FDI-related issues and policy implications for development and, as a result, enhance their ability to formulate FDI policies that will contribute to development objectives. The series therefore serves as an essential tool for the formulation of FDI policies, which feeds into UNCTAD technical assistance work. The preparation involves the following interrelated activities:

(a) Policy analysis and research: An extensive peer review of the *World Investment Report* outline, drafts and final text. The preparation of each chapter and section involves dialogue with relevant stakeholders to ascertain facts and determine trends, including with experts (especially those from developing countries), on the topics analysed;

(b) Capacity-building workshops and seminars: These enable policymakers, researchers and other experts from developing countries to directly contribute salient experience, knowledge and information for each *World Investment Report*. As such, these activities constitute a key element of the peer review process;

(c) Dissemination of the report's findings and results: Dissemination begins with the organization of press conferences in national venues and increasingly through webinars on the report's launch date, followed by seminars/workshops for policymakers in developing countries. These workshops allow stakeholders from developing countries to discuss the results of the research and policy analysis, including ways and means of using them in concrete policymaking and implementation; and

(d) Dedicated expert networks: In order to maintain the report's consistent quality, dedicated networks of experts are maintained and supported through a range of activities, including seminars and conferences.

206. **Outputs.** The substantive theme of the *World Investment Report 2019* is special economic zones (SEZ). The report provides an overview of the global SEZ landscape and offers advice on how to respond to fundamental challenges for zones posed by the sustainable development imperative, the new industrial revolution and changing patterns of international production. The investment policy chapter takes stock of efforts being made towards international investment agreement (IIA) reform and surveys new measures. It was released on 11 June 2019 and launched globally through four web press conferences in English, French and Spanish, as well as nationally through video and Skype presentations to selected locations. To facilitate global media coverage, nine sets of press releases were prepared, translated into official United Nations languages and some local languages.

207. **Results.** The *World Investment Report 2019* was presented at the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board in October 2019. The *World Investment Report* and individual chapters were downloaded over 843,000 times in 2019. The research and findings of the report are widely used in relevant academic disciplines. Its relevance is evidenced by a large number of academic citations. In 2019, the *World Investment Report* was referenced in 101 academic papers, according to Google Scholar. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted unanimously a resolution on promoting investments for sustainable development (A/RES/74/199). The resolution commends UNCTAD work in this area, including through references to the World Investment Report.

4. Macroeconomic and development policies

4.1. *Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa*

208. **Development context.** In recent years, developing countries have again been looking at how they can use development policies more effectively, in some cases to diversify away from commodity dependence or to make more effective use of abundant labour resources, in order to kick-start the process of sustained economic growth from very low levels of income, to break out of a “middle-income trap” or (in a few cases) to push on towards the technological frontier. In Southern Africa, the country that has been using development policies more effectively has undoubtedly been South Africa where the automotive and the clothing- and textile sectors were strategically supported to facilitate a progressive diversification away from mining and energy. Other economies of the region have not been equally successful, however, and are still struggling to find the right policy mix able to unleash sustained economic growth. These experiences have added a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved, and the challenges faced by policymakers across the developing world. There is therefore a growing demand to take stock and share the current experiences, and to improve the understanding of approaches that have been successful in promoting structural transformation in different countries.

209. The 2000s also saw a strengthening of South–South economic ties, underpinned by a transformation in the composition of southern exports from primary commodities to manufactures. The regional dimension of these ties is of particular importance. Most of South–South FDI, for example, has been going to Asia (62 per cent of the total in 2011). And most of these flows originate in Asia itself, come from different Asian countries and are invested to support the expansion of the regional production networks, mainly across East and South-East Asia. Compared to Asia, and to other developing regions, South African economies as yet are only weakly integrated through trade and capital flows. This relative backwardness along with the existence of a potential production and growth pole (South Africa) indicates the existence of interesting possibilities to strengthen regional integration and pool resources for advancing structural transformation and increasing competitiveness on the global markets.

210. **Objectives.** This project aims at facilitating the economic cooperation and integration among the four developing economies in Southern Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and around the potential regional economic growth pole (South Africa). In particular it aims at identifying regional value chains and at fostering industrial policy coordination in the region. The project also aims at strengthening the industrial policy framework of each of the target economy in order to create the right environment for regional value chains (RVCs) to thrive and, more in general, foster the progressive diversification of the production and export structures in the region.

211. To achieve these objectives, the project is being deployed over three distinct phases. The first involved the identification of key regional policy priorities and the achievement of regional consensus around this common policy platform. This phase involved background and field research, as well as the organization of regional workshops. The second phase aimed at the building local capacity needed to formulate and implement policies to sustain industrial development and link into the identified RVCs. A series of national workshops has been therefore organized in all the target countries involving regional and international experts. The third, and the final phase, is currently undergoing and involves key follow-up activities in some of the target economies aimed at the effective formulation and implementation of industrial policy measures. With the support of UNCTAD, Mauritius is now preparing its “Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan for Mauritius (2020–2025)”, a study on the key policy priorities to revive the textile and clothing sector in the United Republic of Tanzania is undergoing, while Mozambique will be assisted in the implementation of some of the priority activities identified in its industrial country programme.

212. **Outputs.** Implementation of the project started in June 2016, and a series of studies on promising regional value chains in the region were commissioned from regional consultants at the end of 2016. The results and the policy implications stemming from these studies were discussed at two regional workshops in 2017. In 2018, the project officially

entered its capacity-building phase. Four workshops were organized with the objective of strengthening industrial policy capacity and facilitating dialogue between the public sector, private sector and civil society (Mozambique, May 2018; Zambia, October 2018; Mauritius, April 2019; and the United Republic of Tanzania, November 2019). The workshops provided an overview of the process of structural transformation and its linkages with development, and equipped participants with knowledge of the key policies that could accelerate the gradual transformation of the economic structure, with particular attention to the key sectors identified by UNCTAD and the policies identified in the background studies. Panel discussions during the workshops were designed to facilitate the identification of policy priorities, considering the challenges faced by the private sector, focusing in particular on how to exploit regional markets and favour the development of regional value chains. Additional studies on industrial policy strategy in Mauritius and the textile and clothing sector in the United Republic of Tanzania have been commissioned and the respective consultants have already visited the countries. A consultative workshop with the private sector has been held in Mauritius as part of the process leading to the formulation of the new industrial policy strategy (February 2020).

213. **Results.** The project activities are generating interest in the countries involved and raising awareness on the importance of strengthening regional ties and developing RVCs in key sectors. This is reflected in the adoption of an outcome document by the participants of the second regional workshop in Pretoria and in the requests of follow-up activities by beneficiary countries after the conclusion of the initially planned project activities. It is also reflected in the very positive feedback from the participants to the four national workshops held to the date and in the official thanksgiving motion sent to UNCTAD by the Government of Mozambique in June 2018.

4.2. *Reclaiming multilateralism for global development*

214. **Development context.** We once had a version of multilateralism that permitted nations to regulate international markets and to pursue strategies for equitable forms of prosperity and development. This system reflected the fact that leaders who believed in managed capitalism and full employment were put in charge after World War II. With their experience of the Great Depression and defeating fascism, they understood that *laissez-faire* led to catastrophe.

215. The system was far from perfect, yet its core principles did provide a rough template for a more balanced form of prosperity in a globally interdependent world. That system began to break down in the late 1970s, when giant global banks, corporations, and their allies in Government regained the reins of power that they had temporarily lost in the Great Depression and the War. Once power was recaptured, these actors rewrote the rules of the global system so that the system became an instrument for the diffusion and enforcement of a neoliberal order that has accentuated crises of financial instability, inequality and climate change. The project is therefore highly relevant to development, at global, regional and national levels. It is fully in line with the aims of several United Nations conferences and summits and directly linked with the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 10: Reduced Inequality; SDG 13: Climate Action; and SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals. The main institutional partner is the Global Development Policy Centre of Boston University (United States of America). The project is resourced by UNCTAD, Boston University and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

216. **Objectives and features.** The project on reclaiming multilateralism for global development aims to contribute to the international debate on globalization and the management of its consequences for developing countries. In doing so, the project aims to generate a collaborative document that critically examines the trends and prospects in the world economy and offers a set of principles for an alternative global cooperation for a sustainable future.

217. **Outputs and results.** In late 2018 and early 2019, the UNCTAD 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 goal was to advance a critique of the current

multilateral system, as manifest in the trade and investment regime, and articulate a set of goals and principles for reform and regeneration.

218. The outcome of these efforts, the report, “A New Multilateralism for Shared Prosperity”,²⁴ synthesized those efforts and advanced a set of “Geneva Principles for a Global Green New Deal” that can form the foundations for a new multilateral trade and investment regime that has shared prosperity and sustainable development as its core goals.

219. The report was launched in Washington, D.C., on April 12 alongside the spring World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings and featured presentations by a Nobel Prize Winner, the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the Prime Minister of Barbados. After the roll out event in late 2019 there was a promotional video produced to disseminate the main findings of the report to the wider public. The video is produced in two formats, long and short, with Spanish subtitles.²⁵

220. Additionally, the discussions and debates on the main findings of the report and the collaborations that initiated during the process has been continuing. For example, 2019 edition of *Trade and Development Report* benefited from the information and understanding generated on global green new deal, as the topic of the report explored in 2019 was on how to finance Global Green New Deal for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. 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 the project is timely, with its focus on globalizing the popular topic of a green new deal in policy circles in many countries.

221. 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 National Autonomous University of Mexico-UNAM.

222. The objective of these workshops and the promotional video 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.

223. New York Workshop (26–27 September, New York): This workshop had two main themes: the first one was on climate change and green industrialization since it coincided with the United Nations global climate summit, and the second theme was on jobs and distributional issues.

224. Cape Town Workshop (27–28 September 2019, Cape Town, South Africa): The workshop focused on three main themes: sustainable industrial transformation in Africa; the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); and Global Governance, with a focus on the World Trade Organization. It included discussions on critical and related issues regarding climate change, financialization and governance of State institutions.

225. Mexico Workshop (28–29 January 2020, Mexico City): The workshop in Mexico focused on the challenges and opportunities in the Latin American context with a particular focus on Mexico. Two most pressing challenges in the context of the green industrialization of Mexico are: First, transition from a fuel-based economy; and second, how to reengineer economic reflation in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

²⁴ The report is accessible at http://www.bu.edu/gdp/files/2019/04/A-New-Multilateralism-GDPC_UNCTAD.pdf

²⁵ Long video: <https://app.box.com/s/cs13u9zslssgut8lvku6yr7wkedpdw6z>;
short video: <https://app.box.com/s/iuz1u0bbpmrr4k3mqg3plhbwljw1q4r>.

4.3. *South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative*

226. **Development context.** Even after achieving better growth performances since the turn of the millennium, developing countries still face multiple challenges in economic and social advancement, which calls for an appropriate policy response at all levels. However, designing effective and development-friendly policy formulation requires local knowledge, experience and strong capacity. In this regard, experience sharing and capacity building has become increasingly important as it can improve the policymaking capability of developing countries in identifying key binding constraints, external vulnerabilities and drivers of structural transformation in sustaining dynamic growth so as to reshape better economic and social policies. In contrast to learning experiences from developed countries, peer learning among developing countries could play a distinctive role given similar challenges and opportunities faced by the South in today's globalized world.

227. Against this backdrop, this project facilitates peer learning from the successful structural transformation experience of China among the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries. The BRI initiated by China provides a unique opportunity to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among southern countries in building a community of shared future. On the one hand, while many developing countries are still struggling with their development challenges, China has progressed rapidly in past four decades. Its annual GDP growth rate has recorded as 9.5 per cent on average and has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty since 1978. It has been widely acknowledged that the effective development policy of China is essentially attributed to its policy experimentation and adaptation to the local circumstance, which can provide a reference point for other developing countries when they design their growth policies. On the other hand, BRI has mobilized enormous development financing resources through trade, FDI, debt, infrastructure financing, technology transfer, industrialization cooperation, and so on, which also provides a "learning-by-doing" opportunities beyond the projects per se as operating and managing those projects inevitably involve knowledge and experience sharing among all BRI partner countries.

228. **Objectives.** This project addresses the growing realization that meeting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is inextricably linked with the process of structural transformation. The project takes an innovative South-South approach to capacity-building by distilling lessons from a country with first-hand experience in the transformation process, and which is engaged in an ambitious foreign economic policy centred on cross-regional infrastructure connectivity and productive investment known as the Belt and Road initiative. Beyond BRI's headline investment figures, the large number of developing countries involved in the initiative means that it carries deeper implications for South-South economic cooperation and integration. Of the six economic corridors that constitute BRI, four solely involve developing countries. Despite the great development potential from BRI, however, limitations in government capacity in many partner countries – particularly in the policy areas of investment, trade, finance/debt, and technology – could constrain or even block the potential transformative impacts of the BRI (and of foreign direct investment more generally). The main objective of the Project is therefore to enhance the capacity of developing countries to strengthen their policies for structural transformation through learning from successful experiences of other developing countries, particularly from China. The project has identified three initial pilot developing countries: Ethiopia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. To unlock the transformative effects of BRI engagement, partner countries can find guidance and encouragement from a deeper understanding of past and current policy reform experiences of China – experiences which allowed China to not only attain the SDG predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, but to go well beyond them.

229. **Outputs.** Implementation of the project started in January 2019, and a series of papers were undertaken as outputs of the project on policies of China which helped in its structural transformation, particularly in areas of macro and financial policies; industry and trade policies; digital policies; and debt management policies. The project also organized a workshop for high level officials from the pilot countries in Indonesia to discuss policy experiences of China and existing policies in other developing countries. The report of the

meeting documents the discussions which focused on how policies of China can be tailored to the existing policies in the pilot countries in the identified areas. The project also organized high level panels in Second High-Level conference on South-South (BAPA+40) to discuss the ways in which other developing countries can benefit from this project and the need to disseminate the outputs of this project more widely through a platform was also identified. The project subsequently launched UNCTAD BRI Platform to share successful structural transformation policies more widely with developing countries.

230. **Results.** It is too early to measure the results of the project. But the launch of UNCTAD BRI Platform for sharing successful structural transformation policies of the project is a sustainable output of the project. This will continue even after the project is over and will be a platform which will bring BRI and other developing countries together and develop soft linkages amongst them so as to facilitate policy sharing for sustainable development.

5. International cooperation on science, technology and innovation under the auspices of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

5.1. *Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society*

231. **Development context.** The World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003, and Tunis, 2005) was the first major United Nations event that discussed the potential opportunities and developmental impacts posed by information and communications technology. The Summit established a vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. In 2015, this vision was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of implementation of Summit outcomes. The years since the Summit have seen significant changes in the nature of the information society. Technologies which were in their infancy at the beginning of this century have become mainstream, and in some cases already been displaced by later innovations. Digital innovations are transforming lives and offering new opportunities to reinforce and invigorate efforts to achieve the Goals. However, effective policy development and programmes are required to realize the potential of information technology to enhance development, inclusion and empowerment, and to address the potential harms.

232. **Objectives and features.** A trust fund was established in December 2007 aimed at supporting the work of the Commission in assisting the Economic and Social Council in the system-wide follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society outcomes. The objective of the work of UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission, is to support the work of the Commission as mandated by the Council in its resolution 2006/46. The Council guides the work of the Commission in this area through its annual resolution on the assessment of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to Summit outcomes. The resources of the trust fund support the elaboration of the annual reports on the implementation of such outcomes and the participation of experts and non-State stakeholders in the work of the Commission, and other related activities.

233. **Outputs.** The secretariat concentrated its efforts in two main areas: supporting the Commission in its mandate related to the follow-up of the implementation of Summit outcomes; and supporting the Commission on the implementation of the request made by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit (General Assembly resolution 70/125).

234. As part of its activities to support the follow-up of the implementation of Summit outcomes, in 2019, UNCTAD invited inputs from United Nations entities and other stakeholders that act as facilitators of the implementation of Summit action lines, as well as from other relevant stakeholders. UNCTAD received inputs from 35 United Nations entities, other international organizations and stakeholders. Based on this information and other relevant sources, UNCTAD prepared the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. The report highlights major activities to implement Summit outcomes undertaken by stakeholders in 2019.

235. Additionally, UNCTAD prepared a publication taking stock of the past 15 years since the World Summit on the Information Society. The publication highlights the current state of connectivity and access, describes the current trends affecting the information society, reviews governance and human rights issues and finally summarizes challenges and priorities that the twenty-year review by the General Assembly might wish to consider.²⁶

236. **Results.** The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2019/24, noted the role of the Commission in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing Summit outcomes. The extension and reaffirmation of the mandate given to the Commission by the Council in its resolution 2006/46 demonstrates the recognition of the valuable work carried out by the Commission. This work has been strengthened due to the support of the Trust Fund.

5.2. *South-South collaboration in the area of science, technology and innovation*

237. **Development context.** Strengthening science, technology and innovation policy capacity in developing countries is central to improving innovation performance in support of sustainable development. UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, has collaborated with the Government of China to strengthen South-South cooperation in the area of science, technology and innovation. In 2019, this collaboration developed a set of customized two-week training courses on science, technology and innovation capacity-building in an interactive format. Two courses were held on national science, technology and innovation strategy and policy for sustainable development and on sci-tech park and incubator operation and development, including practical lectures and field visits in Guangzhou and the Wuhan Optics Valley (September 2019).

238. **Objectives and features.** The workshops aimed to build the capacity of high-level policymakers through international cooperation between member states of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. They showcased the implementation of the policies of China on science technology and innovation for sustainable development as well as sci-tech parks and incubators through policy-oriented lectures delivered by policymakers, practitioners and academics and on-site visits to high-technology parks, universities and enterprises.

239. **Outputs.** Twenty-six high-level policymakers, experts and practitioners including 10 female participants from 22 developing country members of the Commission participated in the workshops.

240. **Results.** Participants rated the workshops highly and requested continued training. The collaboration will continue in 2020 to build a mutual learning platform on building science, technology and innovation policy capacity.

II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

241. Poor people or nations are more vulnerable to external shocks. Eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require joint and persistent efforts to tackle the specific challenges faced by weak and vulnerable economies. To build their economic resilience, structurally weak economies need to develop sound strategies to diversify economies and build productive capacity. To combat climate change, it is important to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure and identify best approaches to mitigate climate change while enhancing economic development prospects.

242. UNCTAD technical assistance addresses the specific demand from LDCs, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict States to help them better tackle vulnerabilities and build resilience. In particular, UNCTAD

²⁶ UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2020/1.

improves the capacities of developing countries to effectively manage debt; supports commodity-dependent developing countries in their diversification efforts; promotes sustainable and resilient transport; and assists LDCs in trade policymaking, market access and achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation.

243. In this section, six products under the theme “Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience” are reported on. The reports highlight the main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2019 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing products under this thematic area are reported on under “B99 Other”.

B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status

Table B1

Support to graduation from least developed country status

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-1819 (F11)	Helping LDCs achieve structural economic progress toward and beyond graduation	2018–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (I11)	Strengthening services trade policymaking for Africa’s integration into regional value chains in support of the 2030 Agenda	2018–	Development Account

244. **Development context.** Helping Least Developed Countries (LDCs) achieve structural economic progress toward and beyond graduation from LDC status is an important goal of UNCTAD. After nearly 50 years of LDC history, five countries have graduated from LDC status (Botswana in 1994, Cabo Verde in 2007, Maldives in 2011, Samoa in 2014, Equatorial Guinea in 2017).

245. Five LDCs are currently earmarked by the United Nations for graduation, each one with an established exit date: Vanuatu in December 2020; Angola in February 2021; Bhutan in December 2023; Sao Tome and Principe in December 2024; and Solomon Islands in December 2024.

246. Another five States are, until the 2021 review of the list of LDCs, considered pre-eligible for graduation, after a first observation of their progress under graduation criteria was made in previous reviews (Bangladesh, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste).

247. Tuvalu and Kiribati were recommended for graduation by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) in 2012 and 2018, respectively. Yet neither of these two recommendations was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (a question deferred to July 2021).

248. This brings to 17 the number of cases or potential cases of graduation making up the United Nations history of periodic reviews of the list of LDCs.

249. Developing the services sector is important for the development and graduation prospects of LDCs. Services are not only an important category of economic activity and trade, they are also a critical enabler of trade in goods and an enabler for a country’s ability to participate in global and regional value chains.

250. Unlocking the potential of services trade requires that the potential of services is understood and supported in African policymaking processes. A major challenge in this regard is assessing the contribution of the services sector in the economy and understanding the complexity of global and regional services value chains which are essential for services to thrive. The UNCTAD and Economic Commission for Africa joint project on services trade in Africa endeavours to address this disparity. In particular, it strengthens capacities to measure the value added that is generated by the services sector and the degree to which

developing this sector may improve the tradability of goods and services, and supports developing the necessary policy frameworks to enable the sectors growth.

251. **Objective.** Supporting the quest of graduating LDCs for a “smooth transition” to post-LDC status has been a key objective of UNCTAD over the past two decades. Helping LDCs “graduate smartly” (the objective of *UNCTAD Toolbox*, product B1) is a two-pronged technical assistance programme. It is designed (a) to cast light, for the benefit of every graduating State, on the factors that justify graduation, or conversely on the factors that would make graduation a premature decision; and (b) to help the same country, once it has become a graduation case officially, organize its quest for a smooth transition to post-LDC life.

252. In this vein, UNCTAD advisory services involve helping the Governments of graduating LDCs make the anticipated change of country status an opportunity to examine the extent to which continuation or a smooth phasing-out of important LDC benefits is desirable. A key facet of this technical assistance often involves helping policy makers prepare for negotiations with relevant development or trading partners.

253. **Outputs.** In 2019, UNCTAD provided technical assistance to 7 LDCs facing the challenge of graduation from LDC status: the three States which the CDP in 2018 found pre-eligible for graduation (Bangladesh, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar); two LDCs in their pre-graduation grace period (Bhutan and Vanuatu); and the two small island LDCs which have remained inconclusive matters in the Economic and Social Council (Kiribati and Tuvalu).

Three country-specific vulnerability profiles

254. In accordance with a mandate from the General Assembly, UNCTAD prepares a “Vulnerability Profile” for every LDC which has been found pre-eligible for graduation, to provide the government with insights into the particular vulnerabilities or fragilities of the country, and into the implications of these disadvantages. The profile helps national authorities understand the critical relationship between the need for resilience-building action, and “country status” as a basis for eligibility for special support to this action.

255. Three vulnerability profiles were prepared in 2019 in anticipation of the 2021 review of the list of LDCs, for Bangladesh, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar. UNCTAD conducted each one of the three country-specific exercises with the assistance of a national consultant.

256. Bangladesh and Myanmar have been pre-eligible for graduation on grounds of increased per capita income, improved human assets, and reduced vulnerability. As such, they are the first “three-pronged” graduation cases in LDC history, meeting all three graduation thresholds though the graduation rule stipulates that, meeting exit thresholds under only two of the three graduation criteria would be sufficient evidence of progress for the CDP to be brought to recommend a country’s graduation.

257. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic is a normal (two-pronged) case of pre-eligibility for graduation. With scores well above the graduation borders relevant to the per capita income and human assets criteria, and marginally below the exit line relevant to economic vulnerability, the country is under a glass ceiling, with potential to become, in either 2021 or 2024, the third three-pronged graduation case.

Three national workshops in graduating countries

258. A national workshop on “Helping Myanmar graduate smartly from LDC status” was held in Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) on 6 June 2019, to help national policymakers and other national stakeholders increase their awareness of the most desirable pathway, for Myanmar, to graduation from LDC status. The event offered an opportunity (i) to review the progress made by Myanmar toward and above the LDC graduation thresholds, and through various other aspects of the economic, social and environmental performance of the country; and (ii) to examine the broad implications for Myanmar of the expected change of country status, notably the potential benefits of graduation and the possible adverse consequences of

it. Some 60 representatives from the government and the private sector participated in the workshop; 51 per cent of them were women.

259. A national workshop on the smooth transition strategy of Vanuatu was held in Geneva on 2 August 2019 for the benefit of seven national policymakers. The principal objective of the workshop was to review the country's draft national strategy for a "smooth transition" to post-LDC status, given the lasting dependence of the economy on development finance for post-disaster reconstruction and resilience-building projects, and on preferential market access (for livestock in particular). The event, which was jointly organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD, facilitated the finalization by national authorities of their blueprint for a smooth transition strategy.

260. A national workshop on the "The vulnerability profile of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and building resilience through productive capacity development and structural economic transformation" was held in Vientiane on 8–9 October 2019. Besides emphasizing the implications for the Lao People's Democratic Republic of the expected change of status, the two-day event had a strong focus on the structural underpinnings of the socioeconomic progress demonstrated by the country, notably on its ability, over the past two decades, to enhance and diversify its national productive capacities, and on the goal of maintaining this momentum.

Assisting Bhutan in its smooth transition strategy

261. UNCTAD assistance to the Government of Bhutan in its formulation of a "smooth transition strategy" four years before the country's graduation from LDC status started in 2019 with the preparation of a background study on the subject. The document was welcomed by national counterpart institutions as it constituted a first insight into the action priorities Government of Bhutan aims to identify with a view to securing the most desirable special treatment for the country after its exit in December 2023. The UNCTAD study will serve as learning material for nationals whom UNCTAD will invite to participate in its first workshop on the subject in Thimphu, tentatively in the second half of 2020.

Continued advisory services to Kiribati and Tuvalu

262. UNCTAD, in 2019, pursued its long-standing dialogue with the Governments of Kiribati and Tuvalu on the question of graduation from LDC status. The two countries have consistently resisted the idea of such reclassification. In the same vein, UNCTAD has been advocating a reform of the graduation rule through which the UN would refrain from forcing out of the LDC category the most highly vulnerable LDCs, in which structural economic progress is extremely difficult or impossible to achieve, in the absence of significant productive capacities. Though no country-specific event was held in any of the two States in 2019, several exchanges and discussions took place with key officials of the two countries. In particular, the participation of the Kiribati delegation to a Pacific meeting on graduation organized by the World Trade Organization in September 2019 was substantively supported by UNCTAD prior to the event.

263. The two Governments have been reinforced in their trust in UNCTAD determination to bring the Economic and Social Council to be fully cognizant of the detrimental impact a loss of LDC status would have on these two highly disadvantaged States, given the fallacious signal of progress attached to the eventual announcement of the rise of Kiribati and Tuvalu from the category.

264. UNCTAD, through the implementation of the project on services trade in Africa, supports six partner countries, including four LDCs (Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali and Togo) to strengthen the capacities of national and regional policymakers and stakeholders to measure and analyse value chains and design services policies aimed at enabling higher integration into global and regional value chains. The project was launched in 2018 and the following activities and outputs were achieved in 2019:

(a) A train-the-trainers seminar to discuss and validate the methodology for measuring the contribution of services to regional chains was held in Ethiopia. UNCTAD collaborated with UNECA to develop a train-the-trainer manual on a methodological

approach (using both quantitative and qualitative tools) to measure the contribution of services to national and regional value chains. The material was adapted to the context of the beneficiary countries. A train-the-trainers seminar to discuss and validate the methodology for measuring the contribution of services to regional chains was then held from 29 to 31 January 2019 in Addis Ababa. Participants from all the project beneficiary countries including four LDCs (Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali and Togo) were national focal points from relevant trade ministries, national statistical officers and consultants.

(b) Six national seminars, with a focus on the selected sectors (finance, infrastructure and tourism services) were delivered. Following the train-the-trainer seminar held in Addis Ababa, UNCTAD jointly worked with UNECA to support the organization of national seminars in the project beneficiary countries including Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali and Togo. These seminars were led by the trainees that attended the Addis Ababa Seminar with support and oversight of UNCTAD Staff.

(c) In Ethiopia, the seminar was organized on 12–13 June 2019 around measuring transport sector value chain. The seminar also discussed among participants from both public and private sector, constraints to transport services at national and regional level, and the ways to exploit their full potential. In the Gambia and Mali, the seminars took place respectively on 22–23 May 2019 and 29–30 July 2019 around the tools available to measure and assess contribution of tourism services to economic performance and regional value chains. In Togo, the seminar held on 12–13 June 2019 contributed to discussing organization of financial services value chains at national and regional levels and tools available to assess quantitatively and qualitatively their contributions to regional value chains.

(d) One value chain case study in each country has been analysed and quantified using the appropriate tools and methodologies. By early 2020, with a support by UNCTAD, all the four beneficiary LDCs of the project have produced value chain analysis of targeted services sector, drawing on the methodological approach developed through the project. In Ethiopia, transport services were analysed, focusing in particular on their role in the coffee and floriculture value chains. For the Gambia and Mali, the analysis revolved around tourism sector, with an emphasis on the extent to which tourism services drive exchange of services across borders, either with regional partners or global partners. For Togo, the value chains work focuses on financial services sector and its level of integration into regional value chains.

265. **Results/impact.** The three vulnerability profiles have helped relevant national authorities realize the scope for maintaining a momentum of structural progress, and the synergies that are statistically perceptible through the three graduation criteria: a consistently improving Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) score (i.e. improved resilience) propels the per capita income performance; the latter in turn sustains the Human Assets Index (HAI) score of the country, thereby doping the resilience-building momentum, i.e. the EVI score: the graduating country comes full circle in its structural economic and social progress. All LDCs aspire to bring this paradigm to fruition. Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar are ahead of the others; they serve as emulators, a role UNCTAD actively encourages.

266. The support provided by UNCTAD to the four LDCs (Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali and Togo) around services trade, helped those countries build their capacity to assess and understand the contribution of selected services sector to regional value chains. The broad finding so far is that the countries have very limited integration into nearest regional markets for services. This is partly due to limited level of integration of those economies into regional markets. The situation is also due to services trade data gaps that constrain countries to fully capture their actual levels of integration. Those results will further help the countries (re)orient their efforts to address existing gaps on services sector at a time they are getting ready to implement the African Continental Free Trade Areas Agreement.

267. UNCTAD technical cooperation with graduating LDCs helps these countries maintain the momentum of economic and social progress. However, measuring this impact is difficult, because of the long-term dimension of the undertaking, and because of the exposure of any recipient country to new and unanticipated shocks. This difficulty takes

particularly acute proportions at the time of preparation of this report, given the likely adverse effect of COVID-19 on the seven beneficiary States.

B2 DMFAS - Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

Table B2

DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/2AO	Strengthening the debt management capacity of developing countries	2002–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FAH	Support to implementation of Debt Management Facility, phase II	2016–	World Bank
INT/0T/HCB	Strengthening Public Debt Management in Selected Low and Middle-Income countries	2018–	Switzerland
INT/0T/IAB	The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme	2019–	European Union
ANG/0T/EBG	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública (Angola)	2015–	Angola
ARG/0T/DBJ	Strengthening public debt management in the province of La Rioja	2014–	Argentina
BKF/0T/GAG	Mise en œuvre du SYGADE 6 et renforcement des capacités en matière de gestion de la dette au Burkina Faso	2018–	World Bank
BOL/0T/HCA	Implementación del SIGADE y fortalecimiento de las capacidades en gestión de la deuda en el Banco Central de Bolivia	2018–	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
ECU/0T/IAG	Utilización del SIGADE 6 para la gestión de la deuda pública (Ecuador)	2019–	Ecuador
ERI/0T/HAB	Implementation of version 6 of DMFAS system within the Ministry of Finance of Eritrea	2018–	Eritrea
ETH/0T/HBA	Public Finance Management (PFM): DMFAS Ethiopia	2018–	Ethiopia
GAB/0T/9AT	Renforcement des capacités d'études et modernisation des outils informatiques de gestion de la dette (Gabon)	2015–	Gabon
GBS/0T/FBH	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública (Guinea-Bissau)	2017–	World Bank
HON/0T/BAU	Strengthening public debt management (Honduras)	2015–	United Nations Development Programme
IRQ/0T/BCI	Implementation of DMFAS 6 (Iraq)	2013–	Iraq

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
IVC/0T/BCF	Projet de modernisation des outils informatiques et de renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette SYGADE 6 (Côte d'Ivoire)	2013–	Côte d'Ivoire
JOR/0T/DAM	Strengthening Debt Management in Jordan	2015–	Jordan
NIC/0T/BAG	Strengthening public debt management	2013–	Nicaragua
PAK/0T/FAL	Capacity-building for external debt management in Pakistan	2018–	World Bank
PHI/0T/ABK	Strengthening debt management in the Bureau of the Treasury (Philippines)	2011–	Philippines
PHI/0T/HAO	DMFAS 6 implementation	2019–	Philippines
PRC/0T/AAQ	Capacity-building in Debt Management within the Caisse Congolaise d'Amortissement	2011–	Congo
SUD/0T/EAU	Technical assistance capacity-building for debt management (Sudan)	2016–	African Development Bank
SUD/0T/IAC	Strengthening Public Debt Management in Sudan	2019–	Sudan
VEN/0T/5AC	Proyecto para la implementación del SIGADE 5.3 y los enlaces con los sistemas de análisis e integración financiera (SIGECOF II; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))	2005–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
ZAM/0T/BDA	Strengthening integrated public debt management (Zambia)	2012–	Zambia

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2019.

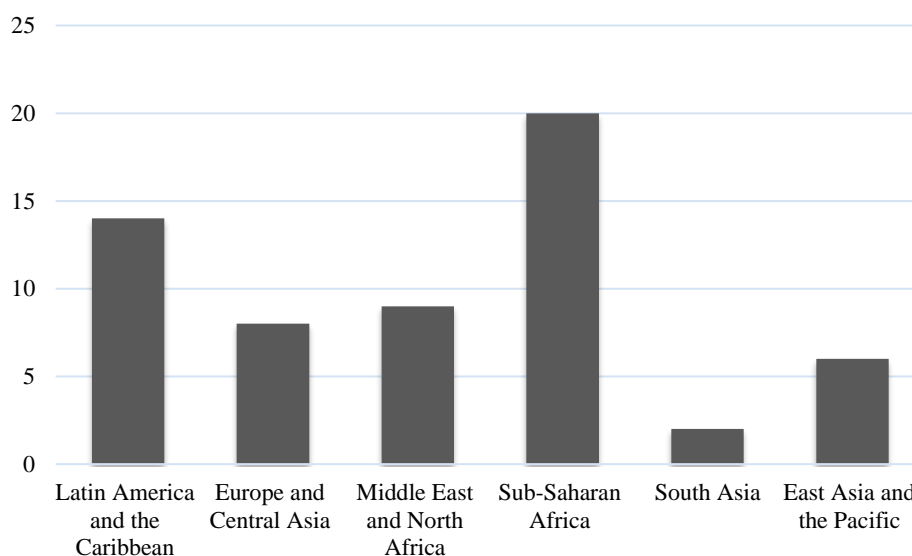
268. **Development context.** Effective debt management is an intrinsic part of sound public financial management and overall good governance. Timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are a pre-requisite for the effective management of public liabilities and for the elaboration of government strategies. It is crucial for ensuring sustainable debt levels, identifying risks of debt crises and limiting their impact. The critical role of debt and good debt management has been underlined in Goal 17.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which recognizes the importance of assisting developing countries to attain long-term debt sustainability and reducing the risk of debt distress. In 2019, debt data transparency continues to be high on the international agenda, and the United Nations General Assembly recalled that “timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises”.²⁷ Serious concerns about increasing debt levels have been raised, highlighting the significant challenges developing countries still face in managing public debt.

269. **Programme objectives.** The DMFAS Programme is a leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management. It offers a set of proven solutions to improve the capacity of beneficiary countries to manage public debt, handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities, produce reliable debt data and perform basic

²⁷ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/203 on external debt sustainability and development, adopted on 19 December 2019.

debt analysis for policymaking purposes. The Programme works directly with 59 countries and 86 user institutions, including two new countries in 2019, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

Figure 1
Geographical distribution of active DMFAS users, 2019



270. **Outputs.** In 2019, the DMFAS Programme continued to provide effective support to the 59 countries actively using its software. It delivered country-specific technical assistance and trained 497 debt officers from 25 countries through 79 capacity-building workshops and other activities. It also supported user countries through its help desk, which responded to 376 requests during the reporting period. During the year, the Programme actively managed 34 active technical assistance projects and signed five new projects and two addenda to existing projects.

271. The Programme worked in close cooperation with other international bodies, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional institutions, to enhance coordination and avoid duplication.

272. **Results.** For the DMFAS client countries, concrete and sustainable results included improved external and domestic debt data recording, enhanced reporting and improved debt analysis capacities in line with the recording and reporting components of the public financial management value chain as defined under the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Programme. The Programme's main results are highlighted below:

(a) Complete, reliable and up-to date databases: Ninety-five per cent of countries have developed comprehensive, reliable debt databases in respect of government and government-guaranteed external debt. Sixty-eight per cent of DMFAS 6 user-countries whose debt management office is responsible for monitoring domestic debt were using DMFAS to manage their entire domestic debt portfolio.

(b) Improved production of debt statistics: Forty-one countries regularly produce statistical bulletins on debt.

(c) Strengthened analytical skills: Twenty-six countries regularly produce a debt portfolio analysis.

(d) Improved capacity for effective debt reporting: As a result of the Programme's assistance in helping countries in their reporting requirements, 93 per cent of DMFAS client countries with low or middle-income levels effectively reported to the World Bank through the Debtor Reporting System. In 2019, 78 per cent of DMFAS clients participating in the World Bank Quarterly External Debt Statistics database reported on a timely basis.

(e) Results-based management (RBM): The DMFAS Programme applies comprehensive RBM to its strategic planning and project implementation. This includes clearly defining the objectives, results, measurable indicators and means of verification

that will be used to monitor and evaluate progress. It also defines the assumptions that represent the pre-requisites for the achievement of the expected results, and the associated risks. Where applicable, baselines are used to benchmark progress over time. The Programme completed the implementation of its four-year strategic plan (2016–2019) by achieving its targets in almost all key areas of its main objectives. The DMFAS Advisory Group, which met in November 2019, praised the results achieved and highlighted the continued relevance of the Programme and the high positive impact on core areas of public debt management relevant to debt data transparency. It also recognized the high level of satisfaction among beneficiary countries, donors and partners. Noting the importance of the Programme’s focus on data recording, reporting and capacity-building, the DMFAS Advisory Group²⁸ endorsed the new DMFAS strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and made useful recommendations for further strengthening the impact of its support.

B4 UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Table B4

UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
CMB/OT/HCQ	Implementation of Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update 2018 (DTISU)	2019–	Cambodia
DRC/OT/HAY	Technical assistance on trade policy, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
HAI/OT/HAE	Technical assistance on trade policy – Haiti, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
MYA/OT/HAW	Trade policy advice for Myanmar, tier 1, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland

273. **Development context.** The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for LDCs. It aims at enabling LDCs to mainstream trade into their national development plans, so that countries can mobilize the potential of trade to promote economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction at the domestic level and to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. In this context, UNCTAD continues to actively participate in the EIF Board by contributing to the LDC-friendly operationalization of the EIF. In addition, UNCTAD assists the LDCs both in terms of capacity building for the ownership of the EIF through its Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) updating process and by providing advisory services on trade policy, market access and strategies.

274. **Objectives/Features.** UNCTAD provides tailored assistance in response to specific requests from EIF participating countries. The main objectives of these technical assistance are the capacity-building of LDCs for a better integration into multilateral trade and for

²⁸ Conclusions of the DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting available in English, French and Spanish at <https://unctad.org/divs/gds/dmfas/news/Pages/DMFAS-Advisory-group.aspx>.

their development through DTIS, trade policy, market access, etc. In providing such assistance, UNCTAD uses a mix of national and international expertise to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and maximize results – the approach also contributes to national capacity-building.

275. **Outputs.** In 2019, UNCTAD provided the technical assistance in least developed countries (LDCs), notably: in Cambodia by drafting the chapter on trade policy and regional integration to be included in the second DTIS update; and in Myanmar by drafting a trade policy document titled “Towards a new trade policy on market access for Myanmar: identifying a positive agenda among challenges and opportunities.” These two initiatives have generated a project document on “A New trade policy and strategy for ASEAN LDCs” submitted for funding to the EIF under the regional project modalities. In three West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger), UNCTAD has provided the final version of the regional project on the transit, transport and trade facilitation. In addition, UNCTAD contributed to the revision of guidelines on the EIF “Value for money framework” and attended the EIF Board meeting which was held at the WTO and EIF Working Group Meeting in Geneva.

276. *Democratic Republic of the Congo:* Following the official request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNCTAD as lead agency in collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat has concluded the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies update for the country. After carrying out this study, UNCTAD organized a validation workshop in November 2019 in Kinshasa. During this workshop, the Government approved and validated this study. The Minister of Commerce indicated that some recommendations of the DTIS will be integrated into the National Strategic Development Plan. This is a concrete contribution from UNCTAD to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

277. For conducting this study, UNCTAD carried out a technical mission to Kinshasa (November 2018) and met with public and private sector representatives and development agency partners, including relevant Ministers. Agriculture, transport and trade facilitation were highlighted as areas of particular interest. Additional meetings were held with the Ministries of Transport and Tourism, the Customs Director of Trade (EIF Focal Point) and the National Implementation Unit, the World Bank, UNDP, the European Union, the African Development Bank, Agence française de développement and an institute of vocational training to discuss current projects and challenges.

278. *West African Countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger) regional project:* Following two submissions to the EIF Executive Secretariat of revised versions of the EIF Regional Project Modalities in July and October 2018, UNCTAD held consultations with the EIF Secretariat on 15 February 2019 to further discuss the document. The document was finalized and agreed on 7 March, with the common understanding that the modalities may be revised after six months on the basis of the experience. The project document is still under the approval process.

279. This is an extremely important project for these West African countries due to their isolation and therefore the need to open up and facilitate trade. The project proposal on the EIF Regional Tier II project on transit, transport and trade facilitation in West Africa has been officially endorsed by Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger. Consultations are currently being held with representatives from Mali and the project’s approval is expected in the near future. The project budget is estimated at \$1.5 million. The main objectives of the project are the following:

(a) Implement the road map established by the UNCTAD on how to coordinate the implementation of DTIS action matrices of Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger on cross-border trade issues related to transit, transport and trade facilitation. Indeed, cross-border issues cannot be resolved in isolation but require an overall coordination.

(b) Provide technical assistance on trade facilitation agreement (TFA) regarding the ECOWAS rules and agreement on trade and how to implement it.

280. *ASEAN LDCs (Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar):* At the request of these countries, UNCTAD elaborated a concept note entitled “A new trade

policy and strategy for ASEAN LDCs” which has been submitted for EIF’s funding under the regional project modalities. The project aims to provide technical assistance to design an articulated and coordinated trade policy jointly with the ASEAN LDCs’ Ministries of Commerce and other relevant government institutions. The project will provide a mixture of research and capacity-building to contribute to the establishment of permanent capacity at the Ministries of Commerce of ASEAN LDCs to design and implement the new trade policy, to manage and successfully lead trade negotiations at the multilateral and regional levels, and to implement the commitments deriving from such trade agreements. The concept note has been sent to the Ministers of Trade of each country. In February 2019, positive replies were received from Cambodia and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic requesting to develop the project document.

281. *Myanmar*: UNCTAD provided the technical assistance for Myanmar on trade policy advice. This assistance is part of the perspective of the EIF Tier 1 project. The objective of the project is for the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar and its stakeholders to better understand the development challenges faced by Myanmar, and to pursue a new trade policy in the context of the dynamic environment in South-East Asia.

282. *Benin*: UNCTAD continues to monitor its actions taken to improve Benin’s trade regulatory framework and strengthen national capacities through training (i.e. conduct training on the issues identified in the National Trade Development Policy Document). As part of the EIF Tier II project “Strengthening Productive and Trade Capacities of Benin”, UNCTAD conducted several activities to support the elaboration of the National Trade Development Policy (NTDP) of the country and to strengthen the capacities of the government officials, private sector and civil society on trade-related issues.

283. *Djibouti and Ethiopia project on trade facilitation, transport and transits*: UNCTAD continues monitoring the project document and consultations between the two countries to move forward. This project aims in particular at:

- (a) Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Djibouti-Ethiopia Trade Corridor;
- (b) Enhancing the trade facilitation and logistics between Ethiopia and Djibouti along the corridor, in particular for the establishment of a joint management authority of the trade corridor.

284. The strategy ahead is to secure initial funding from COMESA, which is expected to be complemented by EIF funding under a revised project document. Discussion is ongoing for the approval of the project.

285. *EIF guidelines on “Value for money framework”*: UNCTAD has been working on revised guidelines in line with the EIF “value for money framework” and based on a roster of eligible Main Implementing Entities (MIE). The proposal has been internally discussed at UNCTAD and circulated to other EIF agencies. A meeting took place on 2 April 2019 at the WTO to discuss the preliminary version and collect additional comments. A second version had been circulated to the EIF and partner agencies.

286. *EIF Board Meeting*: On 25 and 26 June 2019, UNCTAD participated in the Enhanced Integrated Framework Board meeting, which was held at the WTO headquarter in Geneva. However, UNCTAD was unable to attend EIF Board meeting in Bhutan (12 to 15 November 2019) for budgetary reasons. At the EIF Board meeting in Geneva, the main points raised in the Bhutan Council were discussed and UNCTAD provided its contribution.

287. *EIF Working Group Meeting*: UNCTAD participated in several meetings during 2019 where various points were discussed. In particular, UNCTAD provided support, feedback and recommendations to proposals submitted in line with the overall objective of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of the EIF Secretariat.

288. **Results.** In 2019, all of these listed activities were carried out by UNCTAD in the context of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). Although efforts are still needed to assist LDCs in their integration into the world trade, an increasing number of least developed countries have made progress in mainstreaming trade policies into their national

development plans as well as identified trade-related priorities and implemented their action matrices. In addition, LDCs have been increasingly able to identify their main constraints in participating in international trade and to develop initiatives to foster productive capacities at sub-regional level.

B5 Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

Table B5

Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/4AY	Mainstreaming LDCs in the global economy	2004–	Multi-donors
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on statistics and data	2016–	Development Account

289. **Development context.** Least developed countries (LDCs) are granted preferential tariff treatment in the markets of developed and developing countries under several schemes and arrangements. Among them are initiatives such as the Generalized System of Preferences, the European Union’s “Everything but Arms” initiative, the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States of America, trade preferences under African, Caribbean and Pacific States–European Union Partnership Agreements and other preferential trading arrangements that have rules of origin as key components. LDCs nonetheless face significant obstacles to market access.

290. UNCTAD provides policy advice and technical assistance to help developing countries comply with requirements on rules of origin under preferential trading arrangements – focusing on product origin – with a view to improving the utilization rates of trade preferences granted to them. Since 2006, for instance, UNCTAD has assisted LDCs that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Declaration adopted at the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, China) on duty-free and quota-free market access. The declaration called on ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are simple and transparent and contribute to facilitating market access. UNCTAD also provides support in relation to the WTO Ministerial Decision (Bali, Indonesia) on preferential rules of origin for LDCs.

291. In addition to assisting the least developed countries on market access regulations, UNCTAD provides support on geographical indications to enhance export diversification and specialization. Overcoming the limited diversification of LDC exports, the low value added of those exports and the continued challenge of bringing small local producers up front in the global commodity value chain remain concerns. At the same time, the rich biodiversity of several LDCs allows them to draw on their natural resources to create an array of traditional products and preparations with the potential to compete globally and secure higher returns from sales. Benefiting from that natural wealth can require taking steps to gain recognition of quality and generate a solid reputation for specific products in the eyes of consumers and buyers. One important approach can be using geographical indications in combination with a branding strategy for those products

292. Unilateral trade preferences, if properly utilized, provides LDCs with a comparative advantage by lowering import tariffs. They are nevertheless not a panacea and competition from alike products is fierce. Adopting a regional branding strategy based on Geographical Indications (GIs) could be a viable complementary poverty reduction and environmentally sound policy to commercial and subsistence farming in LDCs. Associated origin conveys a certain reputation of a good and spurs trust resulting from a certain type of collective action. This holds especially true in today’s globalized world in which consumers would

like to know where the products come from and local producers need therefore to differentiate their products from generic competition. LDCs face considerable challenges at the time when they consider GIs as institutionalization schemes are still precarious: the LDC Governments have limited knowledge on GIs, the GI frameworks might not exist or if available, they are incomplete. Moreover, sustainable models of regional branding of agriculture relying on “terroir” might simply be absent or mixed with other models of development farming like organic farming or “fair trade” initiatives. These latter initiatives are not directed at promoting the uniqueness nature of products and its cultural aspects.

293. **Objectives/features.** The main objectives of UNCTAD technical assistance under this programme are to help LDCs better understand the rules and mechanisms of the multilateral trading system in order to access different markets; and to assist rural communities and LDC Governments in enhancing the value of traditional products by exploiting trading opportunities such as geographical indications and facilitating compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirement. The principle of country ownership drives UNCTAD technical assistance on rules of origin, market access and geographical indications. For all schemes under the Generalized System of Preferences products exported from a country receiving such preferences must fulfil the rules of origin of the countries granting those preferences.

294. Documenting evidence of compliance with those rules is necessary for products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment. UNCTAD services in support of developing countries and LDCs in this area include (a) providing advice to Governments and the private sector to comply with origin requirements under unilateral (Duty Free and Quota Free arrangement (DFQF)) and contractual trade preferences (Free trade areas and regional trade agreements) and (b) delivering tailor-made technical assistance, such as advisory memorandums on policy options in drafting and negotiating preferential rules of origin under different trading arrangements. UNCTAD also carries out tailored services in providing LDCs with specific training material on market access and trade preference made available under DFQF and regional trade agreements.

295. Identifying and registering traditional products under a geographical indication requires different steps, such as drafting a “disciplinary of production”, the main text that defines a product’s unique identity. Being able to convey what makes products unique geographically adds value to those products. Such information is also useful for customers who can be attracted to those products when they learn more about them.

296. UNCTAD provides countries with support in identifying products that could be eligible to use geographical indications – signs used on products with a specific geographical origin and possessing qualities or a reputation based on that origin– and in drafting the legal specifications for those products and introducing a branding policy.

297. **Outputs** in 2019:

Market access and rules of origin

298. In the area of market access and rules of origin, the various contributions of UNCTAD in 2019 can be summarized as follows:

299. *WTO Committee on Rules of Origin:* UNCTAD provided draft negotiating documents to the LDC Group at the WTO to prepare for the Committee on Rules of Origin held from 15–16 May 2019, including a document on “Utilization of trade preferences by the LDCs” and another one on “Preferential rules of origin based on the change of tariff classification criterion”. Both documents have been adopted by the LDC WTO group and were circulated as further evidence from utilization rates (WTO G/RO/W/186, 8 May 2019) and rules of origin based on a change of tariff classification (G/RO/W/184, 7 May 2019). These documents formed part of the negotiating strategy of the LDC Group at the WTO during the above-mentioned meeting. A preparatory meeting took place on 9 May 2019.

300. On 5 October 2019, UNCTAD participated in a “Thematic Retreat on Rules of Origin” held in Lausanne, Switzerland. UNCTAD delivered a series of presentations and prepared a paper on the direct shipment requirement as an obstacle to utilization of trade preferences granted to LDCs, and the utilization rates under the China Duty Free and Quota

Free (DFQF). This thematic retreat on rules of origin was held as part of a series of activities organized by UNCTAD to prepare for the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin meeting held on 17–18 October 2019, under a decade-long program of assistance to the LDCs on rules of origin.

301. Also, from 17 to 18 October 2019, UNCTAD supported the meeting of the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) held in Geneva. In preparation for the CRO, UNCTAD worked closely with the WTO LDC group, and organized an Executive Training on RoO for LDC delegates. Two papers in support of the WTO LDC Group, one on Direct Consignment Rule and Low Utilization of Trade Preferences and one on LDC Utilization of China's preferences were drafted. In this context, two bilateral training sessions held with the Group in Geneva, after which they adopted the two papers, provided by UNCTAD, as their position for the CRO. The documents are available as:

(a) G/RO/W/191 Committee on Rules of Origin – Direct consignment rules and low utilization of trade preferences - Submission by the LDC Group;

(b) G/RO/W/192 Committee on Rules of Origin – Further evidence from utilization rates: utilization by LDCs of China's preference – Submission by the LDC Group.

302. These contributions encouraged constructive discussion among CRO members, and a detailed contribution from China reacting to the analysis.

303. *Review of the Revised Kyoto Convention*²⁹ at the World Customs Organization: UNCTAD continued to follow the development of the proposal made by UNCTAD for the updating of annex K on rules of origin of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) at the meeting of the Working groups of the RKC and the Management Committee. To date, China, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the European Union, Renault Nissan, Eurasian Customs Union and Fonterra are co-sponsoring this initiative.

304. UNCTAD made a presentation at the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin held from 4 to 5 February 2019 at the headquarter of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels. The presentation focused on rules of origin certification and procedures. Following the meeting, UNCTAD agreed to work jointly with the WCO towards a joint publication in 2020.

305. In the course of 2019 UNCTAD continued to participate in the Working Group on a “Comprehensive Review of the Revised Kyoto Convention in the WTO” (WGRKC) held respectively on 3–5 April 2019 and on 5–6 June 2019 in Brussels. UNCTAD also attended the Management Committee of the Revised Kyoto Convention held from 18 to 20 November 2019 at the headquarter of the World Customs Organization in Brussels. During these meetings, UNCTAD made presentation and interventions to support the joint proposal for the revision of Annex K on rules of origin.

306. *WTO LDCs Group Ambassador and Experts Retreat*: The Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC), as part of the UNCTAD delegation led by the Secretary-General, participated in the WTO Least Developed Countries Group Ambassador and Experts Retreat – “Perspectives on LDC Participation in WTO Work on the Road to MC12” held on 2 March 2019 in Montreux, Switzerland. ALDC made a presentation entitled “A wider perspective on graduation”, disseminating the findings of UNCTAD's work on graduation from LDC status, and raising awareness regarding LDC and the externalities deriving from FTAs of neighbouring countries especially with regard to preference erosion and loss of competitiveness. The presentation and conclusions were supported by statements from the delegations of Cambodia, Ethiopia and Myanmar.

307. *Consultations with LDCs delegation*: On 1 March and 6 March 2019, UNCTAD held consultations with LDC delegations from Cambodia and the United Republic of Tanzania, respectively, to discuss the technical assistance to be provided to the LDC Group at the WTO. Assistance is conditional on funding. Also, UNCTAD participated in a meeting that brought together various international partners and the Ambassador of Somalia

²⁹ The International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures.

to discuss the accession of Somalia to the WTO. The meeting took place on 21 March 2019 at the Permanent Mission of Sweden in Geneva.

308. *Southern African Customs Union (SACU)*: UNCTAD participated in the SACU Trade Officials Meeting on Global Development held from 30–31 January 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. A technical presentation was delivered on SADC – European Union Economic Partnership Agreement: Cumulation of Origin. Following the elaboration of a project concept note and budget for a collaboration on trade policy issues with the SACU, UNCTAD received a request to engage UNCTAD and SACU in a MoU. Following consultations with the UNCTAD legal department, ALDC is currently revising the first draft shared by SACU Secretariat.

309. *AfCFTA Negotiating Forum*: UNCTAD attended the 15th meeting of the AfCFTA Negotiating Forum (NF) on 20–25 May 2019 to finalize its work on rules of origin and presented the note elaborated by UNCTAD on the treatment of origin in special economic zones.

310. From 4 to 6 November 2019, UNCTAD held bilateral consultations with COMESA in Lusaka. UNCTAD discussed utilization rates within the free trade area, and agreed on a joint publication on the issue, which will be forthcoming in 2020.

311. From 6 to 8 November 2019, UNCTAD met with the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC)³⁰ in Cape Town, South Africa. It is a public benefit organization developing technical expertise and capacity in trade governance across Africa, supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). UNCTAD explored opportunities for cooperation and held technical discussions with TRALAC. A joint publication on the assessment of rules of origin in the AfCFTA is envisaged to be produced in the course of 2020.

312. *ASEAN Free Trade Area and Rules of Origin*: From 15 to 23 August 2019, UNCTAD delivered a trading module and practical exercises on the “ASEAN Free Trade Area and Rules of Origin” at the second ASEAN Law Academy. The ASEAN Law Academy is an initiative launched by Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore to foster the capacity of ASEAN officials and civil society to implement ASEAN regional integration, and the ambitious agenda of ASEAN Economic community. Taught by an experienced, international faculty, the 2019 Academy maintained three specialization tracks: Trade in Goods and Rules of Origin; Investment; and ASEAN External Relations, in addition to the general topics of public bureaucracy and good governance, ASEAN Economic Community, compliance monitoring, and dispute settlement. UNCTAD also discussed way and means of future cooperation to deliver similar courses tailored to ASEAN LDCs in cooperation with the European University institute (EUI).

313. In this perspective, UNCTAD provided technical assistance by developing a project titled “A New Trade Policy and Strategy for ASEAN LDCs on market access and related issues”, which has been submitted to the EIF Secretariat for review. Drastic changes in the trade policies of their major trading partners and ASEAN neighbours are affecting ASEAN LDC trade opportunities, such as a number of Free Trade Areas (FTAs) that the European Union has finalized or is negotiating with ASEAN countries. This development will progressively erode the trade preferences granted to ASEAN LDCs under “Everything but Arms” initiative and other trade preferences that have been a crucial factor in determining the recent export success of ASEAN LDCs. In this context, the project aims to support the implementation of the trade policy elements contained in the Cambodia Trade integration Strategy (CTIS), the Trade policy study for Myanmar and the trade policy issues listed in the Laos DTIS of 2012 and focus on a sequenced articulation, implementation and coordination of selected trade policy issues related to market access, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and e-commerce. The project provides a sequenced articulation, implementation and coordination of selected trade policy issues related to market access, rules of origin, SPS and e-commerce in a WTO plurilateral initiative of ASEAN LDCs. Targeted research and capacity building activities will enable the related

³⁰ <https://www.tralac.org/>.

Ministries of Commerce to design and implement elements targeting these trade policy issues, manage and successfully lead trade negotiations in the selected areas at the multilateral and regional levels, and implement the resulting commitments.

314. *Cambodia*: In March 2019, UNCTAD submitted the final version of the document entitled “Towards a new trade policy on market access for Cambodia: Identifying a positive agenda among challenges and opportunities”. The draft reflected the comments received from the working group and consultations held during UNCTAD mission to Cambodia from 4 to 6 March 2019.

315. In this perspective, on 3 July 2019, the Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy (CTIS) 2019–2023 was launched in Geneva by the Prime Minister of Cambodia in the context of the 2019 Aid for Trade Review. The annual Review was held under the theme “Supporting Economic Diversification and Empowerment for Inclusive, Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade”. UNCTAD drafted the CTIS chapter on market access and rules of origin.

316. *Myanmar*: On 4 June 2019, UNCTAD held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, a validation workshop entitled “Towards a new trade policy on market access for Myanmar: Identifying a positive agenda among challenges and opportunities”. The workshop discussed Myanmar’s emerging trade challenges including the erosion and loss of preferential market access, rules of origin, and regional trade in ASEAN, among other themes.

317. *Research and capacity-building programme with the European University Institute*: Based on the long-standing cooperation between UNCTAD and the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy, a Memorandum of Understanding between UNCTAD and EUI has been signed by both parties to develop a research and technical assistance programme.

318. UNCTAD participated in the Executive workshop organized by the EUI from 15–17 April 2019 on “Trade negotiations in era of uncertainty”, presenting the research and the findings of the Cambodia and Myanmar trade policy studies. During the same mission, a draft work plan of research and capacity-building was discussed with the Head of the Global Governance Programme, as part of the activities to be developed under the recently signed MoU.

319. UNCTAD co-organized an Executive Training on Rules of Origin with the EUI that took place from 26–28 June 2019 at the EUI in Florence, Italy. UNCTAD provided intellectual leadership, with major research contributions and EUI provided the logistics and funding for the meeting, as well as selected substantial contributions. The round table agreed to a work programme for the establishment of a knowledge platform at EUI with collaboration of UNCTAD with periodical videos and other podcasts to launch initiatives related to rules of origin and trade facilitation.

320. In particular the research program established under the UNCTAD/EUI partnership has four major streams of work informing the capacity building activities on rules of origin:

- (a) Road map depicting convergence and divergence on Product Specific Rules of Origin (PSRO);
- (b) Using utilization rates to measure and monitor effectiveness of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and their RoO;
- (c) Assessment of rules of origin in AfCFTA and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (d) Identify best practices for the administration of rules of origin to facilitate transactions.

321. UNCTAD continues to develop with EUI the knowledge platform and the research work according to the above-mentioned streams of work.

322. From 10 to 12 November 2019, UNCTAD met with the EUI Global Governance Program in Florence, Italy. Both parties agreed on the 2020 Working Programme on Rules of Origin, including the organization of the 2020 Roundtable on Rules of Origin, an annual event initiated in 2019. These efforts aimed to bridge the gap between academic research on

rules of origin, business practice and policy perspective. In line with these ambitions, a podcast and YouTube channel were initiated. In the first episode, the Chief of the Technical Assistance and EIF Section, ALDC was interviewed on the complexity of rules of origin.³¹

323. Other contributions of UNCTAD were the publication below:

(a) Handbook on Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin for Least Developed Countries, Part I: QUAD Countries;

(b) Handbook on Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin for Least Developed Countries, Part II: Developed Countries and other Developing Countries;

(c) Turning Diagnostics into action: The Djibouti City–Addis Ababa transit and transport corridor.

324. Forthcoming:

(a) Getting to better Rules of Origin for LDCs; From the WTO Ministerial Decision in Hong Kong, China (2005) to Bali, Indonesia (2013), Nairobi (2015) and beyond;

(b) Drafting rules of origin in FTAs: methodologies and lessons learned from utilization rates and input/output matrix;

(c) Linking European Union FTAs utilization rates to rules of origin (second part of the publication above, jointly with the board of trade of Sweden) announced in several public events/press conferences, including the meeting at WTO on 19 November (expected around June 2020).

Geographical indications

325. In 2019, UNCTAD provided technical assistance on geographical indications to the following countries, organizations and groups.

326. *South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund*: ALDC was invited to provide a proposal under the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) of China, based on a concept note prepared in 2018. In close cooperation with the UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Section, ALDC produced a comprehensive project proposal on Geographical Indications (GIs) that, if accepted, will enable eight LDCs to make significant progress towards protection of their traditional products. The proposal, including the Chinese translation, has been finalized and submitted to the donor. In 2019, the proposal was further revised to address the comments from the donor.

327. *European Development Days*: UNCTAD attended the European Development Days (EDD). The EDD 2019 Selection Committee confirmed the selection of the ALDC's proposal to organize a high-level panel entitled "Linking people, land and unique products to reduce inequalities" under the topic "Inequalities, trade and private sector development". The Committee approved the session held in the format of a large debate, which took place on 18 June 2019. The ALDC proposal was the only panel selected by the Committee from three UNCTAD submissions.

328. In the context of a multilateral trading system that appears short of solutions for providing LDCs with adequate tools to integrate in global value chains, GIs can contribute to reducing between and within country inequalities by supporting LDCs to benefit from international trade opportunities, and raising the income of the poorest communities in rural area. In addition, GIs provide opportunities to increase the empowerment of rural communities to manage their territory and reduce poverty/inequalities in an environmentally friendly manner. The event helped to address questions such as:

³¹ The video "Episode 1: Introduction" is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mg_QdTAddx8.

(a) How Intellectual Property Rights tools such as GIs can be used to address between-country inequalities by supporting the integration of LDCs in global value chains?

(b) How rural development through GIs can contribute to reducing within country inequalities?

(c) What are the critical institutional/technical factors of success/failure in developing a trade and entrepreneurial strategy for the promotion of products from LDCs through GIs?

(d) How GIs in LDCs could be a viable initiative to address the challenges arising from the rural exodus, and on how to design supporting policies related to direct and indirect impacts of GIs on income and inequalities?

(e) How the interplay between GIs and development policies may support the start-up of local initiatives based on origin-linked products?

329. *International Symposium on Geographical Indications in China*: UNCTAD was invited to make a presentation at the International Symposium on Geographical Indications (GIDS) held on 30 May 2019, as part of the International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS). This was the first comprehensive exhibition event for trade in services worldwide under the auspices of Ministry of Commerce of China and the municipal government of Beijing. It was held from 28 May to 1 June in Beijing. In 2019 the GIDS focused on the theme of utilizing products with geographical indications to eliminate poverty and contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD has been invited to participate in other events organized during the fair on 29 and 30 May, as well as to visit the factory of a private-sector sponsor.

330. *Benin and the Niger*: Follow-up in 2019 from UNCTAD for future actions on the geographical indications in Benin and the Niger, notably by establishing and maintaining an e-network with national EIF focal points in order to keep them up to date with relevant information regarding UNCTAD technical assistance.

331. **Results.** UNCTAD technical assistance for market access and rules of origin helped LDCs better understand market access rules and mechanisms. The research and capacity building activities carried out under this programme enhanced the skills and knowledge of officials from LDCs on specific operationally important areas of international economic law and policy. The analytical and training activities provided the participants with a deeper understanding of alternative approaches and the implications of different trade policy rules and regulations, and enhanced their capacity to apply this knowledge in the course of international negotiations and the implementation of the WTO LDC Package resulting from the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Declaration.

332. Rural communities in LDCs started to use geographical indications as a mean to increase their exports and supply capacity of traditional products and recognized the importance of GIs as a rural development tool. In addition, a direct link has been established among the representatives of the rural communities, the capital-based officials and the LDC representatives in Geneva at WTO contributing to a better understanding of the trade development aspects of GIs.

B6 Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

Table B6
Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/HAN	Integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains	2018–	Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-1617 (K10)	Promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa	2016–	Development Account

333. **Development context.** The economic consequences of commodity dependence are severe. The volatility of commodity prices hits countries' macroeconomic stability. The lack of value-added activities hampers economic diversification and industrial development. To ensure that commodities positively contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is therefore critical to break the chains of commodity dependence. In this regard, diversification and value addition are essential for commodity-dependent developing countries to reduce their economic vulnerability to commodity price fluctuation, while contributing to better jobs and livelihoods for their citizens. UNCTAD assists countries in this direction through its various projects on breaking the chains of commodity dependence.

334. **Objectives.** In response to a request for assistance, UNCTAD works with a country to evaluate its needs towards realizing the following four main thematic outcomes:

- (a) Developing value added activities in its commodity sector;
- (b) Establishing development linkages between the commodity sector and the wider economy;
- (c) Diversifying to non-commodity activities;
- (d) Integrating into global and regional value chains.

335. Breaking the chains of commodity dependence develops the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders in project countries to assess the economic viability of investments and commercial initiatives that contribute to the programme's four thematic outcomes, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development. For instance, the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa aims to strengthen the capacity of the four beneficiary countries (Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to assess the economic viability of investments in value added activities in cotton by-products, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development. The project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains focuses on promoting the agri-food industry by supporting the efforts of local stakeholders in accessing new international markets in the four project countries (Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Uzbekistan).

336. **Outputs.** In 2019, for the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa, UNCTAD drafted investment profiles for the priority cotton by-products selected for development in Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the completed profiles submitted into the custody of the national investment promotion agencies. In May 2019, UNCTAD held a wrap-up regional workshop in Johannesburg, hosted by Cotton South Africa. There, participants shared lessons among the project countries and presented their commercial, policy and research follow-on initiatives, developed during the project. Delegates from Mozambique and South Africa also participated, to learn how they might develop cotton by-products in their countries.

337. Under the project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains, UNCTAD completed its inception mission in the remaining one of the four beneficiary countries (Uzbekistan) to meet with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors and development partners operating in the country. In consultation with stakeholders, notably the national authorities through the designated focal points both in the capital and in Geneva, UNCTAD started rolling out the implementation of project activities in the four countries during 2019, by hiring seven different consultants. As highlighted activities during the period, a report on international market access for Ethiopian roasted coffee was completed, and a field survey in three maize-producing provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was conducted, where

additionally at the request of the Government, three Lao government officials were sponsored by the project to accompany the project's survey teams in the field for capacity-building purposes.

338. **Results.** In 2019, under the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Government of Zambia validated the National Action Plan for the development of cotton by-products, meaning three of the four project countries had validated plans. Stakeholders also drafted six proposals for follow-on projects to undertake after the close of the project. UNCTAD therefore realized all the indicators of achievement in the project's logical framework. Based on its performance, the project was granted an extension until August 2020, with funds for additional activities from the residual budget of the Development Account. Through the project, UNCTAD has succeeded in building the awareness and capacity of stakeholders to develop new businesses and value chains, based on cotton by-products, as well as building momentum for further work in this area.

339. From the expertise built during its Development Account project on cotton by-products, UNCTAD formed a joint initiative with the WTO and ITC on the same subject, to carry forward the work and respond to requests from Member States for additional technical assistance in this area. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) funded the initiative's first phase of work, to conduct feasibility studies in eight least-developed countries (LDCs) in Africa, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Implementation of the studies began in 2019.

340. Implementation of the project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains gathered pace during 2019, as indicated above. The national workshops where the findings of the project will be discussed with stakeholders for supporting policy at the national level, will be implemented during 2020. These national workshops, together with the final workshop for the four countries, are key activities for meeting the indicators of achievement of the project.

B9 Sustainable and resilient transport and logistics services

Table B9
Sustainable and resilient transport and logistics services

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/OT/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/9X/31Y	Introduction of multimodal transport and microcomputer software programmes	1993–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/IAP	Climate resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade, tourism and development in SDS	2019–	Germany
ROA-2963 (O9)	Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States	2014–	Development Account

341. **Development context:** The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and driver of social development cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, the adverse impacts of freight transport activity on human health, the environment and climate are a cause for concern. If left unchecked, unsustainable freight transport patterns will undermine the effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

342. Transport infrastructure and logistics services, including shipping, sea- and airports, roads and railways are essential for countries integration into global merchandise trade and related supply chains. The 2030 Agenda does not include a dedicated goal on transport, yet the strategic importance of the sector as a cross-cutting factor that can enable the realization of various Goals is widely recognized. Sustainable and resilient transport and logistics services are a direct enabler of Goals 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 17, as well as a contributor to the achievement of Goals 1, 5, 10 and 12. Transport has also gained greater visibility under the climate action agenda of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With the sustainable and resilient freight transport agenda gaining further momentum, UNCTAD has intensified efforts to mainstream sustainability and climate resilience considerations into its work programme on transport and trade logistics. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume carried by sea, maritime transport is a particularly crucial catalyst for sustainable development.

343. **Objectives and features.** The overall objective of the programme is to assist the effective integration of developing countries into global and regional trading networks and transport systems and their participation in relevant value chains through efficient, reliable, cost-effective, well-connected, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient freight transport systems.

344. UNCTAD has been working on the implications of climate change for maritime transportation for over a decade, with an increasing focus on climate change adaptation and resilience-building for global seaports and other key coastal transport infrastructure. Recent UNCTAD work in this field has included technical assistance and capacity-building with a focus on key coastal transport infrastructure in Caribbean small island developing States, using innovative methodological approaches (<https://SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org>). Key project outcomes include the assessment of potential operational disruptions and marine inundation risk to eight coastal international airports and seaports of Jamaica and Saint Lucia under different climate scenarios, as well as a transferable methodology to assist SIDS in the Caribbean and beyond in adaptation planning for coastal transport infrastructure.

345. In addition, UNCTAD continued to provide advice and policy guidance in response to internal and external requests received from various entities, including on the legal framework on international shipping and maritime law, particularly competition law issues and the UNCTAD Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences; issues of shipping and digitalization; maritime fraud and UNCTAD Minimum Standards for Shipping Agents, 1988; women in the maritime industry; road safety; issues related to ship-source pollution and related environmental challenges; sustainable transport and the implications of climate change for maritime transport, including in particular the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and associated adaptation requirements.

346. In 2019, UNCTAD continued its technical assistance work aimed at advancing the sustainable freight transport agenda. Areas of focus included freight transport especially shipping and ports, and transit transport corridors; as well as cross cutting issues such as finance and public-private partnerships (PPPs).³² This work was closely aligned with the SDGs and built heavily on the synergies and gains derived from enhanced collaboration and partnerships with varied partners. This includes UN agencies (such as UNECE, UNDESA, UNESCAP, International Maritime Organization (IMO)); Academia and research institutions (such as World Maritime University; Korea Maritime Institute, and the University of South Pacific); think-tanks and multi-stakeholder grouping (Global Maritime Forum, Getting to Zero Coalition, World Bank initiative Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All)); as well as Multilateral and development banks (e.g. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Islamic Development Bank). Key outcome of collaboration includes UNCTAD co-leading with UNECE the SuM4All Efficiency working group and paper that was prepared as part the SuM4All comprehensive policy framework “Global Road Map of Action toward Sustainable Mobility” (<https://sum4all.org/gra>).³³

³² See <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/TTL/Infrastructure-and-Services/SFTF-Toolkit.aspx>.

³³ See <https://sum4all.org/gra>.

347. UNCTAD also continued engaging with relevant data providers and research institutions to expand its statistical and analytical work and make use of the latest available information, providing unbiased analysis and advice. The results of this work ultimately inform and support the policy guidance, technical assistance, and advisory services provided to developing countries with a view to improving their freight transport systems and their sustainability.

348. In this context, UNCTAD under the Train for Trade II project is supporting the Government of Angola in their efforts “to improve its trade logistics and transport systems, with views to ensure better access to regional and world markets and promote sustainable development”. The sector has been identified by Angolan institutions as key to achieve accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development of the country. This project is focusing on the growing role and importance of regional trading blocs and the private sector in advancing a transformative development agenda of Angola through trade and investment and is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

349. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement have emphasized the need for all economic sectors, including maritime transport to monitor and measure performance and track progress towards the achievement of sustainability targets. Developing key performance indicators depends heavily on the availability and the quality of data and statistics, and addressing existing maritime transport data gaps requires investing in acquiring, compiling, making available and managing relevant data. Against this background, UNCTAD and Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), supported by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, collaborated in 2019 through a joint project to develop a global Port Infrastructure Sufficiency Index.

350. **Outputs.** In 2019, UNCTAD has assisted the Government of Angola in their efforts to improve their transport infrastructure and services through Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs), which are being encouraged by the Government of Angola in line with the country’s strategic plan and objectives. PPPs are expected to play an important role in attracting investments to achieve a new level of economic and social development and improve access to quality infrastructure and services, with the efficient use of public and private funds.

351. As innovative approach to better address the request from Government of Angola, UNCTAD proposed a collaborative working mechanism between key ministries such as the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Economy and Planning, Finance, Transport and Construction and Public Works, as well as other relevant institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, to achieve the mutual benefit of working together and ensure proper development and implementation of a PPP programme tailored to the needs and priorities of Government of Angola.

352. The global Port Infrastructure Sufficiency Index (PISI) developed in 2019 under the joint project with Korea Maritime Institute fills an important information and data gap. It is expected to serve as a guidance and a policy tool to inform decisions, policies and actions by all relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, port service providers, port infrastructure developers and managers, port users, financiers and investors. Activities under the project were launched in March 2019. In this respect, UNCTAD provided insights, expertise, guidance and an institutional perspective and carried out a substantive assessment of the methodology, components and approach used to elaborate the PISI. By establishing, chairing and managing the PISI Advisory Board responsible for reviewing and validating the PISI, UNCTAD promoted inter-agency and industry collaboration, including with the IMO, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the regional commissions (ECLAC and ESCAP), academia (International Association of Maritime Economists, the Port Performance Research Network, World Maritime University), the port and shipping industries (International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)). In parallel, UNCTAD organized and hosted a workshop bringing together varied experts including from other United Nations sister organizations to assess and validate the methodology used to elaborate the PISI. Furthermore, UNCTAD developed communications and advertisement plans to support KMI in rolling out the PISI

and ensuring its wide-acceptance and effective implementation as a sustainable port performance assessment tool.

353. Building on its work in climate resilience, UNCTAD and UNEP, with the financial support of the Government of Germany, are currently implementing a project on climate resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade, tourism and development in SIDS. In this context, a High-Level Panel discussion on “Climate resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade, tourism and development in SIDS”, was co-organized by UNCTAD and UNEP, with the support of the OECS Commission, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNFCCC, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as a side event of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Madrid (COP25).

354. Issues related to climate change impacts and adaptation for transport across modes were also considered as part of an ad hoc expert meeting on “Climate change adaptation for international transport: preparing for the future”, held in April 2019. Relevant key recommendations and insights gained through relevant UNCTAD technical assistance work have since been integrated as part of the GCA Transport and Resilience Pathway documents, which were launched at the COP 25.

355. UNCTAD also continued its established collaboration with related industry and United Nations initiatives. This includes collaboration with the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC), in the development of port industry guidance, as well as extensive collaboration with the UNECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport Network and Nodes. Drawing on the insights gained as part of related UNCTAD technical cooperation and with a view to building synergies, UNCTAD prepared a report, entitled “Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure: A Compilation of Policies and Practices”, to assist in the development of appropriate legal and regulatory as well as policy approaches and plans at facility level.

356. **Results and impacts.** Since the implementation of the project activities on PPPs, UNCTAD has become a key knowledge and advisor partner to Angola Government and has been playing an active role in providing constant technical support to the Government in their effort to develop and implement PPPs. For instance, UNCTAD was asked to provide technical advice on the new law on PPP which was approved in May 2019 as well as the presidential decree and draft of the PPP programme. UNCTAD was also invited to speak at the Advisory Council Meeting of Ministry of Transport (27–28 June 2019) and provided technical advice on concession models for the transport sector. In addition, UNCTAD was also invited to assist the Ministry of Planning (MEP) in the organization of an International Conference on Economic Development, focusing on PPPs, held on the margins of the International Faire of Luanda (FILDA) from 9 to 13 July 2019.

357. UNCTAD technical assistance work on climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean has informed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 report on 1.5 degrees (“Impacts of 1.5 °C global warming on natural and human systems”), as well as the IPCC 2019 Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere (Ch. 4 and 5), and the UNFCCC Research Dialogue 2019, highlighting substantial increases in risk to critical coastal transportation infrastructure in Jamaica and Saint Lucia from climate change-induced marine inundation as early as in the 2030s, unless further climate change adaptation is undertaken. Relevant substantive findings are also reflected as part of the United Nations report, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019* (chap. 2) and 2020, and the UNCTAD *Commodities and Development Report 2019*.

358. The impact of global Port Infrastructure Sufficiency Index (PISI) will be better understood after its implementation. It will be piloted through selected container port terminals in the second half of 2020. Ultimately, it will help to improve measurement of port performance and facilitate meaningful port performance comparisons at the global level. The PISI will help to support sound and informed port planning and investment decisions. Also, by filling an important data gap, the PISI will support effective monitoring and reporting on ports’ adherence to key sustainability principles. Overall, the project

strengthened collaboration with relevant development partners, including government, academia, United Nations system organizations and industry.

B99 Other

Table B99

Other

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Division on Investment and Enterprise</i>			
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
<i>Division on Globalization and Development Strategies</i>			
PAL/0T/FAS	Support for the capacity of UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people programme	2016–	Qatar Development Fund
PAL/0T/HCG	Support for the Capacity of UNCTAD Assistance to the Palestinian People Programme	2019–	Bahrain
ROA-2959 (K9)	Building capacity of developing countries' policymakers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance	2014–	Development Account
<i>Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</i>			
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/9X/77J	Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries: Core project	1997–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/IAH	Finding Opportunities for Niche Commodities from DC in Health Food Markets	2019–	Common Fund for Commodities
ROA-2961 (M9)	Building the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports	2014–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (M10)	Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries	2016–	Development Account
<i>Office of the Secretary-General</i>			
GLO/0T/8CG ^a	Support to avian influenza and food crisis coordination office	2008–2019	United Nations Development Programme

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2019.

1. Assistance to the Palestinian people

359. **Development context.** In 2018 and early 2019, the Palestinian economy stagnated, per capita income fell, unemployment increased, poverty deepened and the environmental toll of occupation continued rising in Gaza and the West Bank. The short-term economic prospects are grimmer, and there are no signs of a reversal of the negative trends in key drivers of economic growth.

360. The reasons behind the near collapse of the Palestinian economy are the expansion of occupation and severe restrictions on Gaza's regional economy, a drop in donor support, deterioration of the security environment, uncertainty and the political horizons.

361. In 2018, Gaza's regional economy contracted by 7 per cent, precipitating a 10 per cent decline in per capita income. Overall, about one in three Palestinians in the labour market is unemployed. In Gaza, unemployment is above 50 per cent, while poverty reached 53 per cent even though most of those classified as poor receive aid from the Government and international organizations. Gaza is becoming increasingly unliveable under worsening socioeconomic conditions.

362. In addition to the deterioration in socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions, the Government of Israel started deducting \$11.5 million per month (equivalent to \$138 million annually) from Palestinian clearance revenues to implement a Knesset law mandating that deduction; the Government of the State of Palestine refused to accept less than the full amount of its fiscal revenue. The fiscal disagreement deprives the Government of the State of Palestine of 65 per cent of its revenue (15 per cent of GDP). Consequently, the Government of the State of Palestine made cuts in social assistance to the neediest households and paid public employees only 50 per cent of salaries, which amplified the impact of declining donor support on output, employment and socioeconomic conditions.

363. The viability and competitiveness of Palestinian producers are undermined by the multi-layered system of physical and administrative restrictions of the occupying Power that restrict the movement of Palestinian workers and goods. The economy is further weakened by the Israeli ban on the importation of items on a dual-use list of civilian goods, including technological and intermediate goods and other critical production inputs.

364. The occupation isolates the Palestinian people from international markets and thus compels them into trade and economic dependence on Israel, which accounts for 80 per cent of Palestinian exports and supplies 58 per cent of its imports.

365. In addition to the restrictions and deterioration of the Palestinian economic environment and infrastructure, occupation prevents the Palestinian people from developing available resources, such as oil and natural gas.

366. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continues to directly respond to paragraph 55 (dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which requests UNCTAD to "continue to assess the economic development prospects of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and examine obstacles to trade and development, as part of the international community's commitment to building an independent Palestinian State, and with a view to alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people". This programme is also guided by paragraph 31 (m) of the Doha Mandate, paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord and paragraph 35 of the São Paulo Consensus. The programme aims at building and strengthening the institutional capacities of the Palestinian public and private sectors required for building a robust economy to underpin a future Palestinian State as part of a two-State solution.

367. The mandate extended to UNCTAD was further expanded by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions 69/20, 70/12, 71/20, 72/13, 73/18 and 74/10, which request UNCTAD to report to the General Assembly on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people.

368. In 2019, UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people in alleviating the adverse conditions imposed by the occupation and laying the foundations for a robust economy. The programme addresses the Palestinian economy's constraints and emerging needs through the following four clusters:

- (a) Trade policies and strategies;
- (b) Trade facilitation and logistics;
- (c) Finance and development;
- (d) Enterprise, investment and competition policy.

369. **Outputs and results.** UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people's efforts to build the institutional capacities of the public and private sectors essential for rehabilitating the economy and pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2019, the programme continued to strengthen ongoing support for the Palestinian people despite the adverse and increasingly difficult field conditions.

370. UNCTAD continued to provide advisory services to the Government of the State of Palestine, civil society organizations, various public and private sector institutions, international organizations, researchers and academics.

371. In response to the aforementioned General Assembly (GA) resolutions, in 2019 UNCTAD submitted a report (A/74/272) to the GA on the economic costs of occupation; focusing on the fiscal aspects of the cost of occupation. The report assesses the cost of occupation on the Palestinian public finance and the potential the Palestinian economy would realize if these costs were alleviated. It draws attention to the cumulative fiscal costs of occupation incurred by the Palestinian people. Previous pioneering UNCTAD research and studies were a major factor behind the recent reimbursement by Israel of over \$300 million of leaked resources to the Government of the State of Palestine. The report makes specific recommendations for mitigating these fiscal losses as a prerequisite for socioeconomic recovery in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

372. UNCTAD also released a study (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2019/1) entitled *The Economic Costs of the Israeli Occupation for the Palestinian People: The Unrealized Oil and Natural Gas Potential*. The study draws attention to the oil and natural gas resource wealth, with value estimated at tens of billions of dollars, which the Palestinian people could benefit from to foster development and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals.

373. In 2019, UNCTAD benefited from a grant from the Government of Bahrain to sustain UNCTAD professional capacity to support the Palestinian people's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The grant enabled UNCTAD to update its macro-econometric model of the Palestinian economy and enhanced its capacity to respond to different requests for support and advisory services by Palestinian civil society as well as public- and private-sector institutions.

374. The updated macro-econometric model factors in recent structural changes and explores alternative methodologies and techniques. Upon completion of the update, the model will be shared fully with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) as done with the first model developed by UNCTAD. This will enable the PCBS and MAS to provide Palestinian private sector and policy makers with inhouse practical tools to evaluate key aspects of the Palestinian economy, assess alternative policy options/scenarios, and assist in formulating economic development strategies and designing sound and realistic economic policies.

375. In 2019 UNCTAD continued to provide recurrent advisory services to the PCBS Forecasting Unit, which uses UNCTAD macro-econometric model of the Palestinian economy and is run by professional staff trained by UNCTAD. PCBS forecasts are used by the Ministry of Finance and Planning for budget preparations and by other government agencies and private sector institutions.

376. UNCTAD continued dialogue with officials at the Palestinian Ministry of Finance and Planning and the donor community to (a) reintroduce the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) to enhance the quality and scope of Palestinian public financial management; and (b) 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.

2. Productive capacity-building in vulnerable economies

2.1. *Finding opportunities for niche commodities from developing countries in health food markets*

377. **Development context.** For several decades structurally weak and vulnerable economies such as landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) have not been able to take full advantage of global trade opportunities and improved market access conditions. This is partly due to their weak productive and supply capacities, and partly due to their weak trade policy formulation and implementation capacities. Beyond domestic constraints, market entry barriers such as non-tariff measures remain hindrances to enhancing their export opportunities. This is despite the fact that they enjoy preferential market access for their exports to major developed countries markets particularly in the European Union. Furthermore, geographical challenges such as remoteness from regional and international markets, high cost of transportation and lack of transit-transport systems are detrimental to export competitiveness and development of landlocked developing countries. In some cases, beyond the domestic challenges, regional integration processes have also created complex rules of origin especially in Africa, resulting in trade loss and high transactions costs. Their persistent under-development and in many cases, long term decline, illustrates how trade could not uplift these countries' socio-economic conditions. This also indicates the complexity and inter-related nature of the challenges, which undermine the potential and national policy efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

378. However, there is significant potential for horizontal diversification in many of these countries in producing and exporting new and dynamic products. If fully exploited such a potential could help LLDCs to maximize the benefits from international trade, build export competitiveness and join the group of successful exporters.

379. Against this background, this project will help: (a) to identify export potential and competitiveness of a number of structurally weak and vulnerable economies in health-enhancing specialty foods; (b) to map the new and dynamic products as well as export potential with market opportunities, primarily in the European Union; and (c) to build regulatory and institutional capacities of the selected countries to monitor and certify conformity with specialty food standards.

380. **Objectives.** The project aims to build the capacities of selected landlocked developing countries to foster productive capacities and diversify their exports by identifying and harnessing the export potential of health food commodities and nutraceuticals. The project will draw on global and national studies of the potential of selected LLDCs in developing the health food or nutraceutical sector, as well as of potential export markets. In addition, the project aims to identify the principal obstacles to the development and expansion of exports in these sectors and propose policies and measures to address them. In this way, the project will assist policymakers from selected LLDCs in designing and implementing policies to build productive capacities, expand and diversify their exports, and achieve structural transformation.

381. **Outputs.** In 2019, project implementation started with the following activities: Terms of Reference (TORs) were developed for an international consultant with relevant expertise. Based on these, a suitable international expert was identified; a first draft of a comprehensive study entitled "Potential and Constraints for Developing Countries' Exports of Health Foods and Nutraceuticals: Azerbaijan, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Nepal" was submitted and is currently under review by UNCTAD.

382. The first draft of the global study demonstrates the merit of the project by identifying the significant potential exhibited by several LLDCs to expand their exports of health food commodities or nutraceuticals. The study examines three specialty food commodities in each of the six countries and highlights the commodity-specific obstacles to increasing production. In addition, the report outlines some of the broader, economy-wide constraints preventing many LLDCs from harnessing their export potential in these commodities. These include high trade and transport costs, lack of an enabling environment for the private sector, inadequate extension services, access to capital, as well lack of

capacities to meet stringent food quality standards in major export markets. Against this background, the study highlights a number of policies and measures that LLDCs can take to support the expansion of the speciality-food sectors and promote their exports.

383. The global study will form the basis for six national country-studies to be launched in 2020. In addition, UNCTAD plans to hold a regional workshop to disseminate the findings and provide for an exchange of views among LLDCs on the potential of the health food sector and the measures needed to harness it.

2.2. *Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries*

384. **Development context.** The key lesson from the research and policy analysis work of UNCTAD is that placing the development of productive capacities at the heart of trade and development policies is essential for LLDCs to address their underdevelopment and to put them on the path of sustainable development. This calls for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities in LLDCs through a careful identification of indicators. Therefore, the ultimate outcome of this project will be a productive capacities index (PCI) constructed and validated for three beneficiary countries. In each beneficiary country, government officials responsible for statistical and development analysis will be trained in monitoring the PCIs, and in their use for generating and implementing development strategies. The project is financed through the tenth Tranche of Development Account and complemented with other project funds (i.e. a project funded by CFC on commodity value chains).

385. By assisting LLDCs to monitor their progress in building productive capacities, the PCI can assist them in achieving several SDGs, in particular SDG 1 (poverty eradication), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 16 (peace and justice – strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

386. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop Productive Capacities Indices³⁴ and use them to support evidence-based policy making. With this objective in mind, the project assists in defining the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators, which will be used in the construction of the Productive Capacity Index.

387. **Outputs.** In 2019, national statistical capacities were built in Botswana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Namibia. Several regional and subregional capacity building workshops on Productive Capacities Index were organized in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

388. In 2019, UNCTAD supported national statistical offices and academics in three Countries (Botswana, Namibia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic) in developing the capacities to collect relevant data and compute their respective productive capacities indices to measure the level of their productive capacities. Computing the PCI enables LDCs to assess their levels of productive capacities and identify priorities for national development policies, thus strengthening the basis for evidence-based policymaking and improving the efficiency of development policies. Workshops were held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 11 October 2010, Namibia on 6–7 November 2019 and in Botswana on 11–13 November 2019.

389. The trainings addressed the role of productive capacities as triggers of sound and impactful structural change and explored the need of state-of-art statistical indices to support policy formulation processes aimed at sound and resilient economic growth patterns. Against this background, participants from national statistical offices, ministries

³⁴ The Productive Capacities Index is a composite index to measure the state (condition) of productive capacities in economies on the basis of a set of sub-indices, covering areas such as structural economic transformation, transport, ICT, innovation and technology, employment and labour productivity, energy and private sector development, and so forth.

and academia reviewed the methodologies to create composite indexes, familiarized themselves with the most popular programming languages and learned how to maintain and modify the index, including how to update it and simulate PCI values using domestic data sources. Finally, they discussed best practices to use efficiently the PCI in decision-making and participants further explored the index contribution to their national policy formulation processes.

390. Furthermore, a number of national and regional policy workshops were held to build the capacities of policymakers to formulate policies to build productive capacities and make use of the PCI. An African regional capacity-building training on “the use of statistics and the Productive Capacities Index (PCI) for evidence-based policy-making in landlocked developing countries and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies” was held in Windhoek on 9-10 April 2019. The objective of the regional workshop was to provide the opportunity to share experiences and exchange best practices on data collection, organization and validation methods, with the ultimate goal of creating stronger and evidence-driven policies and programmes to support development. About 65 statistical experts, senior policy advisors and practitioners drawn from public and private sectors as well as civil society (including academic) from 12 African countries (Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended the regional capacity-building workshop. There were extensive discussions and extremely encouraging and technically rich feedback on the UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index and the operational manual on how to build, maintain and utilize productive capacities

391. With a view to strengthening the policymaking capacities in Asian landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), UNCTAD organized several meetings on ways and means of fostering productive capacities in these countries. Initial results and findings of the UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index and related policy implications were discussed during a side-event at the Euro-Asian Regional Meeting of the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs (VPoA), which was held in Bangkok, from 11 to 12 February 2019.

392. On 12–13 March 2019, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, organized a National Policy Workshop in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on “Fostering Productive Capacities, Export Diversification and Structural Economic Transformation: Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Graduation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic from the category of LDCs”. The workshop was opened by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and brought together more than 50 policymakers, experts, and representatives of development partners, the private sector and academia. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to graduation from the LDC category, as well as the importance of building productive capacities to accelerate momentum for graduation and prepare the ground for the post-graduation environment.

393. At the request of the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, UNCTAD and the Ministry of Planning and Investment of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic further delivered a “National Workshop on the Vulnerability Profile of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Building Resilience through Fostering Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation” held in Vientiane, from 8 to 10 October 2019. Close to 100 participants from government institutions, research and think-tank organizations, academic and private sector representatives as well as international development partners based in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic took part in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to review and enrich the Vulnerability Profile of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in preparation for the next Committee for Development Policy triennial assessment, which will take place in 2021, and to train participants on how best to use data on productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking.

394. Furthermore, the PCI was discussed at the regional workshop on promoting structural economic transformation in the 12 Asia-Pacific LLDCs co-organized by UNCTAD and UNESCAP in Bangkok on 4–7 November 2019.

395. UNCTAD also presented the PCI at the Latin American Regional Review meeting of the VPoA, held in Santiago, Chile, from 11 to 12 June 2019. UNCTAD also organized a dedicated Side-event on “Impact investing and innovative resource mobilization to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation in LLDCs” during the High-Level Midterm Review of the VPoA held in New York from 5 to 6 December 2019.

396. UNCTAD in collaboration with the Centre for the Studies of Economies of Africa (CSEA)³⁵ hosted a policy-oriented workshop on “Fostering productive capacities, structural economic transformation and export diversification in LLDCs and other structurally weak West African economies” in Abuja on 17–18 December 2019. More than 55 participants drawn from public and private sectors as well as academic institutions from 13 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo) took part in the deliberations.

397. The event provided opportunities to introduce the UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index and assessed the performance of West African economies in building productive capacities using this new tool. It was noted that while West African countries performed comparatively well on the components of natural capital, private sector facilitation and institutions, they tended to lag behind their African peers on the components of human capital, ICT, energy, transport and structural transformation. Participants greatly appreciated the Productive Capacities Index as a useful tool to assess the levels of productive capacities achieved, and to monitor the effectiveness of development policies employed.

398. The regional and subregional training and capacity building activities identified a number of policies and measures needed to build productive capacities and to foster export diversification and structural transformation in Africa. This included the articulation of key binding constraints on economic development in Africa and the identification of sectors and products with export potential as well as the policies and measures needed to promote them. The measures suggested range from specific sector or company-specific incentive-measures to general policies to support education and skills levels, foster an enabling environment for the private sector, and to build trade and transport infrastructure.

399. At the request of the government of Rwanda, UNCTAD further carried out an assessment mission to Kigali in March 2019 to design a follow-up project to assist Rwanda in building its productive capacities and achieve greater export diversification. Despite remarkable socioeconomic progress and demonstrated commitment by the Government of Rwanda, the country still faces many challenges in building productive capacities and structurally transforming its economy. The assessment mission met with government officials, academics and representatives of the business community and civil society to identify key obstacles to building productive capacities and achieving structural transformation. This led to the development of a proposal for a comprehensive multi-year technical assistance and capacity building programme for Rwanda (modelled on the UNCTAD Angola Programme). The programme proposal is developed in close consultations with the Government of Rwanda, and it is centred on ensuring country ownership of the programme. The proposed UNCTAD Rwanda Programme has four principal components: (a) Strengthening Value Added in the Agro-Processing and Light Manufacturing Sectors; (b) Developing a Tailor-Made “Business Plan” for Maximizing the Impact and Benefits of Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks of Rwanda; (c) Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector, with a Focus on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; and (d) Harnessing the Potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development.

400. **Results.** The activities carried out in 2019 ensured the building of capacities of numerous government officials in beneficiary countries and beyond in the use of the Productive Capacities Index, as well as its computation.

³⁵ CSEA is one of the Regional Centres of Excellence established by UNCTAD to enhance collaboration in undertaking joint activities, including the dissemination of its research and policy analysis work to inform policies and strategies in Africa.

401. At the training in Namibia, 15 statistical officers (9 men, 6 women), received training in the statistical methodology for computing the productive capacities index. In their post-workshop evaluations, they rated the usefulness of the discussions at an average of 4.5/5, and the relevance of the discussions to their work at an average of 4.7/5. In Botswana, a total of 13 statistical officers were trained (9 men, and 4 women), and they rated the usefulness and relevance of the discussions to their work at 4.2/5 on average. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a further 16 statistics experts were trained (9 men, 7 women), who rated the usefulness of the discussions at 4.2/5 and the relevance of the workshop to their work at 4.4/5 on average.

402. A number of national and regional workshops also helped to build the capacities of policymakers and economic experts to formulate policies to strengthen the building of productive capacities, and to make use of the PCI for evidence-based policymaking. In the case of the workshop held for West African LLDCs and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies in the region in December 2019, 55 policymakers from 13 countries gained a greater understanding of the role of productive capacities in the development process. English-speaking respondents rated the usefulness and relevance of the workshop at an average of 4.2/5 and 4.5/5 respectively. French-speaking respondents rated the workshop at the higher average of 4.9/5.

403. The proposal for a follow-up project on the policies needed to build productive capacities and achieve structural transformation requested by Rwanda was accepted by the Government and is currently being submitted for consideration by donors. The implementation of the project will start as soon as the Government mobilizes financial resources including from its key development partners.

2.3. *Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports*

404. **Development context.** The fishery sector holds significant potential for many least developed countries (LDCs). Six of the top sixteen producers of fish from inland waters are LDCs and for fourteen out of the 48 LDCs, fish are one of their top five export products. In terms of food security, fish accounts for 50 per cent of the animal protein consumed in many LDCs. The global average of animal protein consumed from fish and fishery products is about 17 per cent. The sector also offers employment opportunities for a significant share of many populations in LDCs. In Bangladesh alone, 15 million people are directly employed in the fisheries sector, whereas in Cambodia 40 per cent of the population directly or indirectly depend on it.

405. The sector remains largely informal, dominated by traditional or artisanal activities with limited access to more productive industrial food processing. Consequently, over the last three decades, the share of LDCs and SIDS in total fishery exports has been stagnant and remained negligible. This is due to a number of binding constraints on both the supply- and demand-side of the industry. On the supply side, the main constraints are: deficient transportation and storage facilities; poor energy infrastructure and high electricity cost; lack of investment, finance or credit to small operators; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, overfishing and depletion of fish resources; water pollution; and a lack of common fishery policies among countries that share water resources. On the demand side, the most pervasive problem facing LDCs is their inability to comply with food quality and safety standards imposed by importing countries. This problem is further compounded and reinforced by supply side problems. Stringent safety and quality norms—public or private—block access to major importing markets for many LDCs and SIDS fish exporters. This is mainly due to the fact that standards are not harmonized and are costly for these countries to meet.

406. Upgrading the sector and increasing fisheries exports provides significant opportunities for LDCs and LLDCs to generate growth and employment, in line with SDG 8. Improved management of the fisheries sector also supports diversification and industrialization (SDG 9), ensuring sustainable production and consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), the sustainable use of the oceans, sea and marine resources (SDG 14), and expanding the share of LDCs in global exports (SDG 17). The fishery sector accounts for a significant proportion of protein intake, and employs millions of rural dwellers in

LDCs, demonstrating its high potential for poverty reduction (SDG 1) and reduction of inequality (SDG 10).

407. In order to assist LDCs in building the capacities to expand and upgrade their fisheries exports, UNCTAD implemented a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project (project number: 1415M), until 2017. Following the completion of the initial project in 2017, there was clear demand by several beneficiary countries for continuing training and assistance in the field of fisheries development. To meet this demand, UNCTAD used an additional award of funding from the UNDA to implement follow-up activities in 2018 and 2019, including the establishment of two Regional Centres of Excellence for fisheries development.

408. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to contribute to efforts to build the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports. The activities implemented in 2019 focused on training a larger group of policymakers in African LDCs and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies to identify the key binding constraints on the development of the fisheries sector, and to design policy recommendations to overcome them.

409. **Outputs.** In May 2019, UNCTAD delivered the “Second regional training course on how to best harness the potential of the fisheries sector for socioeconomic development in the least developed countries and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies” in Mauritius. The capacity-building course was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius, in the newly established UNCTAD Centre of Excellence. Participants in the course also benefited from hands-on training and site visits to the national research laboratories and centres for oceanographic research, as well as fisheries landing sites and marine protected areas.

410. More than 50 participants and resource persons from 13 countries benefited from the targeted training on developing the fisheries sector as well as the sharing of knowledge, national experiences and good practices developed in various countries. The course addressed the broader environmental and social dimensions of the fisheries sector, and the economic, environmental and social benefits of relevant certifications and the application of standards. The course further covered the importance of the sound management of fish stocks, as well as the ways and means of controlling Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, which represents a significant threat to the sustainable management of the fisheries sector and the larger marine economy in developing countries.

411. **Results.** The project was concluded in May 2019. During its five-year implementation period, the project has upgraded the technical knowledge and expertise of more than 500 participants from beneficiary countries. It also developed a number of knowledge products, in particular, training manuals covering a range of fisheries and aquaculture subjects that collectively contribute to harnessing the sector’s trade and development potential.

412. The project has yielded tangible results in terms of policy, regulatory, and institutional changes. At the policy and regulatory level, Uganda has expressed an interest in adjusting its domestic food safety standards to meet international standards, both public and private, in order to stay in strategic export markets, and gradually to be able to export to high-end markets. Mozambique has taken important steps to develop a domestic aquaculture subsector, including the establishment of a task force consisting of key ministries, the private sector, and civil society to develop a model for developing the marine-based and freshwater aquaculture subsector. The Government of the Comoros introduced a law requiring all vessels fishing in its sovereign waters to offload on Comorian soil so that it adds and retains value in its economy, creates employment opportunities and generates more income to vulnerable sections of its society. Myanmar also expressed interest and a commitment to establish a national research and development centre dedicated to the fisheries sector.

413. At the institutional level, the project has led to the establishment of two Regional Centres of Excellence with partner institutions in Mauritius and Viet Nam – two model countries in terms of fisheries development – which will run regular regional courses for African and Asian LDCs, respectively, and allow for the sharing of experiences, technical

knowledge, and fisheries inputs in a sustainable manner. The objective of the Regional Centres of Excellence is to serve as a training and capacity-building hub for countries of the two regions on fisheries and fish products.

2.4 *Supporting development efforts of Angola through European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola*

414. **Development context.** With a population of 31 million,³⁶ the gross domestic product (GDP) of Angola was \$105.8 billion in 2018, which is relatively high compared to other sub-Saharan African countries, excluding South Africa, and, indeed, remarkable for a least developed country (LDC). Buoyed by high petroleum prices, Angola has experienced accelerated growth in its GDP in the past 15 years with the highest growth rates being 20.5 per cent in 2005 and 23.2 per cent in 2007. The 2008–2009 global economic crisis reversed the high growth rate, which dropped to 2.4 per cent in 2009 and only managed to rise to 7.5 per cent in 2013. Further deceleration followed in 2013–2014, and negative GDP growth rates were experienced during the period 2016–2019. Due to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the pick-up in growth rates previously forecast by institutions such as the World Bank is likely not to occur in the immediate future.³⁷ The slowing and negative growth of Angola will certainly hamper the country from meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the absence of economic diversification. The conflict in Angola, which lasted almost 27 years, continues to affect the main pillars of the country's economic development, particularly physical infrastructure for trade, including ports, rails, roads, electricity and information and communications technology (ICT) facilities. All this makes it difficult for traders, especially those beyond the vicinity of the capital Luanda, to import and export goods and provide services on a nationwide basis and to neighbouring countries.

415. **Objectives and features.** The European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II – a Programme running over the period 2017–2022 – aims to support Angola in its efforts towards structural transformation, identification of potential non-oil export products and diversification of the economy as well as integration into the regional and global economy. Through its seven intervention areas, the Programme is expected to support the graduation process, and beyond, by improving the capacity of Angola in policy formulation and implementation as well as by training private sector enterprises, contributing directly to economic growth, diversification of the economy, job creation, poverty reduction and improved living conditions for the population. The Train for Trade II Programme is one of the components of the overall Projecto de Apoio ao Comércio (ACOM) financed by the European Union with a total budget of €12 million.

416. The Train for Trade II programme consists of (a) commercial diplomacy; (b) creative economy; (c) Empretec entrepreneurship training and entrepreneurship policy development; (d) National Green Export Review; (e) Investment Policy Review; (f) trade facilitation; and (g) transport and logistics components.

417. **Outputs and results.** Thus far 840 Angolans benefited from training and policy-oriented activities, with about 20 per cent of them having taken part in multiple capacity building activities thus consolidating their knowledge. In addition, 200 people in the provinces of Angola were sensitized to the Empretec entrepreneurship training methods. The programme also helped to identify eight new green product categories with potential for exports as well as mapped the value chains and supported the development of action plans for seven derived products. As part of the Programme, an Investment Policy Review (IPR) has been completed and published with policy recommendations aimed at improving the investment climate and attracting more foreign investment in the country. Further, the Train for Trade II Programme helped Angola implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; supported the process of Angola of drafting public-private partnerships regulation and implementation for infrastructure financing as well as started planning the forthcoming trade logistics review; trained over 250 SMEs through the Empretec

³⁶ World Bank, 2018.

³⁷ World Bank Global Economic Prospects – Forecasts: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects#data> [May 2020].

methodology and started assistance for the development of a creative economy strategy for the country.

418. In the current implementation period and beyond, the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees will continue with additional face-to-face and online trainings, including support to the drafting of a national trade facilitation road map. The transport and logistics component will start its work on corridor review, with a particular focus on the agriculture sector, and continue delivering its support for public-private partnership modalities. Focused training modules will be developed and delivered in selected areas of the creative economy, and the creative economy strategy will be finalized and validated. The overall programme knowledge hub will continue to be developed through training modules by various components, including the commercial diplomacy and creative economy components, as well as selected web-based materials developed by the Green Export Review and IPR components. The Empretec component will facilitate the development of an Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and continue delivering Empretec trainings to target groups. The IPR component now focuses on supporting the implementation of priority recommendations from the Angola IPR report. The Green Export Review component will provide follow-up support to further develop selected sectors of potential for diversification, and the commercial diplomacy will deliver targeted trainings and provide opportunities for exposure to other SADC countries' institutions.

3. Trade-related capacity-building in the least developed countries: Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries

419. **Development context.** Contributions to the multi-donor Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries are aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States, in particular the least developed countries, to design and implement trade and development-related policies.

420. **Objectives.** The objective of the Trust Fund is to provide LDCs with alternative and targeted policy options as well as assist them in developing their capacities to participate fully in multilateral trade negotiations and implement trade and development-related policies.

421. **Outputs.** In 2019, resources available through the LDC Trust Fund have helped to finance an individual contractor (IC) from an LDC (Burkina Faso) and facilitate his work with UNCTAD. This enabled the IC to receive training from UNCTAD and provided opportunities for the IC to build his capacities to undertake trade and development-related research, analysis and policy-oriented work. The individual contractor was exposed to the diverse programme of work of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, and enhanced his knowledge of the pressing trade and development challenges facing African countries, the LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). The individual contractor was engaged for a period of three months and was able to receive extensive on the job training. Moreover, the IC was exposed to the rigorous methods for data collection and evaluation utilized at UNCTAD, as well as the various processes that combine to produce evidenced-based policies and research.

422. **Results.** As a result of UNCTAD's support, the individual contractor was more fully informed of the technical issues related to UNCTAD research and policy analysis work in the context of the preparation of flagship reports. Based on the experience in conducting research and analysis alongside UNCTAD expert researchers, the IC is more effectively able to conduct research and formulate evidence-based policy guidance.

III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

423. Efficient market and effective and development-focused States are indispensable for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Market can play a useful role in the allocation of resources. However, without proper regulatory mechanisms, there are risks of market failures including abuses of monopoly power,

negative externalities and inequality. It is the role of the States to correct market failures, create an enabling legal, regulatory and institutional framework and provide right incentives for market players to contribute more effectively towards sustainable development.

424. UNCTAD technical cooperation supports developing countries in fostering economic efficiency and improving governance. In particular, it helps to establish pro-competitive regulations, facilitate trade and business by removing bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment, mainstream sustainability into international investment agreements, and strengthen statistical capacity to formulate sound economic policies.

425. In this section, nine products under the theme “Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance” are reported on. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2019 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme, but not linked with any of the existing nine products in this thematic area are reported on under “C99 Other”.

C1 Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies

Table C1

Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Laws and Policies

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/8X/603	Training programmes on restrictive business practices (competition policies)	1986–	Multi-donors

426. **Development context.** UNCTAD voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies allow developing countries to benchmark their legislative and institutional frameworks against international best practices. They also provide an opportunity for reviewed agencies to self-evaluate their enforcement performance. The reviews are conducted using an interactive peer review method that promotes knowledge-sharing between competition authorities and consumer protection agencies at the regional and international levels, enhances informal cooperation networks and encourages both North–South and South–South cooperation.

427. **Objectives and features.** The reviews assess the features of the legal and institutional frameworks, the enforcement record and the perceptions of these laws and policies by relevant stakeholders. The reviews identify major procedural, administrative and legislative changes that might be necessary for the effective law enforcement and for the optimum functioning of the competition and consumer protection authorities. They provide insights into country-specific constraints, including political and economic challenges that restrict effective enforcement of the laws in question. The reviews serve as a basis for peer review examination during the annual meetings of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Groups of Experts meetings on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. The presentation and discussion of the peer review report is usually followed by a dissemination in the country and by a technical cooperation project led by UNCTAD to support the implementation of the report’s key recommendations.

428. **Outputs.** In 2019 UNCTAD carried out the Voluntary Peer Review of the Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Indonesia,³⁸ initiated the Voluntary Peer Review of the Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Peru as well as a second Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy of the West African Economic and Monetary

³⁸ “Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy in Indonesia” (UNCTAD/DITC/CPLP/2019/1), available at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditccplp2019d1_en.pdf.

Union (WAEMU), and disseminated the conclusions and recommendations of the Voluntary Peer Review of the Competition Law and Policy Botswana.

429. Indonesia is a constitutional, democratic and archipelagic state with a total population of over 263 million people. It was the sixtieth member of the United Nations, admitted on 28 September 1950.

430. Indonesia has a long-standing history of consumer protection. The Consumer Association of Indonesia (Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia or YLKI), the oldest of its kind in the country, was established in 1973 and became a member of Consumers International (CI) the following year. The establishment of the National Consumer Protection Agency (Badan Perlindungan Konsumen Nasional or BPKN), on the basis of the General Consumer Protection Law No. 8/1999 (GCPL), must be seen in the context of decentralization and efforts to increasingly relegate powers to local governments. Consumer disputes can be settled by litigation through the general court, as well as through non-litigation avenues, notably through the specialized consumer dispute settlement bodies (Badan Penyelesaian Sengketa Konsumen or BPSK) which are funded by local governments at the provincial level.

431. The Government of Indonesia has listed the GCPL as a priority to be revised in the current legislative period. However, according to the National Legislation Programme (Program Legislasi Nasional or PROLEGNAS) 2015–2019, the draft bill was only ranked 92 out of 189 draft bills to be reviewed and approved until the presidential election in mid-2019. This peer review was expected to provide suggestions on how to adequately address emerging issues, such as the proliferation of digital and cross-border trade, without losing sight of the interests, concerns and needs of consumers, particularly vulnerable ones. Recent reform efforts of the Government of Indonesia, international discussions and regional initiatives will be accounted for, along with the unique contextual challenges which the country faces due to its large domestic market, fast-developing economy and a highly decentralized governance system.

432. The consumer policy system of Indonesia is a complex system of authorities, including different sectoral ministries, specialised agencies and sectoral regulators, as well as entities under the local governments. The latter is probably due to the general decentralisation efforts of the government (due to autonomy in the subnational level) and also to the fragmented nature of consumer policy, whose responsibilities are shared between different ministries and agencies in charge of sector-specific laws and regulations). In this regard, in Indonesia and according to the general consumer protection law (GCPL) of 1999, there is the National Consumer Protection Agency (BPKN) that “provides suggestions and considerations to the government in the framework of developing consumers’ protection in Indonesia”. In addition, the Directorate General of Consumer Protection and Trade Compliance (DGCPTC), within the Ministry of Trade, is the institution responsible for implementing general consumer policies in Indonesia and enforcing the GCPL in coordination with other related ministries in charge of sectoral consumer protection issues. Furthermore, the Consumer Dispute Settlement Agency (BPSK) is a set of bodies that are aiming at settling disputes between consumers and businesses out of court.

433. The report identified the following issues: (a) fragmented enforcement at sectoral level, with varying degrees of effectiveness; (b) limited (formalized) coordination mechanisms between responsible ministries/agencies (e.g. regarding policy formulation, enforcement, monitoring, redress) and lack of policy coherence; (c) different approaches to dispute resolution and redress at the subnational level and lack of legal certainty/transparency (incl. procedural issues); and (d) low “complaints culture” among Indonesians, especially among the less affluent consumers.

434. The issues outlined by the report can also mean key opportunities for policymakers, which are listed as follows: (a) substantiating legislative and reform efforts through international benchmarking and recommendations according to best practices – right in time for the new government; (b) pioneering and generating experiences from the peer review process to feed into ASEAN forums, notably the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP), with a potential for replication in other countries; and (c) leveraging on

existing drivers for change, i.e. developments and dynamics in specific sectors, specific cases (public debates), and international trends (e.g. European Union General Data Protection Regulation).

435. The report suggested several recommendations ranging from refining the scope of the application of GCPL with sectoral provisions to enhancing the work of BPKN and BPSK to better address consumer complaints at the national level.

436. Regarding the Voluntary Peer Review of the Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Peru, UNCTAD conducted a fact-finding mission to collect data and information; identified the panel of peer reviewers; and drafted the peer review report including findings and recommendations on how to improve the consumer protection regime. The report was delivered as the main output of 2019, in accordance with the workplan.

437. The Voluntary Peer Review of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Competition Law and Policy³⁹ was similarly subject of information gathering from the WAEMU Commission and from its member States, the peer review report having been started.

438. The presentation and discussions of the reports of both Voluntary Peer Review of Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Peru and the Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy of WAEMU will take place in 2020 during the Eighth United Nations Review Conference of the Set on Competition held by UNCTAD.

439. In Botswana, a workshop was held in Gaborone in 2019 to disseminate the results and recommendations of the voluntary competition law and policy peer review report discussed during the seventeenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy in July 2018 in Geneva. This event brought together representatives of the competition authority, sector regulators, relevant ministries and the private sector.

440. **Results and impact.** The UNCTAD secretariat outlined a tailor-made technical assistance project for the implementation of the peer review recommendations and invited other authorities and development partners to assist Indonesia in improving policies, enhancing enforcement capacities and developing a consumer protection culture. As a result, the GIZ Office in Indonesia has expressed interest in joining UNCTAD in the implementation phase of the Peer Review recommendations that would be part of GIZ project activities (PROTECT) in the following years in Indonesia. In this regard, GIZ expected to organise a National Consumer Protection Summit in Indonesia in March 2020, where UNCTAD and GIZ will showcase the findings and recommendations of the Peer Review Report and prepare for the implementation of its recommendations for 2020 and beyond. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this event was postponed for the time being.

441. In 2019, the UNCTAD voluntary peer review of competition law and policy contributed to the legislative reform in Botswana, which led to the expansion of the competition authority's mandate to include consumer protection under a new law enacted in 2018. Some of the peer review's recommendations, which were based on the former legal framework, have already been addressed by the new law. Consequently, the new Competition and Consumer Protection Authority of Botswana initiated its activities following the publication of the new Competition and Consumer Acts in the official gazette on 2 December 2019. In addition, the Competition and Consumer Board and the Competition and Consumer Tribunal were established with the appointment of members to serve in both adjudicative bodies to deal with competition and consumer protection cases.

442. Regarding the Voluntary Peer Reviews on Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Peru and on Competition Law and Policy of WAEMU, the results and impact will only be assessable once all projects' activities are implemented as of the fourth quarter of 2020.

³⁹ WAEMU was the only regional economic organization having undertaken an UNCTAD Voluntary peer review of Competition law and policy, together with Benin and Senegal (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2007/1, 4 July 2007, available at https://unctad.org/en/Docs/ditcclp20071_en.pdf).

C2 Business facilitation

Table C2
Business Facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
AFG/0T/IAY	Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Portal Afghanistan	2019–	International Trade Centre
ARM/0T/HAX	eRegulations Armenia	2018–	Armenia
BHU/0T/HAF	Business Facilitation eRegulations Bhutan (EIF)	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services – Switzerland
CUB/0T/IAM	SPEED E-regulation	2019–	European Union
IRQ/0T/HAH	Business Facilitation in Iraq	2018–	Public Donation
LES/0T/HAG	Business Facilitation in Lesotho	2018–	Lesotho
VIE/0T/IAZ	Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Portal Viet Nam	2019–	International Trade Centre
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive Growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations
INT/0T/6AT	Business Facilitation Multi-donor Fund	2006–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/H CJ	Strategic Partnership the Netherlands	2018–	Netherlands
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016–	TradeMark East Africa
RAF/0T/IAO	UNCTAD – TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation	2019–	TradeMark East Africa
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand

443. **Development context.** The business facilitation programme has developed a series of web-based e-government systems to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their investment, trade and business climates through transparency, simplification and the automation of rules and procedures related to enterprise creation and operations. The eRegulations system is a turnkey e-government software allowing administrations to publish their procedures online (online information portals for businesses, traders and investors). Trade portals are information portals, derived from the eRegulations system, showing detailed information on import, export and transit procedures and allowing countries to comply with the article 1 of the WTO Bali agreement. Once procedures have been clarified through the eRegulations/ Trade Portal systems, a set of 10 principles of simplification of administrative procedures helps countries cut bureaucratic procedures and reduce the duration, cost and complexity of business-related procedures without changing related laws. Simplified procedures can then be automated through another e-government system called eRegistrations, which builds online single windows for businesses and investors.

444. **Objectives and features.** All tools and services developed by the business facilitation programme aim at the following: improving the business and investment climate

and legal frameworks; lowering administrative barriers to business development, in particular for small businesses; increasing domestic and foreign investment and trade, promoting good governance and reducing corruption. They contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: 1.3 (implement appropriate social protection systems), 8.3 (encourage the formalization and growth of MSMEs); 16.3 (promote the rule of law); 16.5 (sustainably reduce corruption and bribery); 16.6 (develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions); 16.10 (ensure public access to information); 17.1 (strengthen domestic resource mobilization).

445. **Outputs.** In 2019, new eRegistrations systems were configured for the online registration of businesses in Bhutan, Iraq, Lesotho and Mali. Prior to the configuration of the systems in each country, the procedures were thoroughly analysed and simplified through the eRegulations system by merging forms and removing unnecessary or redundant requirements. The agencies involved in the procedures actively participated in the simplification process. All four systems will be launched in 2020 providing integrated, joint services to local and foreign businesses. Applicants will be able to register their business online and comply with all mandatory registrations simultaneously through a unique platform.

446. The Armenia eRegulations portal was officially launched through a large publicity campaign, giving access to step-by-step information on 18 procedures related to business creation and operation. New eRegulations/trade portal systems were installed in Burkina Faso, Erbil (Iraq, Kurdistan region) and Jordan. National civil servants were trained on the methodology of information collection and registration in the system. New procedures on import, export and transit operations were documented in the trade information portals of Cuba, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda and the scope of the Bhutan eRegulations portal was extended to cover all 20 districts of the country. In El Salvador, a specific system for the registration of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) called Cuentamype was configured. The system provides SMEs a unique platform through which they can comply with all administrative obligations (mandatory registrations and licences), obtain and store all licences and certificates online, keep their business accounts and pay taxes. The system will be launched in 2020.

447. **Results.** The results and impacts of activities are detailed below.

448. *Transparency.* Procedures documented in an eRegulations system are completely transparent and widely accessible in all countries where the system is operational. A total of 7,002 procedures are documented in national eRegulations/Trade Portal systems, with 20³348 steps (interactions between a user and a public entity), 52,164 forms, 7,444 norms and laws accessible online and over 5,700 civil servants and entities with contact data. Almost 4,000,000 people visited national and regional eRegulations websites worldwide in 2019.

449. *Simplification and harmonization.* As a result of clarification through the eRegulations system in Kenya, the “Register as an exporter with Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)” procedure was simplified bringing down the total number of steps from 10 to five and requirements from 13 to two and the total time from 14 days to six. The simplification measures reduce the administrative burden cost incurred by businesses by 62 per cent from KES 40,197.35 to KES 15,287.29.

450. *Automation of procedures.* The eRegistrations system is an e-government system, designed to set up electronic single windows and computerize simple or complex administrative procedures. In Lesotho and Mali the back-office processing of business registration files was automated. Applicants no longer need to go physically to multiple agencies to apply for registrations.

451. *Exchange of good practice and South–South cooperation.* National experts in Armenia, Bhutan, Cuba, Iraq, El Salvador, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have trained civil servants of their countries or provinces on the use of the eRegulations/Trade Portal system and on the UNCTAD methodology for the simplification of procedures. Experts from El Salvador and Guatemala presented their country experience with eRegulations and eRegistrations systems in Cuba and Paraguay.

452. *Good governance and public participation.* The programme encourages public–private dialogue on improving the regulatory framework and its application by national administrations. Through a built-in query module of the eRegulations system, foreign and local businesses sent 218 queries to the Kenya Investment Authority, KenInvest, to seek assistance on complying with registrations, report delays or missing information. KenInvest acts as the focal point among the agencies whose procedures are documented in the eRegulations system and displayed through KenInvest’s portal. All queries received through the portal were dealt with in less than 24 hours or referred to the responsible agency for further processing. A team of two local staff, trained by UNCTAD, are in charge of the queries’ follow up.

C3 Trade facilitation

Table C3

Trade Facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
INT/0T/4CO	Capacity-Building in Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries to support their effective participation in the WTO Negotiations Process on Trade Facilitation	2004–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/HBG	HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Capacity-Building Programme	2018–	United Kingdom
RAF/0T/DAQ	Implementation support for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in three members of the Economic Community of Central African States	2014–	European Union
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016–	TradeMark East Africa
RAF/0T/IAO	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation	2019–	TradeMark East Africa
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand

453. **Development context.** In an international environment where falling tariffs and quotas represent less of a barrier to trade, trade facilitation has emerged as an important trade policy tool. The main objective of trade facilitation is to reduce the complexities and costs associated with border procedures, while maintaining efficient compliance controls.

454. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, is a major achievement of the multilateral trading system. It aims to reduce trade transaction costs and bureaucratic barriers, speeding up clearance procedures for the cross-border trade of goods, thereby making trade easier, faster and less costly. The alignment of national and regional rules with the multilateral trade facilitation framework is instrumental to achieving increased trade integration.

455. Trade facilitation reforms are associated with several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 10 aiming at reducing inequality within and among countries, and Goal 16 which promotes inclusive societies, with access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. UNCTAD work supporting national

trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) directly supports the compliance with article 23.2 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, as well as target 17 of Goal 17 on “effective public, public–private and civil society partnerships”.

456. Successfully implemented trade facilitation measures not only boost trade but also improve revenue collection, safety and security compliance controls, for example by improving food safety, and they can also help to streamline government agencies. Such reforms help small cross-border traders, often women, enter the formal sector, make economic activities more transparent and accountable, promote good governance, generate better quality employment, strengthen information technology capabilities and generally modernize societies by bringing about benefits related to administrative efficiency. These reforms are a prerequisite for developing countries to join global value chains and start trading out of poverty.

457. **Objectives and features.** Ultimately, the Trade Facilitation Programme of UNCTAD aims at enhancing trade facilitation processes and the competitiveness of developing countries, including LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Its goal is to ensure an increased implementation of trade facilitation reforms by developing countries, improving their capacity to comply with international and regional rules and standards relating to trade facilitation, including World Trade Organization commitments.

458. To facilitate the implementation of the technical and institutional obligations resulting from the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD assists developing countries, including LDCs, with a range of activities, as follows: elaboration of needs assessments and assistance with the ratification, categorization and notification of national trade facilitation implementation plans; development of project plans; advisory services to national trade facilitation committees; monitoring and evaluation of trade facilitation initiatives; general capacity-building and technical assistance on trade facilitation reforms; as well as assistance with the implementation of trade facilitation measures.

459. One of the programme features is to improve decision-making capacity and implementing skills of national trade facilitation committees to fulfil their mandate. UNCTAD provides an intensive professional programme for the secretariat and members of such committees, namely the Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees. The main objective is to help the committees to implement, in a coordinated manner, trade facilitation reforms, including the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and to be able to monitor implementation. With a view to ratification and implementation of the Agreement, UNCTAD support covers assessments of technical assistance needs and preparation of categorization of provisions of the Agreement; tailored training in trade, transit and transport facilitation; advisory services on ratification of the Agreement; and assistance in the creation and sustainable operation of national trade facilitation committees.

460. In addition to the Empowerment Programme, UNCTAD has provided support at the regional level in the East African Community (EAC), strategically advising the EAC Secretariat for several years on the best trade facilitation strategies at regional level and the harmonization of policies at the national level through national trade facilitation committees composed of public and private sectors involved in trade logistics. By the same token, UNCTAD has supported nine economies in the Pacific to enhance the transparency of its trade procedures within the regional PacerPlus programme.

461. The Trade Facilitation Programme also assists developing countries in the implementation of specific trade facilitation measures. In 2019, for instance, UNCTAD helped with following: establishing a legal framework for trade-related single windows; undertaking simplification of trade-related procedures; training national transit coordinators; and supporting regional trade facilitation initiatives.

462. The success of the programme resides in its strong cooperation not only with external partners such as the World Customs Organization and the International Trade Centre, but also with other experts within UNCTAD, working on the crossroads of trade facilitation with customs automation, e-commerce, e-governance, transport and non-tariff measures.

463. **Outputs.** UNCTAD work in support of national trade facilitation committees in 2019 continued with the delivery of national training workshops to NTFCs throughout the year. Just in 2019, 35 training events took place, benefitting more than 1000 trade facilitation stakeholders in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. 47 per cent of those stakeholders were women and 18 per cent represented the private sector. Thanks to these trainings, key stakeholders felt readier to implement trade facilitation reforms in their countries:

(a) 95 per cent of participants claimed the training has helped them improve their knowledge on trade facilitation;

(b) 94 per cent of participants intend to apply the knowledge acquired in their daily jobs;

(c) 90 per cent of participants feel in a better position to fulfil their roles as member of the National Trade Facilitation Committee;

(d) The individual feedback provided by participants come to reinforce these results: “This was one of the best and most enriching training that I have attended as it touched on the key issues relating to my duties in respect of Transit and Trade facilitation”, Principal Trade Officer, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Malawi.

464. In addition, UNCTAD has been providing National Trade Facilitation Committees with tangible tools to ensure that the knowledge acquired in the course of the programme is maintained and transferred, thus contributing to the sustainability of the Committees. Concretely, this is achieved by supporting countries to draft a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap, that will be used as multi-annual work plan for the NTFC to steer trade facilitation reforms, irrespectively of changes that might occur in the NTFC membership.

465. It also includes a “training-of-trainers” module, where key trade facilitation stakeholders draft a knowledge transfer strategy to ensure that new members of the NTFC are properly introduced to the topic of trade facilitation and to their role as members of the NTFC. To support that endeavour, UNCTAD has created a series of online courses which recapitulate some of the key lessons of the Empowerment Programme. The courses are videos of up to one hour each, which answer, in an interactive way, key questions such as:

(a) What is trade facilitation and why is trade facilitation increasingly important?

(b) What are the benefits of trade facilitation?

(c) Can trade facilitation support a country’s development policy?

(d) What is the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and how can we legally interpret each of the Provisions of the Agreement?

(e) What other international standards and recommendations, apart from the TFA, are of interest to implement trade facilitation reforms?

(f) What is the role of National Trade Facilitation Committees?

(g) Which trade facilitation indicators and indexes should a country take into consideration?

(h) What is the relationship between technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures and trade facilitation?

466. In 2019, the courses were developed and later distributed to all countries that have benefitted from the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme in the past. During this year, they have recorded exactly 2,922 views, accumulating over 875 watch hours.

467. **Results and impacts:** UNCTAD’s approach to support NTFCs from developing and least developed countries seems to be working and this was reflected in the survey undertaken during the summer of 2019, with countries benefitting from Empowerment Programme being more optimistic about the sustainability of their Committees. From a scale of 0 to 100, least developed countries that have been supported by UNCTAD rated the

sustainability of their Committees at 63, compared to 50 for those committees that were not assisted by UNCTAD.

468. “Saint Lucia is quite pleased to be benefiting from the online training courses on the Trade Facilitation Agreement being provided as part of the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme to National Trade Facilitation Committees. Even the high-level members of the NTFC are excited about the courses and the wealth of knowledge being attained from each week’s offering. The courses are infusing greater interest in trade facilitation nationally and consequently is promoting a greater thrust towards pursuing reforms to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods. The mode of delivery with the short videos and accompanying script are easy to follow and the information is very useful in allowing the members of the NTFC to better understand why we should keep moving forward with great vigour with our trade facilitation agenda”, highlighted Trade Facilitation Focal Point, Ministry of Commerce, International Trade, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs, Saint Lucia.

469. “The courses show that trade facilitation is much more than just the Trade Facilitation Agreement, in that they also help to put the Agreement into a broader perspective by addressing the intricate interplay of the various provisions with commerce and the wider sustainable development agenda”, said Attaché, Mission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in Geneva.

470. UNCTAD support for national trade facilitation committees brings also tangible policy results. In 2019, two countries supported by UNCTAD ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and 19 new notifications were sent to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee by countries that had received UNCTAD technical assistance in the preparation of those notifications.

471. A total of 23 National Trade Facilitation Committees were established in 2019 with the support of UNCTAD. In the scope of the projects implemented, UNCTAD supported countries in the drafting of key trade facilitation policy documents. As such:

- (a) 14 Trade Facilitation Assessments performed;
- (b) 11 project proposals drafted;
- (c) 15 work plans for national trade facilitation committees drafted;
- (d) 13 trade facilitation road maps delivered;
- (e) 14 legal instruments drafted to support the establishment of national trade facilitation committees.

472. One of the main drivers of trade facilitation is transparency. In that regard, UNCTAD has largely contributed to it by building capacity and dialogue among the national trade facilitation committees with a public–private partnership but also through the trade information portals. Indeed, the trade information portal is an IT tool providing traders with the necessary information on trade procedures for export, import and transit operations. These projects are implemented in cooperation with UNCTAD Business Facilitation Unit. By implementing a trade information portal, the countries not only implement the article 1 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, but also undertake an important step towards the actual simplification of trade procedures. In 2019, a total of eight Pacific Islands and five countries in the East African Community have benefited from UNCTAD support to increase transparency in trade facilitation and developed online portals to display trade procedures.

C4 ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

Table C4
ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/9X/89S	Support for ASYCUDA implementation activities	1998–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FAK	Support to the Centre of Excellence, Gibraltar	2017–	National Governments
INT/0T/FBB	ASYCUDA Transit Module	2017–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
INT/0T/GAE	Projet d'interconnexion des systèmes informatiques douaniers ALISA/PACIR de la CEDEAO	2018–	ECOWAS
INT/0T/GAK	Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project	2018–	European Union
INT/0T/HBV	Enhancement of ASYCUDA World to facilitate Pre-Arrival Processing	2018–	Germany
INT/0T/HCP	Enhancement of the a CITES system	2019–	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
RAF/0T/6BC	Establishment of SEATAC (ASYCUDA)	2006–	Norway
RAF/0T/HAL ^a	ASYCUDA Support Interconnectivity and PACIR	2018– 2019	World Bank
RAF/0T/IAA	COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme	2019–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
RAS/0X/0DX	ASYCUDA implementation and support in the Asia-Pacific region	2000–	Multi-donor
RAS/0T/1DA	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific (ASMP)	2002–	Japan
RAS/0T/IAK	The Implementation of the Pacific Trade and Customs Harmonisation Project	2019–	Australia
AFG/0T/HBU	Afghanistan Fiscal Performance Improvement Support Project (FSP)	2018–	Afghanistan
ANG/0T/CBO	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Angola	2013–	Angola

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANT/0T/EBK	ASYCUDA World (Antigua and Barbuda)	2015–	Antigua and Barbuda
ARU/0T/GAW	ASYCUDA World Consolidation – Aruba	2017–	Aruba
BAR/0T/CAA	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Barbados	2013–	Barbados
BDI/0T/TIAJ	Amélioration de SYDONIA World et mise en œuvre du guichet unique	2019–	Burundi
BES/0T/EAB	ASYCUDA Regional Centre for the Americas – Tax Administration of the Caribbean Netherlands – ASYCUDA World support	2015–	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba
BGD/0T/FAC	ASYCUDA World – ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2016–	Bangladesh
BKF/0T/EBM	Formation transit SYDONIA	2016–	African Development Bank
BKF/0T/HAM	Projet d’Interconnexion des systèmes informatiques douaniers – Burkina Faso	2018–	Burkina Faso
BKF/0T/HAV	Ouverture de SYDONIA World sur Internet	2018–	Burkina Faso
BZE/0T/EAA	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas – Customs and Excise Department of Belize – ASYCUDA World Support	2015–	Belize
CAF/0T/3AX	Migration vers SYDONIA++	2003–	Central African Republic, France
CMB/0T/IAI	ASYCUDA support mechanism for the Asia Region (ASMA)	2019–	Cambodia
COI/0T/FAJ ^a	Implementation de SYDONIA World	2017– 2019	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COI/0T/HCN	Set up of an electronic Single Windows and improvement of ASYCUDA World	2019–	European Union – COMESA
CUR/0T/FAY	Strengthening Customs Management capacity of Curaçao	2016–	Curaçao
CVI/0T/HBW	Realisation de formations	2019–	Cabo Verde
DJI/0T/AAS	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2011–	Djibouti
DJI/0T/HBX	Projet d’Appui à la Modernisation de l’Administration Publique – Djibouti	2019–	World Bank

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
DRC/0T/DBZ	Mise en œuvre des Mesures de Performance	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRC/0T/DCB	Renforcement de la mise en place de SYDONIA	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRC/0T/HCF	Introduction des pratiques modernes de gestion des sites douaniers	2019–	TradeMark East Africa
EQG/0T/EAM	Mise en place du SYDONI World à la Direction Générale des Douanes (DGD)	2016–	Equatorial Guinea
FIJ/0T/CBF	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2013–	Fiji
GAB/0T/DAH	Mise en œuvre de SYDONIA World	2018–	Gabon
GAM/0T/HAJ	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Gambia	2019–	Switzerland
GUI/0T/BCX	Implementation de SYDONIA World	2013–	Guinea
GUY/0T/GAI	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Cooperative	2017–	Guyana
HAI/0T/DAO	Consolidation of ASYCUDA World and Simplification of Customs Procedures and Operations in Haiti	2014–	Haiti
IVC/0T/4BV	Mise en place de SYDONIAWORLD a la Direction Générale des Douanes	2005–	Côte d'Ivoire
IVC/0T/HAD	Interconnexion des systèmes douaniers entre la Côte d'Ivoire et le Burkina Faso	2018–	World Bank
JAM/0T/CBJ	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Jamaica	2014–	Jamaica
JAM/0T/GAS	Electronic Single Window for Trade	2017–	Jamaica
JOR/0T/AAB	Creation of the regional centre of excellence in the Aqaba special economic zone	2011–	Jordan
KAZ/0T/EBH	Modernisation of the Customs Procedures and Implementation of the Integrated Customs Component of the Automated System of Customs and Tax Administration (ASTANA-1)	2016–	Kazakhstan
KAZ/0T/FBJ	Implementation of the Single Window	2017–	Kazakhstan
LAO/0T/HBP	Establishment and maintenance of the ASMA	2019–	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LEB/0T/5BK	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Lebanon	2005–	Lebanon

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
LES/0T/BDC	Customs Management System	2012–	Lesotho
LES/0T/HBF	Technical Consulting Services Agreement (Vanuatu ESWS)	2019–	Lesotho
MAG/0T/EAC	Mise en œuvre de SYDONIA World	2016–	Madagascar
MAU/0T/CAD	Projet de Modernisation des Douanes de la République Islamique de Mauritanie	2013–	Mauritania
MDV/0T/DAJ	Computerization of customs procedures and data (Maldives)	2014–	Maldives
MDV/0T/HBK	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Asia Region (ASMA)	2018–	TradeMark East Africa
MLI/0T/9BF	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2009–	Mali
MLW/0T/DBB	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Malawi	2014–	Malawi
MOL/0T/IAF	Moldova – Upgrade of Operational Asycuda World System of the Customs Service	2019–	Republic of Moldova
NAM/0T/BAN	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Namibia	2012–	Namibia
NEP/0T/GAU	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
NER/0T/GAO	Technical assistance project for the second phase of the implementation of ASYCUDA World	2017–	Niger
PNG/0T/DAX	Computerization of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014–	Papua New Guinea
RWA/0T/HBE	Rwanda Electronic Single Window – TMEA	2018–	TradeMark East Africa
SEY/0T/BBO	ASYCUDA project	2011–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
SIL/0T/GAH	Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project	2017–	Sierra Leone
SOI/0T/BCO	ASYCUDA-Modernization and Automation of Customs Procedures and Data	2012–	Solomon Islands
SPM/0T/DAF	ASYCUDA World Implementation	2014–	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
SRL/0T/DBT	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2014–	Sri Lanka

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
SRL/0T/IAD	Implementation of an Electronic CITES Certification System	2019–	Department of Wildlife Conservation
STK/0T/CAT	ASYCUDA World Implementation (Saint Kitts and Nevis)	2013–	Saint Kitts and Nevis
STP/0T/CBE	ASYCUDA World Implementation – Single Window for the International Trade Operations, Phase 1 (pilot site)	2013–	Sao Tome and Principe
SUD/0T/8BG	ASYCUDA project	2008–	Sudan
SUR/0T/BAE	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Republic of Suriname	2012–	Suriname
SWA/0T/HBB	Reinforcing analysis of risk profiling and installation and implementation of ASYPM 2018	2014–	Eswatini
SYP/0T/4BP	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in the Syrian Customs Directorate	2004–	Syrian Arab Republic
TIM/0T/DAP	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014–	Timor-Leste
TOG/0T/EAS	Migration vers SYDONIA World et formation	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/FBE	ASYCUDA Training	2017–	Togo
TRI/0T/BDD	Strengthening customs management capacity (ASYCUDA World consolidation)	2012–	Trinidad and Tobago
TUK/0T/FBF	Implementation of the Integrated Custom Information System in the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan	2017–	Turkmenistan
UGA/0T/DAZ	Uganda National Electronic Single Window System	2014–	TradeMark East Africa
UGA/0T/HCH	Uganda Electronic Single Window - Phase II	2019–	TradeMark East Africa
VAN/0T/HBJ	Technical Consulting Services Agreement (Vanuatu ESWS)	2019–	Vanuatu
ZAM/0T/EAZ	Mineral output statistical evaluation system (Zambia)	2015–	Zambia
ZAM/0T/HAU	ASYCUDA World support mechanism – Zambia	2018–	Zambia
ZIM/0T/7AC	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Zimbabwe	2007–	Zimbabwe

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2019.

473. **Development context.** The ASYCUDA Programme is directed at reforming, streamlining and automating the customs clearance process, increasing trade facilitation and strengthening the institution in member States and the capacities of its personnel. An efficient and effective customs administration is essential to the welfare of any country as it benefits the national economy by collecting revenue, assists a Government to implement national and international trade policy, protects the country by combating fraud and the illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods, provides statistical information on foreign trade transactions essential for economic planning and supports international trade needs.

474. The ASYCUDA programme is committed to providing sustained support for development, both in-country and remotely. Over a period of more than 38 years, it has supported the changing and evolving needs, addressed challenges of the customs administrations of 121 countries and territories, and facilitated their international trade. Having originated as a means to help countries build and utilize the data collected at customs ports of entry through databases, the Programme's scope has gradually widened to helping countries manage their economic and financial analysis and planning, as well as assisting the private sector in doing business. It has also expanded in terms of the customs management functions that it supports, from the initial data capture (now uploaded via the Internet) to assisting countries and territories in monitoring trade crossing inwards and outwards of their borders, interfacing customs with partner governmental agencies for exchange of information, making available trade statistics, measuring institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks and producing data critical to risk management analysis and enhancing the operational performance of customs and its integrity as an institution.

475. As an outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the mandate of the ASYCUDA programme is reflected in paragraph 38 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, as it was in the Accra Accord (paragraph 167). The document states that UNCTAD should "continue to provide assistance to developing countries to design and implement policies and actions aimed at improving the efficiency of trade transactions as well as the management of transport operations. It should also continue to cooperate with member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)". The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in document A/C.5/64/L.23, also refers to the programme when it encourages the Secretary-General of UNCTAD "in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration in Africa by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure" (paragraph 82). In the Doha Mandate, specific reference is made to the programme's work, reaffirming, inter alia, the importance and role of the ASYCUDA programme in supporting developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and in continuing its trade facilitation work. The mandate states that UNCTAD should "assist developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries, and some countries with economies in transition, to address challenges affecting their participation in trade from geographical constraints, with a view to improving transport systems and connections, designing and implementing resilient and sustainable transport systems, and enhancing transit infrastructure and trade facilitation solutions", "continue its work in the field of trade facilitation, including the Automated System for Customs Data programme" and "advise small island developing States on the design and implementation of policies addressing their specific trade and trade logistics challenges linked to their remoteness and geographical isolation" (paragraphs 56 (h), (i) and (j)). General Assembly resolution 70/1 recognizes "that baseline data for several targets remains unavailable," and calls "for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity-building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist" (paragraph 57). The resolution also makes reference to the need to "support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data" (paragraph 76). In relation to General Assembly resolution 70/1, it is worthy to note the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data Software Suite is being implemented in 41 African countries and territories, 39 least developed countries, 34

small island developing States and 21 landlocked developing countries, which makes it a unique possibility as a base repository for the extraction of trade and customs related data to strengthen statistical capacity and to support trade policymakers.

476. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the ASYCUDA programme is the modernization of customs, using information technology to speed up and simplify the goods clearance process. The ASYCUDA system manages the entire customs clearance process, from (and prior to) the arrival of goods up to their warehousing and ultimate release, after payment of duties and taxes. It includes an advanced risk-management and selectivity function and strong anti-corruption features. The implementation of an ASYCUDA project in a beneficiary country is based on the delivery of a comprehensive capacity-building programme, designed to transfer the full ASYCUDA functional and technical know-how to national staff and to ensure that the national team will be able to administer and maintain the national ASYCUDA system without external technical assistance and support.

477. **Outputs.** The ASYCUDA programme continued to allow for increased revenue collection by customs, shorter clearance time and lower trade costs and simplified customs clearance process in the least developed countries and other user countries and territories. In 2019, Madagascar customs broke their revenue record with a total of 2748 billion Ariary collected (approx. US\$730 million), showing 34 per cent increase in comparison with 2017 when the ASYCUDA system was launched. Jamaica reported an increase of 16 per cent of customs revenue collection in 2019 compared to 2018. In Uganda, the export time was reduced from 14 to 2 days and trade costs were reduced by 70 per cent in 2019. In Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands, ASYCUDA simplified customs clearance from an average of 35 steps to 10 steps. In 2019, Jamaica saw the release of 70 per cent of commercial cargo within 6 hours after payment. In 2019, seven additional countries and territories, namely Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Niue, started the implementation of ASYCUDA system to simplify and automate customs procedures, harmonize data and standardize customs e-documents. The support to landlocked developing countries was enhanced in 2019 as the ASYCUDA Programme developed a new module for automation, facilitation and standardization of regional transit procedures in ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). The solution was launched in three corridors in 2019: Burkina Faso–Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso–Togo and Benin–Niger. The average delay for processing transit at the border for goods destined to Burkina Faso transiting through Côte d'Ivoire was 1.37 days (approx. 33 hours) from February 2019 until the end of July 2019, compared with an average of 0.95 days (approx. 23 hours) in July 2019, which shows an improved efficiency of the process and the use and acceptance of the module by the economic operators. ASYCUDA also serves as a core system for building the single window for international trade. In 2019, Timor-Leste started the implementation of a customs-centric single window based on ASYCUDA system.

478. Building capacity of national experts is a major component of the technical assistance projects employed as a tool to provide the transfer of know-how. In 2019, Zambia Customs hosted ASYCUDA training sessions for COMESA member States using worldwide experts from UNCTAD. The courses mainly covered selectivity and risk management, valuation control and ASYPM (Automated System for Performance Measurement). ASYCUDA also provides technical trainings to user-countries aiming at system ownership and sustainability by customs administrations' national staff. Overall, more than 300 training sessions were conducted, both technical and functional, for an audience of more than 3,000 participants, in Geneva Headquarters and in the field.

479. In 2019, over 400 advisory missions were undertaken by staff or consultants in beneficiary countries and territories. The programme's mission statement clearly stresses the importance of providing technical and functional assistance with an emphasis on the special needs of the least developed countries. Thirty-nine least developed countries, 21 landlocked developing countries and 34 small island developing States benefited from the ASYCUDA programme's support.

480. **Results.** The impacts and results of ASYCUDA projects can be assessed by various institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, including increased revenue, improved trade facilitation, shorter clearance times and the availability of reliable trade statistics data. The

automatic calculation of duties and taxes results in increased State budget revenue, while reliable and timely trade and fiscal statistics assist governments in planning their economic policy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates that data collection is a key activity to develop baselines for the measurement of progress against goals and targets, consequently ASYCUDA exists as a source of data within user countries. However, further efforts are required to leverage its use. ASYCUDA has had a major impact on e-business and e-government transactions, making international trade simpler and cheaper, while making international markets more accessible to enterprises from developing countries. In a growing number of countries, ASYCUDA constitutes the core system for building the single window for international trade.

481. The results and impact of ASYCUDA projects can further be assessed by evaluation measures that include projects in countries that are new users of the ASYCUDA system and also projects for the upgrade and maintenance in countries migrating from one version to another or extending functional or geographical coverage of an ASYCUDA system already in place. Since 2009, ASYCUDA projects have contained monitoring and evaluation tools such as the logical framework and its achievement indicators and the monitoring plan. These tools are reviewed at the inception of a project during the mobilization workshop.

482. In addition, the use of the ASYCUDA system by customs administrations contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as explained below:

(a) Goal 1. No poverty: customs' contribution to national revenue through revenue collections, and the subsequent investment of revenues into national development programmes;

(b) Goal 2. Improving the food security and food safety through strengthening Customs and inter-agency controls at the borders, automation of issuance and monitoring of use of phytosanitary and veterinary certificates, integrated quota monitoring for agricultural exports and imports;

(c) Goal 3. Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being, in particular targets 3a and 3d, by automating customs control of movement of excisable goods/tobacco products with ASYCUDA-DCTS and by strengthening of customs and inter-agency controls at the borders of pharmaceutical products, drugs precursors, introduction of electronic certificates for pharmaceutical goods and their efficient control in the single window environment;

(d) Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation, in particular target 6.3, by improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, as customs apply in their controls the international conventions of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm;

(e) Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth: customs make a key contribution to facilitating trade, enabling access to global value chains, innovation and employment opportunities;

(f) Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, in particular targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9.c: the use of ASYCUDA by customs, which has always combined state-of-the-art advanced technologies with proven in-the-field expertise, ensures an efficient and tailored support to countries thus contributing to their ICT infrastructure development and upgrade, including the simplification of customs processes, sustainable modernisation and automation initiatives promoting early taking of ownership by governments which contribute towards lowering the international market's barriers to entry for SME/SMIs, especially in the least developed countries and Africa, and by improving regional and cross-border infrastructure;

(g) Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in particular targets 11.2, 11.5, 11.b: technical assistance in the area of customs promotes the development of customs and trade infrastructure (ports, logistics terminals, warehouses, supply chains in cities), while the use of ASYREC in disaster-prone countries reduces the loss of lives through implementation of integrated policies and plans increasing resilience to disasters;

(h) Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: customs makes a key contribution through more efficient customs and inter-agency controls over chemicals export and import;

(i) Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts: customs administrations using ASYCUDA can improve control for ozone depleting substances. One of the main objectives of implementing ASYCUDA is to reduce the use of paper in government agencies until disappearance;

(j) Goal 15. Life on land, in particular targets 15.5, 15.7 and 15.c: customs contributes to protecting society from unwanted pests and preventing the flow of illicit wildlife products by applying health and agricultural policies, and the International Plant Protection Convention; customs also helps to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products by applying the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Indeed, in 2019, ASYCUDA developed in cooperation with CITES an automated solution for endangered species import/export permit application, processing, issuance and reporting;

(k) Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals, in particular targets 17.1, 17.6, 17.8, 17.9, and 17.18, through the use of ASYCUDA system: customs contributes, by applying international standards and trade-related agreements, and by collaborating with other national authorities, countries and international agencies such as the World Customs Organization, to increased efficiency and coordination, strengthened resource mobilization and trade facilitation and statistics, which in turn contributes to ensuring sustainable development. In addition, the ASYCUDA programme organizes a multitude of study tours and technical and functional training sessions for customs delegations to visit and learn from experiences of implementing a new technology and/or a new infrastructure in other parts of the world, directly contributing to North–South and South–South international and regional cooperation, ensuring capacity-building and transfer of know-how.

483. The ASYCUDA programme has always aimed at developing sustainable partnerships and cooperation with beneficiary countries and international and regional organizations. During the year, assistance was provided together with CITES in the development, promotion and usage of eCITES solution. The solution is currently being implemented in Sri Lanka within the framework of a technical cooperation project. In order to strengthen ASYCUDA regional support, enhance South-South cooperation and implement Trade Facilitation projects, COMESA and UNCTAD signed a cooperation agreement and officially launched the Customs Automation Regional Support Centre in Lusaka. As of 2019, audit missions were undertaken by ASYCUDA experts to assess the current situation in COMESA member States. A tripartite MOU was signed in 2019 between IHC (International Humanitarian City), UN-OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and UNCTAD for the implementation in ASYCUDA system of a module that processes simplified customs procedures and protocols to facilitate the importation of humanitarian aid. The MOU includes building capacity of national staff. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2019 between IOM (International Organization for Migration) and UNCTAD for the development of an interface for information exchange between ASYCUDA system and IOM MIDAS (Migration Information and Data Analyses System). All these partnerships are important for the ASYCUDA Programme as they widen the work scope of ASYCUDA, enhance the solutions offered to countries and provide consolidated information and data to government agencies.

C5 Statistics

Table C5
Statistics

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAF/0T/BCR	Projet UEMOA-CNUCED pour la mise en place des statistiques du commerce international des services	2014–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
ROA-1617 (AL10)	Developing indicator on illicit financial flows and monitoring them in Latin America	2017–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (Y11)	Defining, estimating and disseminating statistics on illicit financial flows in Africa	2018–	Development Account

484. **Development context.** Harnessing the power of data and statistics is a necessary condition to fully implement and monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is true for all areas of sustainable development, and particularly for the areas that are most dynamic and where significant changes can be observed in relatively short periods of time, such as trade, investment and financial issues. Countries require accurate, timely and relevant statistics that could allow monitoring of trends in these areas and studying the impact of economic policies on development. UNCTAD is continuously taking actions to assist developing countries that have decided to improve their statistical capacity in the area of trade, investment, finance and sustainable development.

485. Illicit financial flows (IFFs) raise serious problems for financing development since they constitute a drain on capital and tax revenues. They compromise sustainable development by diverting resources from social spending and productive investment and by impeding structural transformation. They may also weaken institutions and the rule of law. These risks have been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where the reduction of IFFs is listed in SDG target 16.4. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also highlights IFFs as a threat to the mobilization of resources for development and calls for a redoubling of efforts to substantially reduce IFFs.

486. **Objectives.** The objective of this product is to enhance the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders to monitor and report progress along the SDGs, with a particular focus on trade and development and the interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Specifically, the project with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) has the objective of improving the statistical capacity of member States of the WAEMU to establish a harmonized mechanism of data collection, treatment and dissemination of statistics related to the imports and exports of services. The e-learning and other training activities aim at building national capacities to collect, harmonize, analyse and disseminate statistics related to international trade of goods and services. UNCTAD, as a custodian of SDG indicator 16.4.1, also developed concept and methodologies to measure IFFs with the objective of strengthening national statistical capacities to define, measure and disseminate statistics on tax- and commercial-related IFFs. The outcomes of the IFFs-related projects would enhance the data infrastructure required to measure SDG 16 and support evidence-based policy recommendations in this area.

487. **Outputs.** The WAEMU-UNCTAD project started in 2014 and its activities continued throughout 2019. UNCTAD Development Statistics and Information Branch (DSIB) implemented several activities in 2019, including a workshop in Côte d'Ivoire (12–14 March 2019 in Abidjan) to validate the preliminary estimates of trade in services by category, obtained from the first round of surveys conducted in late 2018 in six WAEMU members States, share lessons learned and discuss methodological issues that were

encountered during this exercise (sampling, imputation, treatment of non-response, weighting, validity of registries, consistency with other statistics, etc.) A second workshop was organized in Togo (9–11 December 2019 in Lomé) to prepare the second round of surveys, including methodologies for detailed estimates of bilateral trade flows and trade by mode. During the two workshops, additional collection methodologies for the measurement of travel services were discussed; after these additions, all categories in trade in services are now covered.

488. UNCTAD drafted and submitted the *acte communautaire*, the WAEMU Commission legislative framework that sets out the high-level principles and regulations necessary to compile trade-in-services statistics at the community level. The draft was discussed with WAEMU Commission and the member countries in the March 2019 workshop. After a series of proposals and evaluations, UNCTAD started building an information technology statistical system that WAEMU member States will use to compile and disseminate their trade in services statistics.

489. Finally, as this project is approaching its end, to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the project, a memorandum between UNCTAD and WAEMU was prepared, pertaining to the collaboration of different partners in conducting the surveys. The memorandum highlights the responsibility of each partner as well as their role for the next surveys. The evaluation of the project was also undertaken by an independent evaluator and will be ready for submission to UNCTAD and WAEMU in 2020.

490. The training activities on trade statistics were developed by UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Trade Organization, and delivered as part of the Train for Trade Programme. Three courses were offered in 2019. First, one training on international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) from 25 March to 5 May 2019. Second, two trainings on statistics of international trade in services (SITS), one for WAEMU member States and part of the project described above (July and August 2019), plus a general course (October to December 2019). The participants of all courses involve statisticians from national statistical institutes, customs offices and different ministries that participate in the collection, analysis and dissemination of international trade statistics.

491. In addition to the continuing tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on measuring IFFs in Latin America, UNCTAD in collaboration with UNODC and UNECA continued its work on the 11th tranche UNDA project to estimate IFFs with a focus on African countries. As part of these projects, UNCTAD continued its consultations and work with the UNCTAD-UNODC Statistical Task Force for the Measurement of IFFs. Country-level activities also started, with a kick-off workshop in Nigeria in September 2019 and additional activities in South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNCTAD and its partners also prepared a conceptual framework on IFFs, highlighting the main agreements and progress achieved so far, and started preparing methodological guidelines for pilot activities that will continue throughout 2020 and 2021.

492. **Results.** The UNCTAD-WAEMU project achieved significant results in 2019, including the validation of the first round of surveys and the start of the second round following some methodological improvements, as well as the availability of new data collection instruments that now cover all categories of trade in services. The submission of the community act and the start of the development of an IT statistical system were also significant milestones in this work.

493. In relation to the training activities in statistics (part of the Train for Trade Programme), the training programme on IMTS had 768 participants (53 per cent women). The two training courses on SITS had 732 participants (63 per cent women). Many countries were represented among those participants, ensuring that the opportunities to receive training in compiling these statistics had a global reach.

494. Finally, the UNDA projects on measuring IFFs made significant progress in 2019. As a result of the projects' activities, UNCTAD and UNODC submitted to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) a Tier Reclassification request for SDG indicator 16.4.1. After reviewing the proposal, this group endorsed the request and approved the indicator's reclassification from Tier III to

Tier II in October 2019. This certifies that international agreement has been reached on the definition of the indicator, but that data is still not regularly produced by countries. UNCTAD and its partners will keep implementing technical cooperation activities in the coming years to ensure a further development of this indicator.

C7 Enabling accounting and reporting on the private sector's contribution to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Table C7

Enabling accounting and reporting on the private sector's contribution to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/BCP	Accounting and Corporate Governance Trust Fund	2012–	Germany
ROA-1819 (H11)	Enabling policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting in Africa and Latin America	2018–	United Nations Development Account

495. **Development context.** A high-quality corporate reporting environment is a critical facilitator for attracting investment, allocating scarce resources in an efficient manner, and promoting financial inclusion and stability. In the past decades, there has been a clear trend towards the adoption of harmonized standards and codes by UNCTAD member States. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda has stressed the importance of sustainability reporting by enterprises as a key element in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, effective implementation of such standards and codes remains a challenge for many developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Elements that have an impact on the corporate reporting environment include weaknesses in legal and regulatory frameworks, lack of human capacity and relevant support institutions, or obstacles to the adequate monitoring and enforcement of international standards and codes. As such, there is a need for coherent efforts to support capacity building in the area of corporate reporting, with a view to enabling progress towards the convergence of national corporate reporting environments with global standards and codes. In particular, beneficiary countries require tools that enable the identification of gaps through international benchmarking, the elaboration of action plans for accounting reform, and the measurement of progress in priority areas.

496. **Objectives and features.** The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) was established with the mandate to assist Member States of the United Nations in harmonizing their accounting practices with international standards. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts achieves this by developing guidance documents, facilitating the exchange of views and best practice, and providing technical assistance on issues related to both financial and sustainability reporting, as well as auditing, and corporate governance, among others. This work is conducted through the annual sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, as well as associated workshops and roundtables, research activities and technical assistance, such as the Accounting Development Tool (ADT).

497. The ADT enables beneficiary countries to voluntarily assess their accounting infrastructure, including their national institutions, regulations, human resources and processes, against international requirements for high-quality corporate reporting. The Tool promotes an open and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders involved, which is required for conducting successful accounting reforms. It provides a quantitative benchmark of a country's position at a particular point in time and, when implemented more than once, allows countries to assess their progress towards achieving international best practice. The results of the Accounting Development Tool support the elaboration of

national action plans and the identification of priority areas where further action is required in order to improve their corporate reporting environment.

498. **Outputs.** The thirty-sixth session of ISAR was held in Geneva from 30 October to 1 November 2019. High-level government officials, policymakers and leading international experts deliberated on two main agenda items. The experts discussed first practical implementation, including measurement, of UNCTAD core indicators for entity reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also considered issues of current developments in international standards of accounting and reporting in the public and private sectors.

499. At the thirty-sixth session of ISAR, with respect to the first main agenda item, the session emphasised lack of standardization in the area of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies; the need for common metrics in measuring the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including to facilitate the convergence of diverse reporting frameworks; and the need to align company sustainability reporting with Sustainable Development Goal monitoring indicators at the national level. With respect to the second main agenda item, the session underlined the usefulness of the UNCTAD *Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on Contribution towards Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (GCI) in overcoming these challenges and presented a series of country case studies on the GCI providing a basis for further validation efforts of the GCI tool. Several case studies were conducted to prove the applicability of the GCI covering different geographical areas, countries with various levels of economic development, a broad range of industries and companies of different sizes. Though overall all core indicators proved to be reportable, many case studies underscored an urgent need for education and training, including to explain the importance and benefits of the required disclosures concerning the SDG. Therefore, building technical capacity and providing guidance could be important means for further implementation of core indicators for baseline Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies. To address this need, UNCTAD finalized and published a *Training Manual on Core SDG Indicators for Entity Reporting*.

500. Under other business, the session received a progress report on the implementation of the UNCTAD-ISAR Accounting Development Tool in Belarus and Colombia. At the thirty-sixth session of ISAR, UNCTAD also presented the “ISAR Honours 2019”. The initiative aims to support efforts on enhancing the quality of companies’ reporting on sustainability issues, and its usefulness for member States for monitoring the private sector’s contribution towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. ISAR honours were presented to policy, institutional or capacity-building initiatives that facilitate improvements in companies’ reporting on sustainability issues. Initiatives were assessed by a review committee, established by the UNCTAD secretariat, consisting of several distinguished international experts in the area of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting. UNCTAD announced the top nominations of national and international initiatives that have received the highest scores in the overall rating of all nominees. From 33 policy, institutional or capacity-building initiatives the top seven honourees were selected in various categories.

501. In conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of ISAR, UNCTAD organized a technical workshop jointly with the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) on 29 October 2019 to discuss issues of practical implementation of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) recommendations on climate-related financial disclosures. The workshop highlighted current good practice in TCFD aligned disclosures, offering real-world examples from companies’ annual reports across multiple sectors and industries, as well as explored synergies and complementarities between this work and the core SDG indicators for entity reporting, developed by UNCTAD. More than 200 participants from 61 countries registered for the workshop. It provided an opportunity for presenting complementary tools from UNCTAD-ISAR, the CDSB and SASB on promoting harmonized approaches for entities to report on their contributions towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

502. On the side of the thirty-sixth session of ISAR, the secretariat organized a briefing for beneficiary countries of the United Nations Development Account eleventh tranche project entitled *Enabling Policy Frameworks for enterprise sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting in Africa and Latin America*. The main objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of Governments to measure and monitor the private sector contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in particular on indicator 12.6, and encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. An expert meeting provided an opportunity for beneficiary countries, to discuss common issues faced by countries in their efforts to strengthen policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability/SDG reporting, and to share with other beneficiary countries experience and lessons learned from activities in Colombia, such as the kick-off meeting, the comprehensive assessment of the SDG reporting infrastructure, and the national consultative workshop. A kick-off meeting was held also by UNCTAD and the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa on 21 November 2019 in Pretoria. ISAR will review progress on implementation of this project at its thirty-seventh session which has been scheduled to take place from 4 to 6 November 2020.

503. On 15 July 2019, UNCTAD-ISAR held a parallel event to the High-Level Political Forum in New York. The event, titled Measuring the private sector's contribution to the attainment of the SDGs, was organized together with the Statistics Division and the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UNDESA, the Government of Guatemala and Statistics Denmark. It also counted with the support of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Academy of Financial Management of Ukraine and Novo Nordisk. The event was attended by over 100 participants (49 women) and it featured speakers from the public and private sectors, the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UNDESA, as well as key international organizations in the area of sustainability reporting including the United Nations Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). The discussions focused on the means to facilitate harmonization and comparability of companies reporting on their contribution to SDG implementation, key challenges, lessons learned and available tools. UNCTAD provided a summary of its work in this area including the development of its GCI.

504. In cooperation with UNEP who is co-custodian of indicator 12.6.1, UNCTAD developed a methodology to measure the "Number of companies publishing sustainability reports" to submit a proposal for indicator reclassification to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators that led to the reclassification of the indicator from Tier III to Tier II. In 2020 UNCTAD and UNEP will work further on collecting and aggregating national, regional and global data to enable reporting on this indicator.

505. In 2019, within the Development Account eleventh tranche project, UNCTAD initiated implementation of the ADT in Columbia and South Africa that took into consideration new developments in the area of accounting and sustainability reporting, drawing on UNCTAD research into corporate reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals. From April till June 2019, a comprehensive assessment of the sustainability/SDG reporting infrastructure was conducted in Colombia. The report was presented at the ISAR 36th session in November 2019. A first draft report of the national assessment of the sustainability reporting infrastructure in South Africa was submitted in May 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions a 3-day national workshop in South Africa was tentatively rescheduled to August 2020, however an interim virtual meeting will take place at the end of June/beginning of July. Additionally, a webinar on SDG reporting for the private sector jointly organized by UNCTAD and the National Business initiative is planned to be held in June 2020.

506. During the year, UNCTAD further progressed in strengthening cooperation with key players in the area of sustainability reporting by companies. In particular, it participated in and contributed to the webinars with the European Commission, World Business Alliance, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, Global Compact, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Professional Accountancy

Organization Development Committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and other international and regional stakeholders in the area of corporate and SDG reporting. Such cooperation has been critical for UNCTAD consensus-building efforts among stakeholders in the diverse corporate reporting community, towards facilitation of harmonization and comparability of sustainability/SDG reporting by companies and raising awareness of the role of high-quality reporting in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

507. **Results.** For more than 36 years, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts has been providing member States with guidance and tools on a number of corporate reporting topics. These products have had a positive impact, assisting member States in implementing International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and other internationally recognized practices, such as guidelines on corporate governance disclosure, and environmental and corporate social responsibility reporting.

508. The thirty-sixth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts had over 400 registered participants from almost 94 countries. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts is the largest expert meeting of UNCTAD and one of the longest standing groups of experts in the United Nations system. High attendance underscores the sustained relevance of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts' work in shaping the international agenda in accounting and reporting, and its role in bringing the views of developing countries in the standard-setting process.

509. A survey shows that 97 per cent of participants found the session to be useful or very useful. In particular, over 95 per cent of participants rated the session's organization, attendance and substance as satisfactory or very satisfactory. One hundred per cent of technical workshop participants rated the workshop as useful or very useful.

510. In concluding its deliberations at the thirty-sixth session, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts requested the UNCTAD secretariat to conduct further case studies, including in Francophone countries in Africa on the implementation of the Guidance on core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, to facilitate wider use, raising awareness and dissemination of the Guidance, as well as training and capacity-building, including in cooperation with relevant training institutions. Furthermore, the session requested the UNCTAD secretariat, in coordination with other agencies of the United Nations addressing issues of measuring the private sector contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to convene a meeting with a view to facilitating the standardization of companies' reporting on their contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

511. With respect to the second main agenda item, the Group of Experts requested UNCTAD to continue monitoring issues that arise in the practical implementation of international standards of accounting and reporting in the public and private sectors and identifying good practices for addressing implementation challenges with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their capacity-building efforts towards high-quality and internationally comparable financial reporting, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, in support of sustainable development.

512. The session also requested UNCTAD to continue its efforts on the implementation of the Accounting Development Tool in interested countries with a view to assisting them in strengthening their regulatory, institutional and human capacity in an integrated and comprehensive manner and with a view to achieving high-quality financial reporting, as well as reporting on environmental, social and governance issues by enterprises.

C8 Investment and public health

Table C8
Investment and Public Health

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GLO/0T/ABG	Technical assistance in developing countries in creating prospects for the domestic private sector in implementing the TRIPS agreement	2010–	Germany
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAF/0T/HBT	AfCFTA support programme to eliminate non-tariff barriers, increase regulatory transparency and promote industrial diversification	2018–	Germany

513. **Development context.** The use and effectiveness of intellectual property (IP) rights regimes varies among countries based on their level of development. UNCTAD seeks to enhance the capacity of developing countries to tailor intellectual property rights to their development context and provides technical assistance to promote coherence in related policies, such as investment, trade and innovation. The intellectual property work programme targets Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Sustainable Development Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and Sustainable Development Goal 17 (policy and institutional coherence).

514. **Objectives and features.** The objectives of the programme are the following:

- (a) Development of domestic technological capacities and promotion of foreign investment;
- (b) Promotion of coherence between intellectual property policy and related law and policies, including investment, intellectual property and health;
- (c) Promotion of stakeholder ownership to ensure the sustainability of programme activities.

515. **Outputs and results.** The Intellectual Property Unit provided policy advice and capacity building in three areas:

- (a) Policy coherence for local production of pharmaceuticals;
- (b) Use of intellectual property rights for regional economic integration;
- (c) Promotion of intellectual property policy to address the development impact of the digital economy.

516. In 2019, UNCTAD organized and delivered five capacity-building programmes and advisory services for beneficiary countries, such as Egypt and Thailand, and regional organizations, such as the African Union Commission. UNCTAD during 2019 collaborated with WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS as well as WIPO and WTO. UNCTAD also joined the UNECA and the African Union Commission in the preparation of the “Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA) IX” report that focused on the next steps for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Intellectual Property Unit contributed to the preparation of the part of the report dedicated to assessing the role of regional cooperation on intellectual property and development and the potential approach to an AfCFTA protocol on intellectual property rights which is under regional negotiation.

517. UNCTAD provides technical input and develops solutions for integrated treatment of intellectual property rights and sustainable development. UNCTAD has become part of the international efforts to address the investment gap to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). During 2019 UNCTAD was invited to contribute to the international AMR debate, for instance at the twelfth Berlin Conference on Life Sciences that organized a discussion on “Novel Antimicrobials and AMR Diagnostics” from 14–15 March 2019. An AMR-related project was launched in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda at the national level and the East African Community at the regional level. It aims at reviewing the current state of production and supply of antibiotics and public health needs, assessing the investment framework and identifying potential interventions to improve local production and sustainable supply of antimicrobials in a manner supportive of the endeavour to combat antibiotic resistance. The project is envisaged to be implemented from 2020 to 2023 in collaboration with UNECA, WHO, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Action on Antibiotic Resistance (ReAct) and the East African Community Secretariat.

518. UNCTAD has also become a partner to UNECA and the African Union Commission in the preparation of the negotiations of an IP Protocol to the AfCFTA under the 2018–2020 BMZ-funded project on the AfCFTA support programme to eliminate non-tariff barriers, increase regulatory transparency and promote industrial diversification. UNCTAD provided expertise at several meetings and capacity building programmes organised by UNECA and African Union Commission on intellectual property and development, regional cooperation for the promotion of the pharmaceutical sector and investment in general. UNCTAD, UNECA and the African Union Commission also co-organised an event during the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD, Yokohama, Japan 28–30 August 2019). The event successfully brought together development partners, including the Government of Germany, the European Union, representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the World Bank and the UNECA, as well as the private sector and representatives of African Governments to assess the progress under the AfCFTA and the technical assistance need for implementation.

519. Initial UNCTAD work on IP in the digital context has resulted in a request by Uganda for the revision of its domestic copyright law to embrace the digital economy. As IP law and policy have been designed for the analogue age, developing countries lack guidance on how to adjust them to the digital context. This could constitute serious obstacles on their way to benefit from digitalisation and e-commerce, e.g. through trade and dissemination of digital products protected by copyright. UNCTAD will be able to respond to the technical request through the new project on E-commerce and the Digital Economy for Development.

520. Furthermore, in 2019, UNCTAD joined five international organisations, namely WHO, UNIDO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria during the World Health Assembly and launched an Interagency Statement on Promoting Local Production of Medicines and Other Health Technologies.⁴⁰ The adoption of the Interagency Statement illustrates the ability of UNCTAD to ensure broad political support and partnership at United Nations inter-agency level. WHO Member States have also acknowledged the importance of local pharmaceutical production: As a result of UNCTAD cooperation with WHO, UNCTAD was recognized as a stakeholder on transfer of technology in the revised WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPOA) in 2018. WHO Member States have requested the WHO Secretariat “to identify new opportunities for collaboration with other United Nations organizations (e.g. UNIDO, UNCTAD) to promote technology transfer as part of local health technology production programmes in developing countries in line with country needs”. This mandate was confirmed at the WHO Executive Board meeting in February 2020.

⁴⁰ https://www.who.int/phi/implementation/tech_transfer/Interagency-statement-on-promoting-local-production.pdf?ua=1.

521. At the subregional level, following a request from the Government of Thailand, UNCTAD in collaboration with the Thai International Health Policy Programme (IHPP) of the Ministry of Public Health and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) implemented a subregional capacity-building programme on improving access to universal health coverage and the role of FDI and technology transfer in the pharmaceutical sector. The capacity building programme targeted government representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The programme improved the capacity of beneficiary countries to design policies to increase FDI and technology transfer that benefits local companies in upgrading their capacities to meet quality standards for pharmaceutical products.

522. At national level, UNCTAD has continued its close collaboration with Egypt. Following a capacity-building workshop organized by UNCTAD, the Egyptian Patent Office (EGYPO) and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology on 17 and 18 July 2019 in Cairo, stakeholders and government agencies requested UNCTAD to provide follow-up support in the development of a national IP strategy, combined with a capacity-building programme for SMEs on IP transaction and linkages between universities and the private sector. The collaboration with Egypt benefited from a two-day expert consultation that UNCTAD organised on 14 and 15 of February 2019 in Geneva to review the legal, economic and practical challenges faced by developing country research and development institutions and private sector in participating in IP and know-how exchanges.

C9 International investment agreements

Table C9

International Investment Agreements

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/HCJ	Strategic Partnership the Netherlands	2018–	Netherlands
RAS/OT/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN

523. **Development context.** Today's network of international investment rules is multi-layered and multifaceted. The past years saw an expanding regime of international investment agreements (IIAs), with intensified efforts at the regional level. At the same time, a number of IIA terminations took effect.

524. Growing unease with the current functioning of the global IIA regime and the investor-State dispute settlement system, combined with the evolution of the international investment landscape, the greater role of Governments in the economy and the current sustainable development imperative led countries to reform their IIA regimes. Today, there is broad consensus that reform is not an option but a must.

525. Integrating sustainable development objectives into IIAs requires addressing a number of questions, including how to safeguard the right to regulate while preserving protection; how to enhance legal clarity of certain provisions; how to reform dispute settlement; how to promote and facilitate investment; how to ensure responsible investment; and how to manage the systemic complexity of the IIA regime. As such policy changes are taking hold in new treaties, the large stock of old-generation treaties is lagging behind and becoming an increasing source of friction in the process of modernization of the investment regime.

526. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD work programme on IIAs responds to this trend of reform, aiming to make the IIA regime work better for both States and investors, and more conducive to sustainable development. The programme covers activities in the three pillars of UNCTAD (research and policy analysis, technical assistance and advisory

services, and intergovernmental consensus-building). The IIA work programme is guided by the Accra Accord, which established UNCTAD as the key focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with matters related to IIAs (paragraph 151), the Doha Mandate, which ratified it (para. 65 (k)) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which calls on UNCTAD to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with member States on investment agreements (para. 91). In addition, the Nairobi Maafikiano reiterates the call for UNCTAD to continue its existing programme (para. 38 (l)) and to continue promoting a better understanding of issues related to IIA and their development dimension (para. 55 (hh)).

527. **Outputs.** In 2019, the main outputs are outlined below.

Research work related to technical assistance

528. In addition to regular reporting and monitoring on international investment policy developments, the IIA work programme carried out research and policy analysis, among others, for the following publications:

(a) *World Investment Report 2019*. The *World Investment Report 2019* (WIR 2019) was launched on 12 June 2019. Chapter III provides an update on IIA and developments on investor-State dispute settlement and discusses trends in investment policymaking. It also takes stock of IIA reform actions, which have been undertaken at all levels (national, bilateral, regional, and multilateral) to conclude a new generation of sustainable development-oriented IIAs (phase 1 of IIA reform) and to modernize the existing stock of old-generation treaties (phase 2 of IIA reform). Chapter III notes that IIA reform actions are also creating new challenges. While new treaties aim to improve balance and flexibility, they also make the IIA regime less homogenous. Different approaches to investment dispute settlement reform, ranging from traditional ad hoc tribunals to a standing court or to no investor-State dispute settlement, add to broader systemic complexity. Effectively harnessing international investment relations for the pursuit of sustainable development requires holistic and synchronized reform through an inclusive and transparent process. Chapter IV, which is devoted to “special economic zones”, also analyses the international economic policy dimension. It reviews rules and obligations arising from international investment agreements, regional trade agreements and membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Although the special economic zone regime is typically a tool of national policymaking, governments need to be mindful of its interaction with their international obligations, which can either facilitate or constrain such national policymaking;

(b) Background note for the eleventh session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. Recent Developments in the International Investment Regime: Taking Stock of Phase 2 Reform Action, TD/B/C.II/4, 2 September 2019, Geneva, Switzerland. The paper provides an update on the UNCTAD 10 Options for Phase 2 of IIA Reform, originally launched in the *World Investment Report 2017* and subsequently included in the Reform Package for the International investment Regime 2018. The note reviews most recent Phase 2 reform actions and concludes by identifying four challenges that the international investment community needs to overcome for the reform to become truly successful;

(c) IIA issues notes. The following issues notes were produced:

(i) “Reforming Investment Dispute Settlement: A Stocktaking”, 29 March 2019. Investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) continues to be controversial, spurring debate in the investment and development community and the public at large. States are responding to challenges and concerns surrounding ISDS through different avenues. Almost every treaty concluded in 2018 contains at least one ISDS-related reform feature. The IIA issues note takes stock of ISDS reform developments worldwide, identifying five principal approaches to investment dispute settlement reform;

(ii) “Fact Sheet on Investor–State Dispute Settlement Cases in 2018”, 29 May 2019. The fact sheet contains an overview of treaty-based ISDS cases initiated in the past year and overall ISDS case outcomes. As the surge in ISDS cases continues,

with at least 71 new arbitrations initiated in 2018, it suggests that the total ISDS case count may reach one thousand by the end of 2019.

(iii) “Taking Stock of IIA Reform: Recent Developments”, 7 June 2019. The IIA issues note reviews reform-oriented provisions in recent IIAs and analyses countries’ reform actions to tackle the stock of old-generation treaties. It finds that almost all the treaties concluded in 2018 contain a large number of reform features (Phase 1 of IIA Reform). Countries are also tackling existing old-generation IIAs (Phase 2 of IIA Reform). However, a lot remains to be done;

(iv) “Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Review of Decisions in 2018”, 23 July 2019. The note provides an overview of arbitral findings in past year’s publicly available ISDS decisions that may have implications for the drafting of future IIAs and the modernization of old-generation treaties. Most arbitral decisions in 2018 relied on provisions in old-generation treaties. For policymakers, arbitral decisions can be a useful source for learning about the practical implications of IIA provisions and for identifying areas of improvement for IIAs.

Capacity-building

529. Based on the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and its Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (covering, among others, the five areas for reform (phase 1) and the 10 options for modernizing the existing stock of treaties (phase 2)), the UNCTAD IIA Section carries out a range of technical assistance activities and advisory services. During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented.

Advisory services.

530. They include reviews of a country’s or region’s IIA network; comments on country’s or region’s model treaties; and other analysis of various aspects of countries’ IIA universes. Comments are provided with a view to identifying options for maximizing IIAs’ sustainable development dimension. The analysis is tailor-made, considering the specificities of each country and/or region and, typically, the submission of written advisory services is complemented by one or several videoconferences, discussing the analysis undertaken on behalf of the country.

531. In response to requests from member States, UNCTAD provided IIA reviews for Kazakhstan (January 2019), Mali (March 2019) and Saudi Arabia (November 2019). In addition, and in response to requests from member States, UNCTAD provided comments on the model treaties of South Africa (March 2019) and Egypt (September 2019).

532. Support was also given to the African Union (AU), UNECA and other stakeholders with the draft of the Investment Protocol of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Among others, the IIA Section provided an additional input into the Investment Protocol for AfCFTA in January 2019 in response to a follow-up request from the process coordinator. UNCTAD also contributed to trainings, meetings and reports in 2019 related African continental integration, including the AfCFTA.

533. Regional or other training courses hosted or co-hosted by UNCTAD in 2019 include the following:

(a) Joint UNCTAD, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation “Workshop on IIA Reform for Sustainable Development”, 12–13 September 2019, Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop provided participants with up-to-date knowledge on policy options for sustainable development-oriented reform of bilateral investment treaties and facilitated discussions on key IIA reform issues. More than 15 IIA negotiators of the D-8 group of countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey) participated in the workshop as well as members of the business community and academics.

(b) Joint CARICOM Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and UNCTAD “Forum on International Investment Agreements”, 30 September–2 October 2019, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Investment officials from fourteen CARICOM member countries participated in the training workshop and strategy forum. The forum helped officials to enhance their understanding of their countries' investment treaties (many of which are old-generation treaties) and to identify potential reform needs. The forum focused on options for reform of IIAs and ISDS, also based on UNCTAD IIA Reform tools.

(c) UNCTAD Workshop on Investment Policies for Sustainable Development for the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), 14–15 November 2019, Geneva. The workshop discussed the reform of IIAs and investor-State dispute settlement, investment promotion and the approach of Saudi Arabia to IIAs (the new model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) of Saudi Arabia and the country's new investment principles). It was attended by 15 officials – directors and specialists – from SAGIA as well as other agencies and ministries.

534. UNCTAD-Egypt Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation-GAFI “Workshop on FDI Trends and Investment Policies”, 20–21 November 2019, Cairo, Egypt (delivered in the context of the Investment for Africa Forum held in Cairo). The high-level workshop discussed international investment policies, global and regional FDI trends, and investment promotion and facilitation policies. It was attended by over 80 participants from 40 African countries.

535. **Results and impact.** There is strong evidence that the IIA work programme has a concrete and positive impact. UNCTAD policy tools have shaped investment policymaking at all levels.

(a) Forward-looking IIA reform is well under way and involves countries at all levels of development and from all geographical regions. All of today's new IIAs include several sustainable development-oriented reform elements in line with UNCTAD policy tools (see WIR 2019). Provisions that were considered innovative in pre-2012 IIAs now appear regularly. Highlights of modern treaty making include a sustainable development orientation, preservation of regulatory space, and improvements to or omissions of investment dispute settlement. The most broadly pursued area of reform is preservation of regulatory space. As part of broader IIA reform, countries have implemented many ISDS reform elements in recent IIAs;

(b) Since the launch of UNCTAD options for Phase 2 of IIA Reform (WIR 2017), a growing number of countries have taken steps to modernize their old-generation treaties. Given that, so far, such reform actions have addressed a relatively small number of IIAs, there is broad scope and urgency to pursue them further. The stock of old-generation treaties is 10 times larger than the number of new reform-oriented treaties. Modernization of these treaties remains an important policy challenge;

(c) The UNCTAD high-level IIA conference 2019 held on 13 November in Geneva charted the way forward towards the reform of the large stock of old-generation treaties. The Conference brought together over 80 speakers from governments, inter-governmental organizations, business, civil society and academia, as well as a large audience. The Conference suggested that new methods and mechanisms – to be identified through policy research and discussions – may be needed to overcome existing barriers to reform, to scale up and accelerate Phase 2 of IIA Reform. It also confirmed the central role of UNCTAD in supporting and facilitating international investment agreement reform in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(d) At the workshop in Istanbul (Turkey) on “International Investment Policy Reform for Sustainable Development” organized by UNCTAD in cooperation with the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank on 12–13 September 2019, participating government officials dealing with investment policies in countries members of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation “[a]greed on the importance of intra-D-8 countries cooperation and coordination on issues related to international investment policies”, “[r]eiterated the central role of UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable in assisting D-8 countries formulate more balanced and sustainable development-oriented investment policies” and nine other points, issued as workshop recommendations. In line with the workshop recommendations, member

countries of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation agreed, in January 2020, on a set of Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking jointly developed with UNCTAD.

536. Further evidence and positive feedback include:

(a) “The high quality of the presentations raised participants’ awareness of current reforms of the substantive and procedural aspects of IIAs, policy options for IIA reform, UNCTAD’s Policy Tools for IIA reform and UNCTAD’s databases. This provided a useful basis for participants’ strategic consideration of priorities and next steps for CARICOM Member States with respect to IIA reform”. Director General, Office of Trade Negotiations, CARICOM Secretariat;

(b) “Nepal is reforming its investment policy which is in line with the phase II reform prescribed by UNCTAD. (...) Let me conclude by extending our gratitude to the secretariat for providing this forum to share our opinions and the current development in IIA reform going on in Nepal”. Joint Secretary and Head, Industrial and Investment Promotion Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal;

(c) “It was really a great pleasure participating in this important workshop that, as all other events organized by UNCTAD, represented a unique opportunity for exchange of experience especially with likeminded developing countries”. International Investment Agreements Specialist, General Authority for Investment, Egypt;

(d) “I welcome the quality of the report and the relevant recommendations contained therein. Mali shares these recommendations and requests the technical support of your organization for their implementation, in collaboration with my Department, through the joint committee for monitoring and implementing the road map on international treaties and international investment agreements.” Ministry of Industrial Development and Investment Promotion, Mali;

(e) “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its gratitude for providing analysis on Review of Bilateral Investment Treaties of Kazakhstan (...) and appreciates your expert evaluation. We strongly believe that the review will help Kazakhstan policymakers to modify the BITs”. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan.

(f) “The European Union regularly consults the various UNCTAD publications and materials which are most useful. (...) Let me conclude, by thanking the organizers of this event for their valuable support and we encourage UNCTAD to continue its work on IIA reform, which has proved very helpful for all involved”. Head of Unit, Investment Policy, European Commission, European Union.

C10 Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks

Table C10

Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/DBG	COMPAL MENA	2015–	Sweden
RAF/0T/BAH	Implementation of the competition framework in the UEMOA region and to support the work of the Commission	2011–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
RAF/0T/GAF	Renforcement de la concurrence et la protection des consommateurs en Afrique Centrale	2017–	European Union
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations

537. **Development context.** Competition law and policy contributes to economic growth and sustainable development through market openness, innovation and economic efficiency, while achieving consumer welfare. Competition policy complements trade policy, ensuring that the benefits brought by trade and investment liberalization are not hampered by anticompetitive business practices. Consumer protection empowers consumers to play an active role in the market, through informed, responsible and sustainable choices, and it ensures that unfair commercial practices are sanctioned, and consumers protected. In a globalized world competition and consumer protection laws and policies are increasingly faced with cross-border challenges, which demand further regional and international cooperation to guarantee a level playing field for business and a high level of consumer protection across the world.

538. Most of the technical cooperation projects of UNCTAD comprise both competition and consumer protection areas and three recent and significant projects have a regional dimension (COMPAL-Latin America; MENA-Middle East and North African countries; CEMAC-Central Africa Economic and Monetary Union), demonstrating the importance of competition and consumer protection policies as tools to promote regional integration in different continents.

539. Latin American economies are particularly vulnerable to anticompetitive and unfair business practices: poor business infrastructure and complex regulatory and licensing regimes make it harder for companies to enter these markets; their policies, laws and regulations are often not sufficiently robust, while their enforcement agencies may lack the capacity to effectively detect and address many instances of anticompetitive behaviour; and citizens and businesses are less aware of the importance of an open, competitive market and do not know and/or exercise their rights. Latin American markets are fragmented and the lack of trust from consumers in regional and global markets discourages business investment. Moreover, in the region, legislations and capacities are weak and sometimes outdated, and financial and human resources in the area of competition and consumer protection are deficient.

540. In the MENA region, there is little trade between neighbouring countries and there is a large informal sector. The region also faces additional challenges regarding good governance and gender equality. The promotion of regional economic integration through improved competition and consumer protection policies, aiming for a positive impact on gender balance and good governance, is therefore appropriate and timely.

541. In Central Africa, competition and consumer protection policies are not effective. In order to promote the integration of the economies of the subregion and a competitive regional market, it is imperative to coordinate and harmonize existing legislation in the six member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and to extend this legislation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe.

542. Following the recommendations of the UNCTAD voluntary peer review of the competition law and policy of the United Republic of Tanzania conducted in 2012, training on competition and consumer protection laws and policies was requested, to assist the country's enforcers and main actors to better understand and implement these policies.

543. Cabo Verde is undergoing an important development strategy, as the UNCTAD investment policy review (2018) illustrates. The Government decided to establish a competition authority, whose process is still under way, to reinforce the framework for an effective market economy and to secure increased trade and investment flows.

544. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) was the only regional economic organization to undergo a Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy, together with Benin and Senegal,⁴¹ in 2007. The Peer Review report included, among others, a recommendation regarding the adoption of merger control guidelines, which could only be implemented as of 2019.

⁴¹ Voluntary peer review of competition policies of WAEMU, Benin and Senegal (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2007/1), available at https://unctad.org/en/Docs/ditcclp20071_en.pdf.

545. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition understand the key role of competition and consumer policies as instruments to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development and increasingly request UNCTAD assistance in the assessment and revision of existing legislation. These advisory services have been regularly delivered by UNCTAD although outside a formal technical cooperation project.

546. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD aims to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in adopting or revising competition and consumer protection legislation and policies to align with international best practices, as well as regional frameworks in these areas. Competition and consumer protection policies are complementary to trade and industrial policies and seek to promote economic growth and sustainable development. They play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 8 - Decent work and Economic growth, Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities, Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production, and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals.

547. UNCTAD work on competition and consumer protection policies contributes to the strengthening of the competition and consumer protection systems of developing countries and countries with economies in transition by developing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks; drafting legislation adapted to member States' current challenges; designing and implementing institutions to enforce the laws; building human capacities through training programmes; advocating for a competition and a consumer protection culture and developing competition and consumer protection curricula for universities.

548. **Outputs.** In Latin America, COMPAL⁴² work aims to improve competition and consumer protection policies and move towards convergence between the beneficiaries. UNCTAD completed the implementation of the third edition of the three-year technical assistance programme for the 17 countries of Latin America in 2018, whose main objective was to enhance intra-regional trade and regional integration in Latin America through the adoption and implementation of competition and consumer protection laws and policies in a coordinated manner. Since September 2018, activities under the phase IV of COMPAL have been self-funded by beneficiary countries directly. However, a specific project on Competition Compliance in Latin America has been launched in cooperation with the Zurich University of Management and Law (ZHAW), which includes the funding of some activities.

549. In 2019, the following activities were organized:

(a) Annual meeting of the International Consumer Protection Forum, in San Salvador, October 2019: the UNCTAD COMPAL International Forum for Consumer Protection is the only regional meeting dedicated to consumer protection, engaging all relevant stakeholders – private sector, civil society, legal and economic practitioners and academics, apart from consumer protection agencies. For the Forum's agenda UNCTAD suggested three panel topics, closely related to the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection key topics and UNCTAD's ongoing priorities in this field: access by consumers to essential goods and services; challenges and opportunities for consumer protection in the digital economy; cross-border inter-agency cooperation in the enforcement of consumer protection law, and self-regulation and co-regulation on consumer protection;

(b) Annual meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition, organized by UNCTAD in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System – SELA, Asunción, October 2019: the meeting boosted cooperation and stronger coherence between national competition and trade policymakers, as well as between the respective government agencies. It gathered 60 delegates from Latin American and Caribbean countries, most of whom were women, from competition and trade authorities to discuss the interaction of the innovation with trade and competition. Participants agreed on the need for constant dialogue among trade authorities, regulated bodies and competition authorities to support the formulation of more effective policies;

⁴² <https://unctadcompal.org/>.

(c) Latin American Forum on Competition Law for Judges. In May 2019, a forum and a workshop for judges from Latin America on merger control took place, where speakers from the General Council of the Judiciary of Spain and UNCTAD intervened. The course discussed the main aspects of merger control and, in particular, the use of economic analysis as an essential instrument for this field of competition law;

(d) Annual meeting of the Central American Competition Forum (RECAC). In August 2019, UNCTAD participated in the RECAC held in the city of Guatemala. The forum brought together the authorities of seven countries (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic) to discuss current issues related to the application of law and competition policies. On this occasion, UNCTAD played an important role both in the design of the agenda and in the discussions of the round tables in which various topics were discussed, including the interaction between competition and consumer policies, competition in the regulated sectors and the digital economy.

(e) A side event on Competition Compliance in Latin America was jointly organized by UNCTAD and the Zurich School of Management and Law within the International Competition Network Annual Conference in Colombia (May). This was followed by another event organized back-to-back with the UNCTAD-SELA Working Group on Trade and Competition meeting, held in Paraguay, in October.

550. In December 2018, UNCTAD completed the implementation of field activities of its four-year technical assistance programme for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, covering Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the State of Palestine. The main objective of the UNCTAD MENA programme was to promote regional integration through improved competition and consumer protection laws and policies. One of the results achieved was to enable the adoption and/or modernization of competition and consumer protection legal and institutional frameworks in all MENA beneficiaries, notwithstanding their different national models and experience, and bringing together all relevant stakeholders - government bodies, sectoral regulators, consumer and business associations, academia, the judiciary - to foster regional, bilateral and national partnerships.

551. In 2019, the MENA programme disseminated its products among beneficiary competition and consumer protection authorities and other stakeholders, which comprise several reports mostly available in Arabic, English and/or French on important competition and consumer protection issues. The latest reports refer to the following topics: competition institutional structure and agency effectiveness; competition law compliance; competitive neutrality; competition and gender; women's access to economic activities; consumer associations; consumer complaint handling, dispute resolution and redress; unfair commercial practices and misleading advertising; consumer protection and gender; consumer product safety and risk assessment; and e-commerce investigations. These reports and previous ones on both competition and consumer protection (competition glossary; competition good governance and independence; leniency programmes; consumer protection agency structure and effectiveness and business engagement) provide relevant guidance to the MENA beneficiaries, all being available at the UNCTAD MENA online platform, launched to establish networks to facilitate regional cooperation with the support of UNCTAD.

552. Furthermore, two "train-the-trainers" programmes were also drafted, on competition and on consumer protection, featuring case studies and supporting bibliography. These training modules will be used by trainers identified by the competition and consumer protection authorities and related ministries of the programme's beneficiaries to strengthen the capacities of these bodies' staff. And a universities' cooperation framework to develop a network of experts on competition and consumer law in the beneficiaries, gathering prominent scholars and researchers from selected universities and policy institutions to promote teaching, training and dissemination of competition and consumer law in a coordinated way in the region.

553. In the CEMAC region, thanks to the UNCTAD project for the improvement of competition and consumer protection policies, it was possible to validate the regional draft regulation on the defence of competition and the regional draft directive in the field of

consumer protection. Subsequently, in April 2019, the CEMAC Council of Ministers adopted both projects unanimously. This approval represents an important milestone for the region since as of 2020, member States will have to adapt their regulations and their institutions to the provisions of these legal texts and will have modern legislation comparable to those in force in developed countries.

554. UNCTAD and the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) agreed in 2019 to set up a partnership with a shared objective to assist Asian and African competition authorities in enforcing competition law to maximize the benefits of well-functioning markets in these countries. Under this framework, UNCTAD has been collaborating with the JFTC technical assistance projects to ASEAN countries financially supported through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Under this partnership, during 2019 two activities were conducted:

(a) A study group meeting was hosted by JFTC Kinki-Chugoku-Shikoku Office. During the meeting, UNCTAD intervened in the session on “legal analysis of international cooperation in competition law enforcement” by sharing the legal analysis of international cooperation in competition law enforcement to participants from academia, lawyers, legal staff of private companies;

(b) A training course on Strategic Planning and Management of Enforcement Activities was delivered. The course aimed to strengthen the case investigation planning and management capacity of experts from ASEAN Member States (AMS) when enforcing the competition law. It also focused on fostering cross-border cooperation in competition law enforcement within AMS. UNCTAD’s main contribution related to international cooperation experiences.

555. UNCTAD and GIZ, the German Development Agency, carried out a fruitful partnership through the following activities for the ASEAN region in 2019:

(a) A preparatory workshop on the Regional Cooperation Framework on Consumer Protection, with the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) and selected resource persons (academics) (February 2019);

(b) A brainstorming meeting regarding the implementation of ASEAN peer reviews and a workshop on International Cooperation (May);

(c) The intervention of UNCTAD in the eighth edition of the ASEAN Competition Conference on “Attaining Milestones and Addressing Challenges” (September).

556. The merger control guidelines of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) have been drafted, still requiring to be presented, discussed and validated in a workshop planned for 2020.

557. To address the various requests for advisory services by member States, UNCTAD provided technical assistance in the revision and redrafting of the consumer protection law of Argentina; undertook the legal assessment of the competition law in Belarus based on the UNCTAD Model Law on Competition and international best practices on competition law and policy from more experienced jurisdictions, including recommendations to improve the legal and institutional framework; provided advice on the consumer protection legal framework of Bhutan as well as an opinion on its competition policy strategy; followed and supported the efforts of Cabo Verde to launch a competition authority, namely revising the competition law and adopting the authority’s statutes; assessed the regional competition rules and regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union, also suggesting measures for improvement; finally, UNCTAD has carried out awareness raising activities and provided technical assistance in Peru for the elaboration of the new merger control law approved in November 2019, and provided opinions on the separation of investigative and decision-making powers of its competition authority and on a new instrument towards a more effective law enforcement (“antitrust awards”).

558. **Results.** In order to measure the results of the COMPAL activities, an evaluation questionnaire is circulated after each activity to the participants of courses and workshops or directly to beneficiaries. According to the questionnaires, the general perception has been increasingly positive. A trend towards regional convergence in public policies of

competition and consumer protection is shown by the indicators of new cooperation agreements signed between members and the monitoring of regional activities. Members particularly appreciate the quality and content of training courses (average satisfaction of 92 per cent) and the richness of debates and discussions in the framework of international forums conducted by COMPAL.

559. The MENA programme closed its field activities in December 2018 and dedicated 2019 to continue the dissemination of its outputs, publications and products. The programme effectively supported regional integration through competition and consumer protection and encouraged cooperation through informal networks, having laid the ground for future joint work among the UNCTAD MENA beneficiaries' competition authorities and consumer protection agencies. The regional training centres opened and the UNCTAD MENA website were two key products that facilitated ongoing cooperation and ensured the sustainability of these efforts. The programme also advocated for a multi-stakeholder approach, including government representatives, consumer associations, businesses and the academia in its national and regional events, and in its guidance and reports. The programme enhanced the participation and integration of the MENA beneficiaries' competition and consumer protection authorities at the international level through the engagement with other partners in regional, continental (Africa) and international meetings. Finally, it strengthened the knowledge and the capacities on competition and consumer protection of the MENA beneficiaries, in particular through its train-the-trainers courses and the academic cooperation framework.

560. Since the closure of activities, UNCTAD has received technical cooperation requests in the fields of competition and consumer protection from three MENA programme beneficiaries: Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. Although each request is different, they all aimed to reinforce the technical capacities of staff and seek support in law and policy drafting and reform. Further, Egypt and Morocco joined international networks on consumer protection, such as the International Consumer Protection Enforcement Network, enhancing their participation in cross-border enforcement efforts. Following the MENA programme, UNCTAD concluded a cooperation agreement with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to continue pursuing regional consultations and exchanges for the Arab countries in the field of competition. This joint initiative is the fruit of pioneering UNCTAD work in regional cooperation on competition in the MENA region and ensures the sustainability of UNCTAD efforts in the near future.

561. The CEMAC project closed the field activities in July 2019. The most important achievement has been the approval of two new legislative texts by the CEMAC Council of Ministers, on competition and consumer protection in April 2019. Indeed, the approval of a Regional Competition Regulation and a Regional Consumer Protection Directive is an extremely important achievement in both matters that will allow regional and national institutions to implement policies with more guarantees of success. The new Competition Law for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is not part of the CEMAC, was also passed by the National Parliament in 2018.

562. In Cabo Verde, UNCTAD support to competition law and policy contributed to the Government's priority of launching a competition authority and the interest to use the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework to request and benefit from UNCTAD cooperation. The Government announced publicly that Cabo Verde would establish a competition authority in 2019, illustrating the commitment of the country to the competition policy. During the most recent mission of UNCTAD, the process of establishing a competition authority was underway.

563. The impact of the WAEMU merger control guidelines still depends on its validation and follow-up actions, expected for late 2020.

564. The legal analysis carried out by UNCTAD and the advice provided in the assessment and revision of laws or amendments and policy strategies (Argentina, Bhutan, Belarus, Botswana and the Eurasian Economic Union) have supported the efforts of the competition and consumer protection authorities and have facilitated the adoption and

revision of existing frameworks and instruments towards its improvement and a sounder structure and law enforcement.

C99 Other

Table C99

Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Cross Divisional</i>			
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
<i>Division on Investment and Enterprise</i>			
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/GAR	Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Regulator Capacity-Building	2018–	Public donations
<i>Division on Globalization and Development Strategies</i>			
INT/0T/FAP	Wuhan Globalization Seminars	2016–	China
<i>Office of the Secretary-General</i>			
INT/0T/0BU	Support to UNCTAD technical cooperation	2000–	Belgium
INT/0T/4BS	Strengthening results-based management of UNCTAD programmes	2004–	Norway

1. Capital markets and responsible investment

565. **Development context.** UNCTAD has deepened its work on responsible investment through several channels, particularly the activities of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative. Launched in 2009, the SSE was built on the demand from exchanges for a place to come together with investors, companies and policymakers to share good practices and challenges in a multi-stakeholder environment. The initiative has grown into what is now a global partnership platform including most of the world's stock exchanges. In 2019 the membership of stock exchanges grew to 96 stock exchanges.

566. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD work on responsible investment aims to achieve the following objectives through research, consensus-building and technical assistance:

- (a) Providing capital market stakeholders worldwide with proof of concept of supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through capital market regulation, training and education, and market norms;
- (b) Supplying data to help markets better react to sustainability challenges;
- (c) Sharing of experiences and learning from other markets;
- (d) Developing a network support system.

567. **Outputs.** In 2019, research produced included a targeted policy guide for stock exchanges with the purpose of sharing experience on how exchanges can embed sustainability within their operations. This new publication, produced in collaboration with

the World Federation of Exchanges, provides capital market stakeholders with examples of best practice, market trends and an action plan for integrating sustainability into their operations. The initiative also further strengthened its online database with data on the sustainability practices of 100 stock exchanges worldwide, the most comprehensive database on stock exchanges publicly available.

568. The SSE held a number of events aimed at disseminating knowledge and building consensus on capital market transparency and sustainability, including the following key events:

(a) The SSE 10 year anniversary in New York City on 26 September hosted by the New York Stock Exchange brought together market leaders to evaluate the impact of the initiative over the past decade, exchange views on best practice and set the direction of travel for the initiative over the next decade;

(b) SSE convened its Advisory Group in Geneva to build consensus on how stock exchanges can support sustainable finance and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in May 2019;

(c) SSE Ring the Bell for Gender Equality events raised awareness on the business case for women's economic empowerment and the opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development in March 2019 at 85 stock exchanges worldwide;

(d) SSE partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to hold 2 workshops, one in Kenya and another in Rwanda, to provide training on sustainability reporting to Stock Exchange officials, security market regulators, investors and listed companies.

569. The SSE also provided technical assistance through providing bespoke training and by speaking at events. SSE team members contributed to 8 events in 2019, providing technical assistance to stock exchanges, regulatory authorities, industry associations, academics and civil society. The SSE also held a number of technical assistance calls with stock exchanges, regulators, industry associations, Governments and international organizations, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) exchanges sustainability working group, the Federation of Euro-Asian Exchanges (FEAS), the Asian Development Bank, the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

570. Eight webinars were held in 2019 to provide technical assistance on responsible investment on the following topics: green finance; market capacity-building; and embedding sustainability within stock exchange operations. Each webinar involved the participation of between 20 and 30 stock exchanges.

571. The SSE also provided technical assistance to stock exchanges who are working to develop guidance on sustainability reporting for their market as part of its objective to have all stock exchanges providing guidance on sustainability reporting.

572. **Results.** In 2019 the SSE increased its membership by 18 per cent to 96 SSE partner exchanges. Thirteen stock exchanges published a guidance for their market on sustainability reporting in 2019 and two exchanges committed to doing so in the coming year. There are now 47 stock exchanges with guidance on sustainability reporting, up from just 14 when the SSE started encouraging exchanges to do this in 2015.

573. SSE work was endorsed by the security market regulators from several countries as well as Stock Exchange leaders and the World Federation of Exchanges:

(a) "SSE has been successful in attracting even investors, issuers from around the globe through experience sharing, policy guidance and stakeholder dialogue. With a drive for capacity building, it has provided invaluable information, guidelines and publications to all its members and the public alike." – Executive Chair, Financial Regulatory Authority, Egypt.

(b) “Considering the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of markets globally, the role of the SSE initiative will be more relevant over the next 10 years, especially for emerging markets. Those markets present high climate vulnerabilities as well as a high potential to contribute to the creation of sustainable economies globally. Accordingly, the SSE initiative’s work will be highly helpful in keeping the momentum of concerted action towards achieving sustainable financial markets and ensuring their global coherence.” - CEO and Chair, Capital Markets Authority, Morocco

(c) “We welcome the SSE’s role in empowering exchanges that are focused on the sustainability agenda. Driven by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SSE focuses on four SDG targets that are particularly relevant for exchanges, including gender equality; sustainable consumption and production patterns; climate change; and strengthening the means of implementing and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development.” – CEO, World Federation of Exchanges.

(d) “The SSE leveraged markets to create change; its 10-year record of accomplishment is undeniable.” – Vice Chair, Nasdaq.

2. Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization

2.1. *Wuhan Globalization Seminars*

574. **Development context.** The rapid and successful integration of China into the world economy since the 1990s provides valuable lessons and insights of the opportunities and challenges posed by economic globalization for the process of structural transformation and development. Studying recent development experiences of China and potential implications for national development strategies is therefore of great significance for policymakers from other developing nations.

575. The Wuhan Seminars are a training programme, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China and UNCTAD since 2006. The programme is focused on the area of economic globalization and the development experience of China.

576. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to enable policymakers from developing nations to study the development experience of China in the context of the dynamics of economic globalization processes, and to gain a deeper understanding of strategic requirements for their national development processes in this context. Furthermore, the project also aims at supporting Chinese policymakers in their efforts to keep abreast of ongoing developments in the global economy and to enhance sensitivity to policy options at national levels to meet new challenges.

577. **Outputs.** Entrusted by the Ministry of Commerce of China, the China–Europe Vocational Training Centre and UNCTAD have successfully organized more than 20 international seminars on a range of issues relating to economic globalization processes, their impacts on trade, industrialization and macro-financial policy spaces in developing countries, as well as lessons to be learned from the country’s development experience.

578. In 2019, UNCTAD delivered two Wuhan Globalization Seminars. The first, held from 14 to 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. As in previous years, the number of participants varied between 40 and 60 participants (depending on seminars) from a wide range of developing countries and regions.

579. **Results.** Since the beginning of the project, nearly 1,000 governmental officials from 89 developing countries and economies in transition in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Oceania participated in the programme. The seminar series, including in particular the Economic Globalization series, has persistently received highly positive feedback and remains very popular with participants. The programme overall is very much welcomed by policymakers in developing nations and has, over the years, impacted substantially on training for developmental policy analysis and design.

IV. Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future

580. The transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It aims at ending poverty in all its forms and improving human well-being. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require, on the one hand, sound strategies and policies made by Governments and, on the other hand, the engagement of all people from different sectors of society, including local authorities, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, women and farmers. To support policymaking and the effective participation of people in this new development process, it is essential to strengthen their skills and update their knowledge base through capacity-building activities.

581. UNCTAD has developed well-targeted technical assistance programmes (including training) to build capacity for various stakeholders including policymakers, academic institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and port operators in developing countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD supports developing country policymakers in mainstreaming gender in trade policy and empowering women in trade.

582. In this section, reports are presented on three products under the theme “Empowering people, investing in their future”. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2019 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing three products in this thematic area are reported on under “D99 Other”.

D1 Trade, gender and development

Table D1
Trade, gender and development

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
MYA/0T/HBI	United Nations Trade Cluster Myanmar	2019–	United Nations Office for Project Services – Switzerland
INT/0T/CAI	Capacity-Building in Trade and Gender	2013–	Multi-donor
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand
ROA-1617 (J10)	Informal cross-border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa	2016–	Development Account

583. **Development context.** Trade has great potential to foster economic growth and development, but many are at risk of being excluded or marginalized. There is growing awareness that the gains from trade are unequally distributed and that trade impacts different segments of the population, including men and women, in different ways. Women are important players in trade in their roles as producers, workers, entrepreneurs and traders: they have increased their share of the labour force, of management jobs and roles as entrepreneurs, and their growing participation in the economy has been a major engine of growth and competitiveness. Despite all these advancements, women’s potential in trade is too often held back by the many constraints they face. Trade liberalization may be a strong force for providing new opportunities for women but may inadvertently further entrench or exacerbate existing gender biases and discrimination. An in-depth understanding of the

gender ramifications of trade policy is therefore necessary to make trade a tool for inclusive growth and the economic empowerment of women.

584. **Objectives and features.** The Trade, Gender and Development Programme assists member countries in enhancing their understanding of the links between trade and gender, in conducting gender impact analyses of trade policies and agreements, as well as in the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive trade policies. It does so by (a) carrying out analytical activities, (b) implementing capacity development and technical cooperation activities and (c) promoting policy advocacy and intergovernmental dialogue. Through its work programme on Trade, Gender and Development, UNCTAD contributes to the achievement of SDG 8, on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by promoting the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies, in particular trade policies, that are gender inclusive. UNCTAD work in this area is also strongly aligned with SDG 5 and recognizes gender equality and women's economic empowerment as key elements to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

585. **Outputs.** During the period under review, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme assisted beneficiary countries in assessing the gender effects of trade policies, and in devising strategies and policy measures to overcome gender-based constraints that hinder inclusive development. Activities carried out include:

Training

(a) Fifth iteration of UNCTAD standard online course on trade and gender (15 April – 2 June 2019). The course is part of the capacity-building project funded by the Government of Finland and is based on volume I of the UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender. The objective of this distance-learning initiative is to equip government officials, academics and civil society representatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with analytical tools to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and to produce gender-aware policy recommendations. 100 participants, 68 women and 32 men, were selected for this iteration of the course.

(b) Second iteration of the COMESA online courses on trade and gender in French and English (20 May – 14 July 2019). The English iteration of the 8-week online course focusing on the specific needs and contexts of the COMESA region hosted 95 participants, out of which 49 were women and 46 men. The French edition included 52 participants, 30 women and 22 men.

(c) During the reporting period, all teaching material and multimedia lectures of the standard and Mercosur courses as well as the e-learning platform were translated into Spanish to respond to the requests of Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Analytical activities

(a) International Trade, Transparency, and Gender Equality: The Case of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: The report examines the potential implications of the transparency provisions in the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus for gender outcomes in the region. It analyses the socioeconomic, gender, and trade profiles of the nine Pacific island countries and discusses the gender implications of transparency in international trade. Analytical activities focusing on this group of countries also included fact sheets with socio-economic profiles of the 9 Pacific Island countries, the document "A trader's guide to export to Australia and New Zealand: NTMs applied to selected products made by women in 9 Pacific Islands countries", and a survey focusing on Kiribati.

(b) Gender-sensitive policy recommendations to support women cross-border traders in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia: This advocacy document puts forth policy recommendations based on the findings of the report *Borderline: Women in Informal Cross-border trade in Malawi, the United Republic of*

Tanzania and Zambia, and aims to support the empowerment of women informal (and small-scale) traders in the three selected countries.

(c) Women in informal cross-border trade: a small-scale trader's guide to trade rules and procedures. Under the cross-border trade project, UNCTAD developed three booklets targeting cross-border traders in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to present key information on existing trade procedures and simplified trade schemes, documentation requirements, rules of origin, taxes and tariffs meant to informal and small-scale cross border traders.

(d) Trade and Gender Nexus in the Context of Regional Integration - A Comparative Assessment of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). This study adopts a comparative perspective to examine the trade and gender nexus in the context of regional integration by drawing upon case studies from two continents: East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

(e) Making Trade Policies Gender-Responsive: Data Requirements, Methodological Developments and Challenges: This paper explains how an ex-ante gender assessment can help obtain a quantitative estimate of the gender impact of trade policies before their implementation and how it can help identify the measures that should be adopted to support gender equality. It illustrates how an ex-ante analysis based on the current formulation of the UNCTAD *Trade and Gender Toolbox* is carried out and explores desirable future extensions of this instrument.

(f) Under the work programme's capacity-building initiative on trade and gender, two teaching modules are in the process of being developed: a regional module focused on the Central America region and a thematic module devoted to the gender impacts of technological upgrading of agriculture. They are expected to be finalized and published in 2020.

Events and workshops - Awareness-raising and policy dialogue on the trade and gender nexus

586. During the period under review the Trade, Gender and Development Programme organized the following meetings and events on the topic of trade and gender:

(a) Regional workshop on Informal cross-border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa (4–5 December 2019, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania).

(b) Cross-border Trade Rules and Entrepreneurship: training programme for women informal cross-border traders (November – December 2019, multiple locations in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia).

(c) National Validation Workshops and launch of the study "International Trade, Transparency, and Gender Equality: The Case of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus" (October 2019, Kiribati and Samoa).

(d) WTO A4T Side Event: Women's enhanced participation in trade through technological upgrading in agriculture (4 July 2019, Geneva).

(e) National workshops and launch of the study "Borderline: Women in Informal Cross-border trade" (April 2019, Lilongwe (Malawi), Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Lusaka (Zambia)).

(f) Gender and Trade Executive Training Seminar on Gender Considerations in Trade Agreements (28 March 2019, Geneva).

(g) Side Event at CSW: Ensuring gender just trade: Challenges and ways forward (13 March 2019, New York).

(h) International Women's Day: A celebration of fashion and sustainability (7 March 2019, Geneva).

587. **Results.** The above activities yielded positive and multiplier effects in terms of enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into trade policy.

Delivery of online courses on trade and gender

588. According to the feedback received on the standard and regional editions of the online course on trade and gender, the courses succeeded in preparing participants to conduct their own research on the topic, and/or incorporate trade and gender concepts into their teaching, advocacy and policy-related work. The majority of participants reported that they had acquired the necessary skills to assist policymakers in their own country to mainstream gender in trade policy formulation and implementation. Overall, 57 per cent of participants enrolled in the standard iteration of the course rated it as “excellent”, while 33 per cent rated it as “very good”. Participants of the COMESA course rated the course as “excellent” (61 per cent of participants in the French iteration and 66 per cent in the English iteration), “very good” (31 per cent of participants in the French iteration and 25 per cent in the English iteration) or “satisfactory” (8 per cent of participants in the French iteration and 9 per cent in the English iteration). Nobody rated it as “unsatisfactory” or “poor”.

589. Below are some quotes from participants’ evaluations:

(a) “As I work at the Ministry in charge of gender in Burundi, I highly appreciated the content of all modules. The online course enabled me to take better targeted actions, through matching the content of the course with our national gender strategy.”

(b) “As an Economist I was familiar with the general effects of trade on countries and individuals, but narrowing down the effects, especially seeing them on a gender perspective was totally new to me.”

(c) “The course was very good in all spheres. I enjoyed the course materials, tutor and fellow participants for sharing their various ideas from around the globe. I have developed new skills and ideas on the content itself and this will take me to another level in my career and aspirations. I look forward to more challenging opportunities. Thank you.”

Availability of online courses in French and Spanish

590. The translation of the standard and COMESA courses in French allowed to broaden the audience of the courses. Indeed 52 French-speaking participants from 18 countries, mainly French-speaking African countries, benefitted from the iteration of the course in French. Hard copies of the modules were disseminated to courses’ participants, while the electronic versions are available on the UNCTAD website and benefit a broader audience.

Cross-border trade activities

591. The vast majority of policymakers who participated in the regional workshop held in Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania) on 4–5 December 2019 confirmed an increased understanding of women’s role in cross-border trade, and appreciated the relevance and usefulness of the policy recommendations outlined by UNCTAD. Specifically, 100 per cent of respondents confirmed improvement in their understanding of the role of women in cross-border trade, of the supply-side and border obstacles faced by them, as well as of the EAC and COMESA Simplified Trade Regimes (STRs), SADC Trade Protocol. Furthermore, all respondents from the three target countries found the policy recommendations useful and pertinent for their work.

592. In terms of results of the capacity building component, feedback received through evaluation questionnaires from 147 women cross-border traders who participated in the 5 border workshops was extremely positive. All but one respondent affirmed that they feel more confident to cross borders through formal crossings thanks to the training provided. 83 per cent stated that they feel “very much” or “extremely” more confident. 96 per cent of respondents who have not formalized their business stated that they may formalize it within next 12 months. Nine in ten respondents who expressed the wish to formalize soon,

acknowledged very high contribution of the training to their decision. Almost all respondents confirmed that they had improved knowledge of trader's rights and obligations.

Awareness raising events and policy dialogues

593. UNCTAD has been at the forefront of promoting policy dialogue on the trade-gender nexus. In 2019, it has organized or participated in a number of platforms in which national and international stakeholders have shared experiences and explored policy options on how to make trade and trade policy gender inclusive. The results of UNCTAD analytical, capacity-building and advocacy work on the trade-gender nexus have contributed to the global debate on trade and gender. Within the Trade Impact Group, UNCTAD has played an active role in the follow-up process to the Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade.

D3 Entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Table D3

Entrepreneurship development for sustainable development

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme Train for Trade II	2017–	European Union
NAM/0T/IAX	Entrepreneurship Development Namibia	2019–	United Nations Development Programme
SAU/0T/CBI	Entrepreneurship Development Programme (Saudi Arabia)	2014–	Saudi Arabia
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations
INT/0T/BBV	Strengthening SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	2012–	Private sector companies
ROA-1819 (AV11)	Promoting Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurship in East Africa, the Andean region and the Middle East	2018–	Development Account

594. **Development context.** The General Assembly of the United Nations, recalling its resolutions 67/202 of 21 December 2012, 69/210 of 19 December 2014 and 71/221 of 21 December 2016, emphasized the importance of improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and acknowledged UNCTAD work in entrepreneurship for development in its resolution 73/225,⁴³ adopted on 20 December 2018. Recognizing the value of entrepreneurship education, skills development and the dissemination of entrepreneurial thinking across all sectors, the General Assembly encouraged UNCTAD to continue with its behavioural approach programme, Empretec.

⁴³ United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/73/225 of 15 January 2019 titled “Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2018”. UNCTAD, in cooperation with UN DESA, prepared a report to review the progress of the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 71/221 “Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” since its adoption in December 2016. The report discusses best practices and initiatives taken to support entrepreneurship at national, regional and international levels, including on the identification, formulation, implementation and assessment of coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and MSME promotion.

Moreover, the principal ministerial declaration of the Conference (Azimio) in its paragraph 17 states: “We call upon UNCTAD to further develop its activities for promoting and facilitating investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development”. On the role of UNCTAD, the outcome document Maafikiano 76 (w) mandates UNCTAD to: Develop and disseminate further its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and assist developing countries in building a competitive microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises sector, as well as better integrating into global value chains, including through its Empretec programme, including for the promotion of youth and women’s entrepreneurship, and smallholding farmers;

595. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in September 2015, also emphasizes the role of entrepreneurship in sustainable development, particularly in Goals 4 and 8, namely:

(a) Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), target 4.4: “By 2030, sustainably increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”;

(b) Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), target 8.3: “Promote development oriented policies that support productive capacities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”.

596. These mandates underpin UNCTAD technical assistance work on entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

597. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD assistance to member States in promoting development-oriented policies that support entrepreneurship includes the identification, formulation, implementation and assessment of coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. The objective is to support member States, at their request, to design initiatives, and identify measures and institutions that will promote entrepreneurship across six interrelated priority areas:⁴⁴ formulating national entrepreneurship strategy; optimizing the regulatory environment; enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development; facilitating technology exchange and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking.

598. The other pillar of UNCTAD assistance to member States focuses on developing entrepreneurial skills and building local productive capacities of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), through UNCTAD Empretec and Business Linkages programmes.

599. Since its inception, the Empretec programme has been installed in more than 40 countries and has been assisting entrepreneurs by establishing self-sustained, local market-driven entrepreneurship development centres (Empretec national centres). In more than three decades of activity, almost 500,000 entrepreneurs have benefited from Empretec workshops and business development services available in the existing network of Empretec centres worldwide, improving their efficiency, and contribution to job creation in the hosting countries.

600. The Business Linkages programme seeks to upgrade the capacity of local suppliers and facilitate their integration into global and/or regional value chains through business links with large international or domestic companies. The programme currently operates in nine developing countries and has created substantial and mutually beneficial results, both for small suppliers and large domestic or international enterprises. The programme is increasingly geared to contribute to the SDGs, leveraging the incentives and resources of the private sector to adopt environmental and labour standards and ensure the beneficial inclusion of the poorest segment of the population, especially in rural settings.

⁴⁴ As identified in the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework - EPF, launched in 2012.

601. As evidenced by several years of implementation, UNCTAD business linkages country programmes allow domestic MSMEs, including rural enterprises, to diversify and add value to their production, thereby participating more gainfully and effectively in international production systems. Country interventions provide support for small local suppliers, for instance, to meet the environmental, labour and production standards of transnational corporations or develop the entrepreneurial mind-set of poor rural entrepreneurs and marginalized urban producers.

602. **Outputs.** The main outputs in 2019 in the areas of Entrepreneurship Policies, Empretec and Business Linkages are reported below.

Entrepreneurship policies

Ethiopia – National Entrepreneurship Strategy

603. The Government of Ethiopia recognized that the absence of a specific entrepreneurship strategy resulted in fragmented initiatives and duplicated efforts. For this reason, it requested assistance from UNCTAD and UNIDO to develop a national entrepreneurship strategy, which constituted an opportunity to design policies and strategies in all the pillars of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF) (regulations, education, innovation, access to finance, awareness and networking) as well as in other cross-sectional policy areas (women and youth, environmental sustainability, rural-urban linkages). UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and UNIDO engaged in a participatory process with all the relevant stakeholders, developing an evidence-based entrepreneurship strategy and ensuring ownership by all stakeholders. The final step in the consultation process for the development of the National Entrepreneurship Strategy of Ethiopia was a workshop organized in July that gathered more than 80 stakeholders, underlining the importance of coordination among different actors and the key participation of the private sector. The National Entrepreneurship Strategy of Ethiopia is designed to strengthen the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem and to create synergy among different policies, strategies and initiatives already implemented in the country.

Angola – National Entrepreneurship Strategy

604. As part of the activities of the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, the design of initiatives and measures to promote entrepreneurship is a key element of the UNCTAD Empretec component aimed at supporting the government of Angola to formulate an entrepreneurship strategy. The assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Angola on the six key dimensions of the UNCTAD EPF started in 2019, with the involvement of several stakeholders. Mapping and assessment activities include the analysis of responses to a questionnaire administered to 47 informed senior officials involved in policy making, research and/or financial and non-business development services providers to entrepreneurs, and private sector representatives, thus offering a broad and diverse representation of the actors in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The results gathered from the mapping, which was conducted with relevant Angolan stakeholders, will feed in the participatory mechanism that will lead, through focused discussions, to the prioritization of challenges and bottlenecks in the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Angola to be addressed by a national entrepreneurship strategy. The mapping will provide the Government of Angola with a detailed snapshot of the current entrepreneurship development landscape, and areas where policy intervention is needed. The first national stakeholder workshop is planned in 2020.

UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees

605. Further to the launch of the Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees in 2018, prepared in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in July 2019 UNCTAD delivered a training session on the guide in Jordan and participated in a panel on fostering the entrepreneurial potential of displaced people. The panel was held during the capacity-building workshop on "Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development", organized by the World Bank Centre for Mediterranean Integration. The panel explored the main obstacles to migrant and refugee entrepreneurship and recommended solutions, in line

with the policy measures included in the UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR Policy Guide. Forty-eight representatives of municipalities and local governments hosting refugees and internally displaced persons from Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Turkey, Uganda and the State of Palestine, met in Amman to explore mechanisms for boosting local economies in the context of forced displacement.

606. Later in October, UNCTAD and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with IOM, organized the first East African Regional Dialogue on Migration, Entrepreneurship and Development in Refugee Hosting Cities in Entebbe, Uganda. The event provided a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas between diverse groups of participants, including local authorities, civil society, the private sector, international organizations and development partners, and to discuss challenges and best practices in responding to the rapid influx of populations into their respective urban areas. Representatives from 8 African countries (Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) exchanged views and developed concrete action points to harness economic and entrepreneurship opportunities arising from new or increased migrant populations. During the event, UNCTAD held an interactive training session on the UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR Policy Guide, sharing best practices for increasing entrepreneurship opportunities that can facilitate livelihood generation for both migrant and host communities. During the Global Entrepreneurship Week, a photo exhibition was organized, in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR, to raise awareness on the role of entrepreneurship in addressing challenges with regard to migrants and refugees.

Empretec

607. In 2019, Empretec activities under the installation and consolidation phase continued in Angola, India, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and the United Republic of Tanzania, while the first workshops were organized, in collaboration with the local UNDP office and the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, in Namibia. An Empretec pilot workshop was also organized in Kyrgyzstan.

608. UNCTAD is following up on official requests for Empretec installation from 35 countries, and requests for assistance to revive Empretec activities in Mexico, Peru, Senegal and the State of Palestine where some training activities have been conducted in the past.

609. Among the achievements of the Empretec network in 2019, under the guidance of the UNCTAD Enterprise Branch, the following had a particular relevance at the global or country level:

- (a) The organization of the sixth Empretec Global Summit, in Bahrain, during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress;
- (b) The implementation of Empretec in Angola, with the organization of six Empretec training workshops and the certification of the first two Empretec National Trainers;
- (c) The launch of a new Empretec country programme in Namibia;
- (d) The organization of a pilot Empretec workshop in Kyrgyzstan;
- (e) The organization of an entrepreneurship training workshop for migrants and refugees in Ecuador, in collaboration with the local Empretec centre;
- (f) The organization of the first regional training-of-trainers (TOT) on a modernized Empretec workshop, hosted by the Empretec centre in Colombia and in collaboration with Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresa (SEBRAE);
- (g) The organization of the XXVI annual Empretec Directors meeting in Geneva to report on strategic and operational issues related to national Empretec programmes.

610. The following section provides some highlights on centres in the installation phase and more details about promising initiatives undertaken by some centres per region or geographic areas.

Empretec in Asia

611. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Japan Centre requested UNCTAD's collaboration in organizing and delivering a 2-day training workshop organized under the Women Entrepreneurs' Linkage Programme (AJWELP). The 2019 workshop, focusing on entrepreneurial capacity-building and presentation skills, took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in January and was organized in collaboration with the National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia (NAWEM), Empretec national counterpart. Twenty-six women entrepreneurs (9 from ASEAN member countries) attended the workshop. They received training on a set of competencies of successful entrepreneurs and practiced two business tools included in the Empretec modernized workshop. Participants showed appreciation for the training and unanimously positive remarks were voiced both from women entrepreneurs and ASEAN Japan Centre.

612. A pilot Empretec workshop was organized jointly by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan, with the financial support of the UNDP office in Kyrgyzstan, in July–August, in Bishkek, with a view to establishing an Empretec centre in the country. Thirty-five participants successfully completed the 6-day workshop and thanked the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan and UNDP for the opportunity to participate in the training workshop, recommending to replicate such events in the future to increase the business potential in the country and wider region.

613. The sixth Empretec workshop, since the inception of the programme in the country, took place in Malaysia at the beginning of December. The training workshop, organized by NAWEM and delivered by two international master trainers from Brazil, was followed by a four-day training-of-trainers workshop for Malaysian trainers on the Empretec methodology for low-literacy groups of participants. Both events contributed to strengthening the Empretec national programme and to providing the centre with further opportunities to meet training demands from vulnerable groups.

614. The Empretec centre in Jordan has been actively expanding the outreach of the programme to young people from different parts of Jordan: it initiated a one-stop programme that provides capacity-building and includes, besides the Empretec workshop, an introduction to social entrepreneurship and ideation, and business planning tools. This capacity-building stage is then followed by a technical support phase that includes the preparation of a feasibility study. Once the study is ready, applicants will submit their applications to credit institutions for a concessional loan with preferential terms and favourable conditions. In 2019, Empretec Jordan conducted 9 workshops for 250 young people in 8 different provinces, receiving wide media coverage during the visits of the King of Jordan, the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister and the Royal Hashemite Court Chief, who met with some beneficiaries and listened to the impact of the programme.

Empretec country activities in Africa

615. Under the framework of the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, UNCTAD conducted six Empretec training workshops between May and November 2019 in Luanda, Angola, with the support of international trainers from Brazil and Mozambique. 160 Empretec graduates, including established and aspiring MSME entrepreneurs, including women and youth, and other groups, which are regarded as priority groups by national authorities, benefitted from the 6-day behavioural training sessions. The on-the-job training process of four local trainee trainers for their certification as Empretec National Trainers included their participation to specific training-of-trainers' workshops (TOTs). Two of the four local trainee trainers received their certificates as Empretec National Trainers during a formal ceremony at the Ministry of Commerce at the beginning of December. A one-day seminar was also organized for executives and staff of *Prestígio* (Liga de Empresários e Executivos de Angola), a business association that expressed interest in hosting the Empretec programme in Angola. The seminar discussed concrete topics concerning the organization and preparation of Empretec workshops, how to promote the programme and reach out to potential participants, as well as how to build relations with local trainee trainers and other stakeholders of the European Union-UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola. Four more workshops, planned during the project time frame (2018–2021), will create a network of 400 Angolan empretecocos (Empretec

graduates) and allow for the certification of a team of local trainers. Evaluations carried out at the end of each training activity showed a consistent appreciation of the training by most participants (above 90 per cent), who rated the workshop as “excellent”. The Ministry of Commerce of Angola, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Planning, organized, during the months of August and September, a series of seminars on “Logistics and Investment in the Rural Trade Sector” throughout the provinces in Angola, aimed at endowing technical and operational knowledge on rural commerce. UNCTAD was invited to deliver two sessions on the benefits of its behaviour-based entrepreneurship development workshop (Empretec) on entrepreneurship promotion for rural entrepreneurs in Angola. The sessions focused on practical tools such as entrepreneurial skills, sustainable businesses, and planning and business model that are used in the Empretec workshop. The workshops to which UNCTAD was invited saw the participation of 220 delegates from various provinces, including Kwanza-North and South and Malange, Huambo and Huila. Several participants expressed interest in participating on the Empretec workshops and requested the Empretec team to have workshops conducted in the province of Huila.

616. On 16 October, the Empretec programme in Namibia was officially launched at the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development. As part of the national poverty reduction strategy of Namibia, UNCTAD has been supporting the Government of Namibia through the joint implementation of a UNDP project on enhancing entrepreneurship development. The project aims at increasing the number of skilled entrepreneurs as one of the means to reduce poverty in the country. The resulting transformational change will unleash the growth potential of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The first three Empretec workshops, conducted under the supervision of international trainers from Ghana and Brazil, took place during the month of October in Windhoek, benefiting 96 Namibian entrepreneurs. The overall assessment for the workshops received unanimously a high satisfactory rate.

617. In the United Republic of Tanzania, Empretec training continues to be complemented by business linkages activities. The number of entrepreneurs trained in four Empretec workshops in 2019 was 93 (52 women). Two of the four workshops took place in Moshi during the month of December, as part of UNCTAD assistance to vanilla farmers. Training activities were conducted in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organization (KWIECO) and the Kilimanjaro Vanilla Farmers Association.

Empretec country activities in Latin America

618. The first regional Training of Trainers’ workshop for Latin America, based on a modernized version of the Empretec entrepreneurship training methodology, took place in Bogotá, Colombia, in July. The event, organized by the Colombian Empretec centre, saw the participation of 19 certified Empretec trainers from six countries (Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and trainee trainers from Colombia. The purpose of the gathering was to provide experienced trainers from the region with an opportunity to learn about the most recent updates to the Empretec workshop methodology and structure, with a view to practicing the new and substantially modified training modules under the supervision of two Brazilian international master trainers. Participants appreciated the opportunity to learn about the new version and practice the modules which have gone through substantive changes. Thanks to the networking opportunity and the coordination among Latin American trainers, a new Spanish version of the modernized Empretec workshop was submitted to UNCTAD for standardization in December.

619. UNCTAD and its Empretec centre in Ecuador – Conquito organized, in collaboration with UNHCR, the first Empretec training workshop for migrants and refugees in Quito during the month of November. Thirty-four participants (19 women) attended the training workshop; 26 of them were migrants from Colombia, Cuba, Haiti and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Empretec country activities in the Russian Federation

620. Fifty entrepreneurs attended two Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshops (ETWs) organized in Samara, the Russian Federation, in February and March, in coordination with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Samara region. Participants of previous Empretec workshops in the same region, since the inception of the project in 2016, were invited to participate in an impact assessment workshop that took place in July, at the Samara Business Incubator. 50 participants attended the workshop and a follow up networking event. During the workshop, participants shared how Empretec affected their businesses. In the words of one of them: “In three years, my business did not bring me as much income as in two months after Empretec. I finally made my first million! Thank you for giving me the information about what competencies I lacked to become a successful businessman. I will continue to develop them. My goal has not been achieved yet, but it is significant for my personal growth”.

Empretec global network activities

621. UNCTAD participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC), organized in Bahrain during the month of April and attended by entrepreneurs, investors, corporates and civil society representatives and start-up champions. During the congress, UNCTAD held its sixth Empretec Global Summit, which provided attendees with a unique opportunity to network and learn about the Empretec mindset changing methodology, as well as explore and establish cross-border business links throughout the global Empretec network in more than 40 countries. The Summit discussed the role of inclusive entrepreneurship in addressing issues such as financial and social inclusion, and empowering vulnerable population groups such as youth, women, migrants and refugees.

622. Thirteen representatives from eleven Empretec national centres attended the XXVI annual meeting of Empretec Directors in Geneva, in December, highlighting major achievements over the past 12 months, and reporting on strategic and operational issues related to national Empretec programmes. Various sessions focussed on the standardization and roll-out of a new version of the 6-day Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW), inter-centre cooperation, how to raise the programme’s visibility and form strategic partnerships across the Empretec network. External speakers from global networks and NGOs offered opportunities for the centres to engage in partnerships to pursue inclusive business models.

623. UNCTAD continued its partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Week, organizing in collaboration with the IOM and UNHCR a photo exhibition⁴⁵ on migrant and refugee entrepreneurship to celebrate the global event. The competition featured photographic contributions from all over the world showing pictures of migrant and refugee entrepreneurs in their host countries.

Business Linkages

624. The following activities were carried out in 2019:

625. *Myanmar.* The implementation of a SECO-United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in Myanmar, funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), started in 2019 with desk research activities aimed at identifying potential local partners who could help UNCTAD in the implementation of field activities for the development of backward linkages between horticulture producers and sustainable tourism industry in the Southern Shan State. A list of local stakeholders, private sector associations and development partners has been prepared in December, in collaboration with UNCTAD Trade, Gender and Development programme. The analytical study and survey-based assessment provided useful insights on associations that support women farmers in the three project value chains (tea, ginger and avocado), with a view to involving them in capacity-building activities to develop farmers’ entrepreneurial skills, planned for 2020.

⁴⁵ Pictures available at <https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2240>.

626. *United Republic of Tanzania.* In October 2019, UNCTAD celebrated the second Responsible Tourism Awards (RTAs) event in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, in collaboration with Responsible Tourism Tanzania (RTTZ) and Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI). The initiative falls under the SECO/United Nations Cluster Trade Sector Development Programme for the United Republic of Tanzania, which aims to support sustainable tourism growth and create sustainable linkages between agricultural sectors and supply chains in tourism. The 2019 Responsible Tourism Tanzania awards meant to encourage innovative actions to protect the environment, integrate local people into responsible tourism chain and to transform the destination of the United Republic of Tanzania to a responsible tourism destination. Among the values emphasized by the award are innovations that take care of the environment, local people and cultures, impact on women and youth empowerment and positive contributions to Sustainable Development Goals while practicing tourism business. 105 applications were received for the 2019 RTAs, which awarded tourism companies, tour operators and accommodation facilities excelling in the following nine categories: Best in Supporting Conservation Efforts, Best in Resource Efficiency, Best in Community Support and Local Development, Best in Female Employment and Gender Support, Best in Cultural Preservation, Best in Youth Empowerment and Supporting Future Leaders in Conservation, Best Responsible Tour Operator, Best in Climate Action, and Best for SDG Implementations and Reporting.

627. Following the RTAs event in Arusha, a Training Workshop with Learning and Sharing Experience Event took place in Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania), in collaboration with RTTZ and ZATI. Fifty-six participants from different tourism-related sectors were engaged in interactive sessions animated by experts and speakers, who encouraged participants to identify challenges and opportunities in adopting responsible practices in tourism.

628. In collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organisation (KWIECO) and the Kilimanjaro Vanilla Farmers Cooperative, UNCTAD organized two ETWs and six Farming-as-a-Business (FaaB) workshops in Maili Sita, near Moshi. 58 vanilla farmers received Empretec training and 210 went through the FaaB workshops during the months of November and December. Vanilla farmers declared that the workshops helped them improving farming techniques and their business acumen.

629. **Results and impact.** The leading role of UNCTAD was recognized in the 2018 United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/RES/73/225), both in the area of entrepreneurship education and dissemination of entrepreneurial thinking, through the Empretec programme (paragraph 17), and in the area of support and assistance to member States on entrepreneurship policy and MSME promotion (paragraph 31).

630. The relevance of UNCTAD work on entrepreneurship policies is attested by a steady growth of requests of assistance from member States. Over the past few years, national entrepreneurship strategies have been developed in Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, and the entrepreneurial ecosystem mapping work has started in Angola. Requests for assistance on developing entrepreneurship strategies were received from Cabo Verde, Iraq, Morocco, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa.

631. Experts attending the UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development, noting that inclusive entrepreneurship offers many opportunities for economic growth, innovation and in promoting social cohesion, emphasized the need for establishing supportive and effective entrepreneurial ecosystems. UNCTAD assistance to member States in the area of entrepreneurship policies was much appreciated and country experiences, such as the one of Ethiopia, were cited as good examples of UNCTAD work. The UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, launched in 2018, was presented in the events held in Jordan and Uganda in 2019. Case studies contained in the Policy Guide were cited by experts as clear working examples of how entrepreneurship can help migrants' and refugees' integration in local entrepreneurial ecosystems.

632. During the first East African Regional Dialogue on Migration, Entrepreneurship and Development in Refugee Hosting Cities, held in Entebbe, Uganda, in October 2019, more

than 50 participants discussed ways to improve social cohesion between migrants and host communities and increase access to services for all, including by promoting entrepreneurship at the city level. They also developed concrete and prioritized action points including, among others, access to new markets and to transnational networks, generation of new business start-ups, transfer of knowledge, remittances and diaspora investment, introduction of innovative artisanal products or production techniques and creation of bridges with migrants and refugees home country. One hundred per cent of the participants rated the workshop as well organized and 92 per cent of the workshop participants rated its content as very relevant to their work (8 per cent of them as relevant). Some of the following testimonials were provided:

(a) “It was such a great experience for me. I believe that some of the recommendations which were presented by different country delegations will be certainly implemented.”

(b) “Overall, the workshop made great sense, was informative and insightful. Thanks for this great opportunity.”

(c) “The workshop was timely. It brought out the synergies among the participating agencies and this will support the development of migrant and refugee entrepreneurship in the region.”

633. Regarding the first Empretec training workshop for migrants and refugees in Quito in November 2019, most participants rated the workshop as excellent and some of their comments are quoted below:

(a) “Empretec opens the doors to the future. Thanks for sharing these tools for entrepreneurs and improving the world.”

(b) “I feel lucky for this wonderful opportunity. Thanks for giving us this opportunity for personal and professional growth.”

(c) “This course was one of the best I have received in my life: very complete and demanding.”

634. The Global Photograph Exhibition on Migration and Entrepreneurship, built on the work of IOM, UNHCR and UNCTAD on Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, provided visitors of the United Nations premises in Geneva with an opportunity to see the diversity of migrant and refugee economic contributions to the communities they live in and showed they came from a variety of industries, and across the globe. The 30 pictures selected for the exhibition raised wide interest and a request to host the exhibition at the European Parliament in Brussels was submitted to UNCTAD on behalf of the Parliament’s Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

635. Participants to the regional training-of-trainers’ workshop for Latin American Empretec trainers, held in Bogotá, in July, found the training very useful and appreciated the opportunity to exchange experiences and practice new tools and modified training modules. Further to the successful organization of this regional event, Empretec Colombia conducted 17 ETWs with the Empretec “modernized” format, training 342 entrepreneurs and involving 4 local trainers in the process. The new version of the Empretec workshop shows that participants are benefiting more from being exposed to two key prototyping and business modelling tools, and they are also more aware of the importance of sustainable businesses (economically viable, socially impactful and environmentally friendly). Under the leadership of the Empretec centre in Colombia, Spanish-speaking trainers completed an adaptation of the modernized version of the 6-day ETW to Spanish and submitted the training materials to UNCTAD for its standardization and further distribution among all Spanish-speaking centres. Similar training-of-trainers’ workshops for English-speaking and French-speaking Empretec trainers are planned for 2020.

636. Surveys regularly conducted by Empretec programmes in various countries, confirm the positive impact of Empretec on entrepreneurs.

637. In 2019, the Empretec programme in Brazil conducted 621 ETWs, training 13,200 entrepreneurs. Brazilian International Master Trainers, along with a trainer from Mozambique, supervised the on-the-job training of four Angolan trainee trainers, leading to

the certification of the first two national trainers in December 2019. In this respect, the Brazilian Empretec centre made available for the four Angolan trainee trainers their online training-of-trainers tool, which supported them throughout their certification process. The Empretec centre in Brazil conducted an impact assessment with over 2,000 respondents among their network of empretecos (Empretec graduates). The findings are in line with the ones of previous years: the Empretec training received a high-appreciation score of 9.2/10 and the Net Promoter Score (NPS)⁴⁶ was 86.6. To promote networking among empretecos, Empretec Brazil has been implementing an online platform, where entrepreneurs can meet, exchange ideas and explore business opportunities. The platform called “Workplace” is being used by more than 7,200 people.

638. In 2019, Empretec Gambia organized 10 Empretec workshops and 1 Master Class, training 250 people. In addition, 232 entrepreneurs received assistance from Empretec Gambia’s business development services advisors. The centre in the Gambia conducted a number of other training activities in collaboration with international donors, organizations and development partners. Several Empretec graduates competed for a number of international and national entrepreneurship awards/recognitions (such as start-ups competition or the Chamber of Commerce’s entrepreneurs of the year) ranking consistently among the top finalists.

639. Empretec Argentina surveyed participants who attended Empretec workshops in 2018. Twelve months later, business indicators showed a broadly positive impact in terms of sales (+54 per cent), employment (+23 per cent) and profitability (+46 per cent).

640. A similar impact assessment survey, conducted in Mauritius, showed that Empretec graduates, 12 months after the workshop, claimed increased sales (+72 per cent), employment (+20.2 per cent) and profitability of their business (+72.3 per cent).

641. Under the framework of Business Linkages activities in the United Republic of Tanzania, a preliminary assessment conducted on groups of vanilla farmers who received Empretec and Farming-as-a-Business workshops in the Moshi region demonstrated improved planning and monitoring on their businesses. They started keeping business records and using them to make decisions concerning their farming enterprise. One of the participants commented: “The trainings have helped me understand the importance of differentiating my business capital from household expenditure. Before that, I could use the little capital and profit from my business to cater for my household needs. At the end, I had nothing to reinvest at the farm. I had been rolling on the poverty status because of lack of knowledge and skills to do farming as a business.” Another one echoed: “I currently assess my farming project even before I sow the seeds. I project the farm inputs from the beginning of buying seeds, preparing the farm to the time of harvest; after that I record and seek advice from the extension officer or my fellow vanilla farmers. If I have no question/doubt, then I sow the seeds and cultivate my crops. This has helped me foresee my business in good and tough times from the beginning to the end of harvesting. I can now avoid unnecessary losses due to lack of keeping records”. The impact on business will be evaluated in 2020, as the training activities took place in November–December 2019. However, most of the farmers interviewed some weeks after the workshop showed a clear attitudinal change and a shift from subsistence agriculture to farming as a business.

642. Overall, the number of requests for UNCTAD assistance from member States in the area of entrepreneurship and enterprise development increased by 10 per cent from 2018 and reached a total of 40 from as many countries.

⁴⁶ The NPS is a management tool that can be used to gauge the loyalty of a firm’s customer relationships. It serves as an alternative to traditional customer satisfaction research and claims to be correlated with revenue growth.

D6 Train for Trade

Table D6
Train for Trade

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/4AB	Mise en place d'un projet de renforcement des capacités de formation portuaire pour les pays en développement (Programme Train for Trade)	2004–	Developing country ports
INT/0T/5BS	Coopération entre l'Autorité Portuaire de Valence (Espagne) et le programme Train for Trade de la CNUCED	2005–	Valencia port authority
INT/0T/6AR	Train for Trade Trust Fund	2006–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/7BR	UNCTAD/ Train for Trade Port Training Programme for English-Speaking Developing Countries	2007–	Ireland
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on Statistics and Data	2016–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (N11)	Leapfrogging skills development in e-Commerce in South-East Asia in the Framework of the 2030 Development Agenda	2018–	Development Account

643. **Development context.** With a view to supporting the development of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the UNCTAD Train for Trade Programme proposes tailored technical assistance to best meet countries' needs in key areas pertinent to trade. The Programme aims to develop local capacities and knowledge and skills, to empower countries to reap the benefits of international trade. The Programme promotes national ownership, supports South–South and triangular cooperation and leads to poverty reduction. Specifically, the Programme helps developing countries in building sustainable networks of knowledge, developing trade-oriented policies to reduce poverty and promoting ICT solutions and innovative thinking, to enhance the capacities of international trade players. In recent years, the Train for Trade Programme has enlarged its scope, with recognized expertise in international trade and port management. With regard to international trade, the Programme covers a number of interrelated areas, such as the following:

- (a) E-commerce, including issues such as the legal aspects of e-commerce, digital authentication and best practices;
- (b) Trade statistics, including statistics on international trade in services (SITS) and on international merchandise trade (IMTS);
- (c) Competition law and consumer protection.

644. The Train for Trade Port Management Programme (PMP) plays a vital role in supporting port communities in developing countries in quest for efficient and competitive port management. In many developing countries, ports play a key role in connecting them to international trade. Furthermore, 80 per cent of international trade is channelled through ports (this percentage is even higher in LDCs). Hence, the way the maritime sector is organized has a profound impact on trade volumes and transport costs and is therefore decisive for a country's competitiveness. Since the trade and maritime transport sectors are subject to constant regulatory changes, it is paramount that port officials are able to grasp the growing complexities of port management.

645. The Train for Trade programme contributes to various Sustainable Development Goals, including

(a) Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) by actively promoting women participation in all programme activities;

(b) Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) by providing sustainable and comprehensive training, capacity-building and knowledge exchange programme;

(c) Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) by encouraging port communities to implement proposals for corrective actions and innovations contained in Port Management Programme participants' dissertations;

(d) Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) by raising awareness of challenges for sustainable ports, including circular economy, air quality, environmental impact, green bank investment, decarbonization, climate change just to name a few; and

(e) Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) by building global partnership and consensus.

646. **Objective/features.** The Train for Trade programme contributes to work for development-led globalization, where the development paths are sustainable and inclusive, by disseminating international trade-related knowledge and developing skills and capacities. Train for Trade has proven to be very useful and instrumental in connecting UNCTAD research and analysis with sustainable capacity-building activities in developing and transition countries. TFT's activities help to facilitate South-South and North-South collaboration and foster communication between trade and training experts. UNCTAD Train for Trade's methodology includes training of trainers, coaching and blended learning. It provides the countries with a public-private partnership model, sustainable training and capacity-building, talent management scheme and systematic methodology combining blended learning and digital technology.

647. The PMP brings together public, private and international entities to share expertise and best practices. Talent management and leadership development is a crucial part of the Programme. The PMP operates through three language-based networks (English, French and Spanish) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Programme also hosts the high-end course on modern port management, which entails a powerful scheme to induce value added solutions in port communities and performance measurement indicators.

648. Partnerships have been established with European ports to share their knowledge and expertise with ports in the South. Annual regional meetings bring together port officials from different countries, promoting sharing of experiences and expertise. South-South collaboration between port communities is promoted as it is crucial for knowledge sharing. For example, exchange of participants is encouraged in order to increase participants' exposure to different port set-ups, as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge. Furthermore, the beneficiary ports of the Port Management Programme (Argentina, Benin, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Mauritania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania) continued to contribute financially to the Programme, including contributions to the Trust Fund. This self-sustaining aspect indicates the level of commitment and interest from the national port communities (public-private partnerships). Partnerships and synergies have also been established with regional organizations (the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI),⁴⁷ the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the West African Economic and

⁴⁷ Latin American Integration Association.

Monetary Union (UEMOA)) and international organizations (UNSD, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP, WTO). Moreover, the TFT programme collaborates with UNCTAD divisions/programmes according to the mandates/thematics and requests from beneficiaries.

649. The Programme also offers training-of-trainer courses and coaching sessions in order to support capacity development of the instructors. The modern port management course targets middle and senior managers and consists of 240 hours of training activities, which are divided into eight modules and delivered over a two-year span. The eight modules of the Modern Port Management course are:

- (a) International trade and transport;
- (b) Organization of a port system;
- (c) Functioning of a port system;
- (d) Challenges of sustainable ports;
- (e) Methods and tools of port management;
- (f) Economic, commercial and financial management;
- (g) Administrative and legal management;
- (h) Technical management and human resources development.

650. To obtain the UNCTAD Certificate in Modern Port Management, participants must complete each module and defend a dissertation. Many former participants in the modern port management programme become instructors and take more responsibility at the senior management level, thereby multiplying the effects of the Programme. Other indicators of the effectiveness of the Programme in the field are the validation of the quality of participant's dissertation by international and regional port experts, and the relevance of the dissertations (about 150 each year) to improve services in the port community.

651. **Outputs.** Under the Port Management Programme, the key outputs of the French-, English- and Spanish-speaking networks during the reporting period are highlighted below.

652. *French-speaking network.* In 2019, the French-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo.

653. The twenty-first Coordination Meeting of the French-speaking network took place in Lomé, Togo, from 10 to 11 April 2019. The participating Director Generals and Focal Points of the ports from Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo, three representatives of the UNCTAD and the representative of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations in Geneva, reviewed the activities of the network, exchanged best practices and agreed on the way forward.

654. A new cycle of training-of-trainers workshops (ToT) took place from 17 to 28 June in Marseille, France, with the participation of the port management experts from Cameroon, Gabon and Senegal and two experts from the Port of Marseille, for the delivery of the following modules of the Modern Port Management course:

- (a) Methods and tools of port management;
- (b) Economic, commercial and financial management;
- (c) Administrative and legal management;
- (d) Technical management and human resources development.

655. Port of Marseille-Fos has renewed the MoU with UNCTAD/TFT to collaborate with the Port Management Programme for the next 5 years. Following the signing of MoU, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ambassadors of Benin, Haiti, Togo and delegates of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo visited the Port of Marseille and met participants of the ToT workshop.

656. Following the delivery of the ToT workshop in Marseille, the training materials of the modern port management modules were updated in French.

657. From March 25 to April 8, 2019, the regional coaching training was held in Togo (Lomé). A total of 28 participants from the Train for Trade port network took part in online and face-to-face sessions comprising 7 modules.

658. In the French-speaking network, a number of exchanges of port instructors were organized involving Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo, which contributed to the South-South cooperation.

659. In Benin, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo, the panels of port experts, including a total of 62 experts from other countries from the network, assessed final work (called dissertations) of participants to award the Port Certificate upon successful results, which further contributed to the South-South exchange of knowledge and expertise.

660. *English-speaking network.* The English-speaking network continued to benefit from financial contributions of Irish Aid and the collaboration of Irish ports, namely Port of Cork Company (PoCC), Dublin Port Company (DPC), and Belfast Harbour Commissioners (BHC). Other port/maritime industry entities including terminal operators, logistics companies and cargo handling companies and the University of Cork provided support in-kind by allowing their experts time to deliver in the programme.

661. *Ghana.* In cooperation with Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), 21 middle managers (including 5 women) from the port communities of Ghana who were enrolled in the Cycle 5 of the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Ghana, participated in the following events in Tema:

- (a) Delivery of module 4 (25–29 November 2019);
- (b) Delivery of module 3 (30 September–4 October 2019);
- (c) Delivery of module 2 (17–21 June 2019);
- (d) Delivery of module 1 (1–5 April 2019).

662. *Malaysia.* In cooperation with Johor Port Berhad (JohorPort), 23 middle managers (including 10 women) from the JohorPort who were enrolled in the Cycle 1 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Malaysia, took part in the final dissertations in Johor (23–24 October 2019).

663. *Nigeria.* In cooperation with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), 23 middle managers (including 5 women) from the port communities who were enrolled in the Cycle 2 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Nigeria, took part in the final dissertations in Lagos (27–29 August 2019). In the panel of experts an expert from Ghana was present, contributing to the South-South cooperation.

664. *Philippines.* In cooperation with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), 22 middle managers (including 10 women) from the port communities of the Philippines who were enrolled in the Cycle 3 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for the Philippines, took part in the following events in Manila:

- (a) Delivery of module 7 (1–5 December 2019);
- (b) Delivery of module 6 (20–24 October 2019);
- (c) Delivery of module 5 (11–15 August 2019);
- (d) Delivery of module 4 (16–20 June 2019);
- (e) Delivery of module 3 (19–23 May 2019);
- (f) Delivery of module 2 (21–25 April 2019);
- (g) Delivery of module 1 (4–8 March 2019).

665. *United Republic of Tanzania:* As a former member of the UNCTAD Port Management Programme from 2007–2013, Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has expressed interest to rejoin the programme. An assessment mission was organized on 6–8 February 2019 to present the latest development of the programme and the steps to be taken for TPA to prepare for the launch of Cycle 3 in the future.

666. *Kenya*: Kenya Port Authority (KPA) has expressed interest to join the UNCTAD Port Management Programme. A needs assessment mission was organized on 4–6 February 2019 to present the features of the UNCTAD PMP and discuss the possibility for KPA to join the programme. Five port managers from KPA took part in the Training of Trainers workshop (eLearning and face-to-face) in Belfast, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

667. The Training of Trainers Workshop 2019 of the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme English-speaking network was held from 3 to 10 July 2019 in Belfast, United Kingdom. The workshop was co-organized by Belfast Harbour Commissioners, in cooperation with Dublin Port Company, the Port of Cork Company and with the support of Irish Aid.

668. In 2019, a number of exchanges of port instructors were organized in the English-speaking network involving Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and the Philippines, which also contributed to South-South cooperation.

669. Discussions have been initiated with the Danube Commission regarding the Train for Trade Port Management Programme English-speaking Network and future potential for capacity building activities related to the river ports of their 11 member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine).

670. *Spanish-speaking network*. The Spanish-speaking network benefits from the collaboration of ports of Valencia and Gijon (Spain). The Port Authority of Valencia also gives a financial contribution to the programme.

671. The Training of Trainers workshop of modules 1 to 4 of the Modern Port Management course was organized in Valencia, Spain, from 25 March to 5 April 2019, with the cooperation of the Port Authorities of Gijon and Valencia. 20 port managers (including 6 women) from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru participated in the course. The aim of the course was to prepare the senior managers for their roles as future instructors to deliver modules 1 to 4 in their port communities.

672. With the delivery of modules 1 to 4 of the course Modern Port Management for senior and middle port managers of Port Communities, the Plurinational State of Bolivia started the second cycle, the Dominican Republic started the fourth cycle and Peru started the sixth cycle of the course. Modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade).

673. With the delivery of modules 5 to 8 and the dissertations, for which the panel of experts included a total of 4 experts from other beneficiary countries from the network, Argentina completed the second cycle of the said course. Modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade).

674. The International Coordination Meeting of the Spanish-speaking network was held in Argentina on 27 November with the participation of representatives of the member countries, the Spanish Port Authorities of Valencia and Gijon and UNCTAD. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the results of the cycles and to evaluate the scope of strengthening and expanding the programme.

675. A study tour was organized in Gijon, Spain, for a total of eight participants from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Peru who spent a week in the port of Gijon with experts from the Port Authority.

676. In 2019, a number of exchanges of port instructors were organized in the network, involving Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, which also contributed to South-South cooperation.

677. The Port Management Series Volume 7 (PMS7) was issued, which presents the top 12 Port Management case-studies from 2015 to 2018 of the Spanish-speaking network of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme. It also presents eight additional case studies that were successfully implemented in the member countries, promoting efficiency in ports. This publication focused on the research done by the participants from member

countries (Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Peru) and the impact of the programme.

678. From 1 to 3 October, 10 high-level executives from the port communities of the Dominican Republic participated in the Workshop on Port Management for Directors, including the Director General from the Autoridad Portuaria Dominicana (APORDOM) as well as the Executive Director of Port Santo Domingo.

679. Train for Trade has been developing a way to monitor and measure the performance of the member ports over time – a Port Performance Scorecard (PPS). The main objective of PPS is to provide members of the programme with a useful tool allowing performance benchmarking and port and regional comparison on a yearly basis.

680. In addition to the Port Management Programme, TFT in collaboration with WTO, UNSD and UNCTAD/Statistics delivered an online course on Trade in Services Statistics (SITS) from 21 October to 29 November 2019 for 704 participants (444 women) from 126 countries. This is in response to several demands for technical assistance in trade-in-services statistics and addresses directly the aims of Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A follow-up face-to-face workshop was organized from 2 to 6 December 2019 in WTO with the collaboration of UNSD and UNCTAD/Statistics for 28 participants (15 women).

681. The online course on International Merchandise Trade Statistic was delivered from 25 March to 5 May 2019 with 768 participants (408 women).

682. The online course on Digital Identity for Trade and Development organized with cooperation with UNCTRAL, UNESCAP, The World Bank and the Government of Singapore was delivered from 26 August to 27 September with 188 participants (70 women). A follow-up face-to-face workshop in Singapore was organized from 29 October to 1 November and was attended by 26 participants (10 women).

683. The online course on E-commerce Best Practices organized with cooperation with UNESCAP was delivered from 1 April to 3 May with 264 participants (141 women). A follow-up face-to-face workshop in Manila was organized from 20 to 23 May and was attended by 35 participants (16 women).

684. **Results/impact.** In 2019 the Train for Trade enhanced skills and abilities of about 3000 trade practitioners⁴⁸ (almost 1400 women) from 168 countries and areas through various courses and activities. It is summarized in the table below.

Number of trade practitioners who enhanced their skills and expertise through various courses and activities in 2019

<i>Area</i>	<i>Total number</i>	<i>Women</i>
Port Management Programme	795	228
French-speaking network	502	146
English-speaking network	142	48
Spanish-speaking network	151	34
Statistics on International Trade in Services blended learning course	732	459
Online component	704	444
Face-to-face workshop	28	15
International Merchandise Trade Statistics online course	768	408

⁴⁸ If a person entered more than one training programmes in 2019, each participation is counted separately.

Number of trade practitioners who enhanced their skills and expertise through various courses and activities in 2019

<i>Area</i>	<i>Total number</i>	<i>Women</i>
Digital Identity for Trade and Development blended learning course	214	80
Online component	188	70
Face-to-face workshop	26	10
E-commerce Best Practices	299	157
Online component	264	141
Face-to-face workshop	35	16

685. In 2019, the Port Management Programme participants prepared a total of 241 dissertations (147, 54 and 40 in French-, English- and Spanish-speaking networks respectively) with proposals of improvements to the port communities, which were positively evaluated by local and international subject matter experts. These proposals will have big chance of being implemented by the port authorities.

686. *French-speaking network.* In 2019 the average values for performance indicators were the following: satisfaction rate: 86.8 per cent and success rate: 74.6 per cent.

687. The twenty-first coordination meeting of the French-speaking network made it possible to carry out a complete assessment of the activities carried out during the past year and to define jointly the adjustments to be made to improve the replication mechanism of capacity building in the respective port communities.

688. During the training of trainers, a number of examples in particular on maintenance, legal and human resources issues were exchanged and discussed among participants which can be directly implemented by participants upon their return to their respective countries.

689. The national Port Management Programme training cycles in the nine African and Caribbean countries have increased the number of port agents who benefit from the support of the African port authorities and the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme.

690. The exchange of port network instructors is an excellent example of South-South cooperation supported by the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme. These exchanges allow exchange of knowledge and port practices between countries of the region, which often share common issues.

691. ToT seminars is one of the central points of the port capacity-building strategy of the Train for Trade programme. It makes it possible to capitalize on the knowledge of senior managers in order to replicate it together with best practices in member port communities.

692. *English-speaking network.* In 2019 the average values for performance indicators were the following: satisfaction rate: 94.1 per cent and success rate: 75.2 per cent.

693. *Ghana:* Port experts from Ireland, Malaysia and Nigeria, delivered Modules 1–4, promoting South-South cooperation, as well as networking and exchange of best practices among member ports. 22 participants completed modules 1 to 4. These modules were also co-delivered by port experts from Ghana who are certified as instructors by Train for Trade.

694. *Malaysia:* Port experts from UNCTAD, Dublin Port Company and Philippine Ports Authority, as well as senior managers from Johor Port Berhad (JPB) took part in the juries that assessed the case studies of 23 managers from the port community of JohorPort who have successfully completed the 8 modules of the Modern Port Management Course. 21 participants passed their dissertations and received the UNCTAD Modern Port Management Certificate. The top three best dissertations will have the opportunity to be featured in the upcoming Port Management Series.

695. *Nigeria*: Port experts from UNCTAD, Ghana and Ireland, as well as senior managers from Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) took part in the juries that assessed the case studies of 25 managers from the port communities of Nigeria who have successfully completed the 8 modules of the Modern Port Management Course. Fourteen participants passed their dissertations and received the UNCTAD Modern Port Management Certificate. The top three best dissertations will have the opportunity to be featured in the upcoming Port Management Series.

696. *Philippines*: Port experts from Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia and Spain delivered Modules 1–7, promoting South-South cooperation, as well as networking and exchange of best practices among member ports of the Network. Twenty-one participants completed modules 1 to 7. These modules were also co-delivered by port experts from the Philippines who are certified as instructors by Train for Trade.

697. The UNCTAD Advisory Group twelfth ad hoc expert meeting on “Future Challenges for Port Managers,” was held from 11–12 November 2019 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. 25 participants, including port partners, experts and peers discussed the latest developments and update to the training package on Module 4 of the Port Management Programme that will be now called: “Challenges of Sustainable Ports”.

698. *Spanish-speaking network*. In 2019 the average values for performance indicators were the following: satisfaction rate: 92.6 per cent and success rate: 81.8 per cent.

699. The instructors trained by Train for Trade in the Training of Trainers workshop participated in the delivery of the modules 1 to 4 of the course on Modern Port Management in Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Peru, which clearly shows a multiplier effect in the capacity-building process in the member ports of the programme. It is also important to mention that some participants from previous cycles have now reached higher positions of responsibilities in their port communities.

700. The launch of new cycles in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Peru demonstrates the importance and sustainability of the programme.

701. Eleven participants from Argentina presented their final work and obtained the UNCTAD certificate. Those projects aimed to identify a problem in the port, and to propose a feasible solution. Some of the projects are being implemented to improve the efficiency of the ports.

702. The International Coordination Meeting concluded with a positive evaluation of the Port Management Programme in view of the effectiveness, sustainability, South-South cooperation component and impact. The meeting concluded with the work plan for 2020. Country members also agreed to continue financing their participation in the Port Management Programme.

703. The study tour in Gijon (Spain) was an opportunity to learn in situ about the experience and operational effectiveness of port of Gijon and exchange experience with port experts.

704. Based on the balanced scorecard concept, 26 indicators were identified, collected and classified into six main categories since 2010: finance, human resources, gender, vessel operations, cargo operations and environment. The global average is calculated based on a five-year rolling back average.

705. The launch of volume 7 of the Port Management Series presented the best case-studies from the Spanish-speaking network of the Port Management Programme. Port managers are encouraged to seek opportunities to implement the case study material prepared by successful candidates from the Port Management Programme.

706. In the workshop for directors, participated as instructors the Director General and the Strategic Planning Director of Port Authority of Valencia, the Human Resources Director and Commercial Director of Port Authority of Gijon and a representative from UNCTAD. The satisfaction rate of the workshop was 98.52 per cent and the women’s participation rate was 20 per cent.

707. In 2019, two e-learning courses on international trade statistics concepts and definitions funded by the tenth tranche of Development Account and jointly operated by UNCTAD, UNSD and WTO had reached 157 countries with a total of 1,472 participants. Each course run for 6 weeks and participants had a chance to interact with facilitators and among themselves to ask questions, share experiences and contribute to discussion topics. The high quality of course materials is ensured by applying the UNCTAD Train for Trade methodology and by the participation of members of the Inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics during its development and validation workshops.

D99 Other

Table D99

Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Division on Globalization and Development Strategies</i>			
INT/0T/6AP	Trust Fund for the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development	2006–	Multi-donor
<i>Division on Investment and Enterprise</i>			
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
<i>Office of the Secretary-General</i>			
GLO/0T/ABA	Support and capacity-building for Group of 77 countries	2010–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/1AK	Financing of participation of Experts from Developing Countries and Countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD Expert Group Meetings	2001–	Finland, Iceland and Mauritius

1. Management and coordination

Financing of experts for UNCTAD expert meetings

708. The trust fund for the financing of experts attending UNCTAD expert meetings was used to finance the travel of 11 experts from developing countries to enable them to participate in one of the multi-year expert meetings or to the single-year expert meeting held in Geneva in 2019.

Cabinet briefings initiative

709. The UNCTAD cabinet briefings initiative, launched by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in 2015, aims at supporting member States – in particular LDCs – in their efforts to design national development strategies oriented towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the invitation of the Head of State or Government of a country, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD leads a delegation of high-level policy practitioners and eminent resource persons to deliver a series of briefings. Held at the ministerial level, the cabinet briefings are made at a retreat that gathers members of a Government's cabinet. Cabinet members are given an opportunity to engage in substantive discussions and tailor-made briefing sessions that focus on economic development and trade issues.

710. From 28 to 30 March 2019, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD led a delegation of trade practitioners and eminent resource persons to Gaborone to conduct a cabinet briefing.

711. Invited by the President of Botswana, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and his delegation met with the Cabinet to share insights on global developments and their linkages to the development agenda of Botswana in view of the country's strategy to transform from a resource-based economy to a knowledge based one. Issues of particular interest were investment promotion, tourism, the digital economy and productive capacities.

2. Virtual Institute

712. **Development context.** The capacities of developing countries to undertake economic analysis, formulate national policies and implement them to achieve their development objectives is lacking in many respects. Universities and research centres can play an essential role in building such capacities, as they educate future decision-makers and can provide analytical inputs to inform their Governments' economic policy decisions.

713. **Objectives and features.** The Virtual Institute (Vi) is the UNCTAD programme of support to academia. Its ultimate objective is to help developing countries design evidence-based policies that result in inclusive and sustainable development. To this end, the Vi offers capacity-building opportunities to academics and researchers so that they may prepare qualified decision-makers and provide analyses to underpin the formulation of economic policies in their countries.

714. **Outputs.** In 2019, the Virtual Institute continued to provide its member institutions with services mainly in two areas: (a) professional development for academics and (b) facilitation of cooperation among the members of its academic network and dissemination of UNCTAD research to the academic community. During the period under review, the Vi continued to receive financial support from the Government of Finland.

715. The Vi continued its capacity-building efforts in 2019. The Vi delivered another online course in 2019 on Structural Transformation and Industrialization and has been working on developing an online course on the Global Green New Deal. The Vi organized one videoconference for the Institute of Business Administration (Pakistan), and three study tours: one for a consortium of universities from the Russian Federation, another for the University of West Indies and the last for Belarus. In addition to the online courses, study tours and videoconferences, Vi has been publishing short video-articles to increase capacity, and awareness on macroeconomic issues among young scholars and policymakers. In 2019, the Vi organized a summer school on the Global Green New Deal from 26 to 30 August 2019, which was attended by 70 participants from 40 countries. Lastly, the Vi has been instrumental in supporting the production of and dissemination of a promotional video, and organization of different workshops in Mexico, South Africa and the United States of America on the Global Green New Deal.

716. In 2020, our efforts are focused on preparing an online course on Global Green New Deal to offer through the Virtual Institute platform. The textbook is ready and the Vi is preparing to launch the first module in the coming month.

717. **Results.** The Virtual Institute contributed to enhanced teaching and research on trade and development issues at member institutions and increased policy orientation of their work by providing support for the development of both individual and institutional capacities in this area. The multiplier effect of Vi online courses, videoconferences and study tours, as well as the distribution of UNCTAD publications embedded the organization's research and perspective in graduate programmes at numerous universities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

3. Course on key issues on the international economic agenda – paragraph 166

718. **Development context.** Located in the Knowledge Development Branch (KDB) of the Division of Technology and Logistics (DTL), the Policy Capacity Building Section (PCBS)/P166 delivers the courses on key economic, development, and trade related matters (also known as P166 courses). It delivers the short courses (half-day) for Geneva-based delegates and regional courses for policy makers from five developing regions. The beneficiaries are mainly mid-level government officials working at relevant public institutions; however, academics at times are considered for participation. The programme also coordinates and works closely with the permanent missions to the United Nations

based in Geneva over the processes involved in the nominations of capital-based policy makers for regional courses, on the one hand, and the selection of topics for short courses, on the other hand. For instance, both the UNCTAD notifications for regional and short courses are channelled via the permanent missions in Geneva, with the former geared toward capitals and the latter toward Geneva-based delegates.

719. The mandate of the programme was delineated in Paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, which was adopted at the tenth session of the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference, calling on it to strengthen its capacity building activities, particularly through training courses on key economic, trade, and development matters. The paragraph also underlines that the content of the training should draw on the expertise and policy analysis of the UNCTAD secretariat. Since then, this mandate was renewed by the São Paulo Consensus, the Accra Accord and the Doha Declaration and reaffirmed in Nairobi in 2016 at UNCTAD XIV.

720. The regional courses are inducted in the UNCTAD mandate and are cross-divisional in terms of content. The curricula are designed and developed by PCBS, in collaboration with the experts from various Divisions. During the design phase, collaboration is also sought with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and with national experts to ensure coherence among the various themes of the economic policy framework. Ranging from economic theories to trade policy, FDI, among other topics, the programme focuses on sustainable development as a central theme. In illustrating how economic policies have an impact, the curricula are integrated and showcase the various models of development.

721. Additionally, the curricula for regional courses in 2019 continued to illustrate the formulation of development policies and strategies, placing them within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. Essentially, this provides policymakers with the overall framework for development policies in the 2015–2030 era. The training includes a number of lectures on economic, trade and finance theories and their relevance to policy development, the role of investment and technology, along with detailed case studies and lessons learned from previous policy decisions. It is designed to promote critical thinking, with emphasis on policy design, coherence, coordination, implementation and measurement. Central to the course are simulation exercises, examinations and critiques of best practices in policy development, group work and debates.

722. **Objectives and features.** The overall curricula of the regional courses include three modules and adopt a fully integrated and interrelated approach for several substantive topics developed in the research work of UNCTAD. Additionally, it is adapted to each developing region and contributes to knowledge development and the understanding of contemporary economic issues among trade policy officials, finance and investment experts and academics who work in these areas. The curriculum generated for each region focuses on the development of appropriate trade, finance, investment, innovation and technology policies that are critical to achieve economic gains, and in parallel meet the development objectives of participating countries.

723. Achieving macroeconomic stability, with a sound monetary and fiscal regime, is significant in the design of and support for development objectives. The need to stimulate productive investment, develop local markets and promote diversification will require adopting relevant industrial policies. This also suggests that public investment itself should target increasing human capital and providing infrastructure for development and vice versa. The importance of developing a relevant industrial policy is key to the concept of developing and implementing policies for economic growth. For example, and as the curricula illustrate, science and technology impacts innovation in agriculture, energy and other areas and plays an important role in providing value added to products that have domestic and international appeal. Remaining competitive, whether in promoting domestic activity or in export-oriented sectors, for example, is crucial to ensuring long-term economic growth. The curricula also focus on the importance of logistics to facilitate trade to ensure sustainable exports and imports. Trade negotiations, whether at the multilateral, regional or bilateral levels, that directly generate benefits from trade and investment and bring development gains are an essential part of the course.

724. In 2019, both face-to-face instruction and distance learning have been delivered as part of UNCTAD regional courses. An e-learning module on the history of UNCTAD continued to be utilized to prepare selected participants ahead of the regional course. The module is divided into four parts, covering comprehensive knowledge on the UNCTAD's history, its three pillars of work and structure, the role of UNCTAD and other international organizations, and UNCTAD achievements and contributions. The module includes quizzes and a final assessment. Selected participants must successfully complete the final assessment as a prerequisite to the face-to-face sessions later scheduled in respective host countries. This module enhances participants' knowledge on UNCTAD and its mandate, including contributions and achievements, preparing the participants for the course work.

725. **Outputs.** In 2019, three regional courses were coordinated and delivered for African economies (Nairobi, 25 March–5 April 2019); Latin America and the Caribbean economies (Medellín, Colombia, 22 July – 2 August 2019); and Asia and the Pacific economies (Singapore, 18–29 November 2019). A total of 77 policymakers and academics, from 47 countries, completed the courses, representing Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Comoros, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guyana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Among all participants, 40 per cent were women.

726. The multi-year venue continued to be an innovative way of raising support, gaining experiences from various economies, and enhancing bilateral cooperation at the country level. The contribution of national experts in shedding light on the national and regional experience is of significance to the programme's curricula in enhancing knowledge and boosting human capital among policymakers. In 2019, three proposals were submitted from Eastern European economies for hosting the course from 2020–2024. As a result, the Advisory Body of P166 met on 14 January 2020 and established the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Economics, Skopje as the multi-venue for Eastern Europe's economies: 2020, 2022, and 2024. The number of proposals submitted showcases the support that member States provide to P166/PCBS UNCTAD flagship courses, both in terms of financial and human resources.

727. In 2019, the multi-venue for the three regional courses were:

- (a) University of Nairobi, courses from 2019 to 2023 for African economies;
- (b) EAFIT University, courses from 2015–2019 for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (c) The Singapore Cooperation Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, courses from 2015 to 2019 for Asia and the Pacific.

728. The short courses continued to update Geneva-based delegates on recent UNCTAD research on development, economic and trade matters. In cooperation with several UNCTAD divisions, six short editions were offered in the second and third quarters of 2019 on the following:

- (a) Trade, trade policy and inequality (19 March);
- (b) Better trade for the Sustainable Development Goals: Using trade as a motor for achieving the Goals (12 April);
- (c) Commodity dependence and development (30 April);
- (d) Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals (18 October);
- (e) The digital economy and the challenge of structural transformation in developing countries (8 November);
- (f) Creative economy for development (6 December).

729. A total of 176 delegates from 143 permanent missions participated in these editions. Out of the total, 75 participants were women, representing 43 per cent of overall participants, an 8 per cent increase in female representation from the previous year.

730. The short courses provide a platform where UNCTAD experts are given the opportunity to present their recent research to delegates, while the comments and questions from delegates provide relevant input and potential research topics to UNCTAD work. This informed dialogue between UNCTAD researchers and Geneva-based representatives of member States, bridges the knowledge gap and ensures information-sharing. These sessions are on average well attended and provide a forum for delegates and UNCTAD research experts to debate and exchange views.

731. In addition to the regional and short courses, a pilot interregional platform was rolled out for the first time in Geneva. This pilot interregional platform was held in parallel with the Trade and Development Board meeting in 2019. The request to bring together alumni participants of regional courses was made by member States during the Trade and Development Board in 2017 and 2018. The pilot brought together alumni participants from five regions, to share cross-regional perspectives and to have a follow-up training.

732. Additionally, the interregional pilot platform highlighted sharing experiences between regional course participants as a critical element in policy formulation. Topical economic issues at the regional, national and global level were explored, along with implications for development strategies globally and particularly for the South. This platform also provided the participants with the latest UNCTAD research findings and technical assistance, as relevant to the three modules delivered during regional courses (2016–2017).

733. The follow-up training sessions were concise and used the UNCTAD integrated approach to discuss development challenges, examining the interdependence between different policy areas, including macroeconomic policies. It was emphasized that the pursuit of national and international development policies and strategies should be placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

734. The pilot interregional platform was delivered to bring the alumni of the P166 flagship regional course together (Geneva, 24–26 June 2019). From five developing regions, 20 alumni policymakers and academics from 20 countries (Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Estonia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and State of Palestine) completed the pilot and received a follow-up training.

735. **Results and impacts.** Following the completion of the training, most participants from the courses in Nairobi, Medellín (Colombia) and Singapore indicated that the course led to improved knowledge on development, economic and trade issues. They have noted a deepened understanding of the importance of the role of international trade in improving economic development, including the links between international economic, social and financial issues. The approach to link theory, policy and practice in economic policy development was highly rated. Its approach to trade, development and investment at the regional and international levels was also useful for the participants.

736. The evaluations of the regional courses continued to illustrate that participants and their sending departments appreciated the debates on development-related topics and the integrated approach of the programme to ensuring that economic gains benefit development. This is inherent in the design of the curriculum, which treats development from the multiple perspectives of trade, finance, investment and technology. It highlights that the debates and design and implementation of appropriate economic policies can contribute to growth and the development process in general.

737. The Director General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Papua New Guinea who participated in the forty-third regional course held in Singapore indicated, "The UNCTAD P166 course was structured and the modules were presented by professionals, who have studied and worked on issues and challenges of countries across

the globe. The modules presented on issues relating to macro-economic issues, trade policy and trade facilitation are very important to a developing economy. The knowledge learned will be used to share with other young officers to be aware of some of these issues and challenges. I thank UNCTAD for the opportunity to attend and participate in this course.”

738. Another participant from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba who attended the forty-second regional course indicated, “It has been an excellent course with high professional level. It allowed me to obtain new knowledge that I will apply to my country in accordance with current economic trends in international trade, FDI and sustainable development.”

739. To recapitulate, most participants praised the lessons learned from the experiences of other countries and how economic gains can be achieved. Most participants expressed that the curricula had surpassed their expectations, as the courses provide overall knowledge on economic issues and development matters. They also stated that they learned about global economic issues, why economic changes take place and how economies are impacted. Equally important, they indicated they understood well how to tackle economic related issues through policy. The case studies presented in Nairobi, Medellín (Colombia) and Singapore were particularly helpful to most participants from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin American and the Caribbean who found that the experiences and lessons learned could be adjusted and utilized to improve their countries’ economic trajectory, trade policy, institutional framework design and sustainable development.

740. Following courses held previously, and in an ex post assessment, several participants also reported that they were already using the knowledge and tools acquired in their daily work, such as improvement of economic policy, trade negotiations, policy formulation, strategic planning, attracting FDI, employment creation as well as providing advisory services. Many also reported a better understanding of trade agreements and objectives, and the role they can take on in negotiating them, maximizing the benefits for their countries. Overall, participants complimented the curricula’s ability to promote debate and highlighted the policy development role-playing exercises as an example of how knowledge could be shared among policymakers, both at the national and regional level.

741. Additionally, many noted that the knowledge gained helped them achieve a better understanding of contemporary economic issues and how to cope with the challenges of the new multilateral trading system. Several participants indicated strengthened ability to employ analytical tools in the decision-making process in pursuit of relevant development policies to address economic challenges. Many also mentioned the linkages among international trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation as key pillars of the development strategy.
