



**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
QUADRIENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW**

**15 October 2012**

**Statement on behalf of the  
United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity**

The United Nations Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity was officially launched in April 2008, at UNCTAD XII, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The members of the Cluster include UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, ITC, WTO, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, UNCITRAL, UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, and UNOPS. This is a unique UN-wide effort to coordinate the trade-related development contributions of different entities to the global agendas of Aid for Trade, the Millennium Development Goals and the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda. The Cluster has greatly contributed to system-wide coherence by providing coordinated technical assistance at the national and regional levels in the area of international trade and productive capacity.

UNCTAD facilitates coordination between these UN entities with a view to avoiding duplication, ensuring efficiency, and more importantly, adding value to the quality of the UN assistance through the diverse expertise that exists within the UN system.

The joint programmes of the Cluster can address the complex needs of several sectors of developing countries' economies. Various modalities of assistance, particularly policy advice, can be delivered at the micro and macro levels as requested by national authorities and in the context of UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

Examples of the operations coordinated by the Cluster include actions linking trade to employment policy, food security concerns and trade negotiations, environmental goals and industrial policies, support to the export enterprises to improve their international competitiveness and facilitate access to markets and investment promotion policies, and many other issues of concern. Regional agendas are fully taken into account thanks to the participation, within the Cluster, of the UN Regional Commissions. Cooperation with other international organizations, financial institutions and bilateral donors is always welcome as required in each country and as agreed with national authorities.

We believe that the development impact of the Cluster at the field level is wider and deeper than the impact achieved by the operations of agencies acting alone.

As a contribution to the General Assembly debate on the QCPR, and in light of the results achieved by this interagency mechanism in terms of coordination and coherence, the UN entities that are members of the Cluster would like to emphasize that:

- i) A thematic inter-agency mechanism such as the Cluster is a strategic instrument in the effective operationalisation of system-wide coherence.
- ii) By acting together when formulating, delivering and monitoring the impact of their assistance, the UN entities can be better aligned with national development strategies.
- iii) The Post-2015 Development Agenda should be the road map and the driving force for further progress in the delivery of UN joint programmes of development assistance.
- iv) Donors' support to joint programmes such as those of the Cluster, in particular through the Multi-Partner Trust Funds, is critical to ensure sustainable, predictable and timely assistance from UN agencies to achieve higher levels of efficiency and coherence in the delivery of trade-related assistance.

The entities of the Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity stand ready to implement, in a coordinated fashion, the mandates of the General Assembly that will result from this debate on the QCPR.

Thank you, Chair.