



# Activity Report 2012

## **DITC**



DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES



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**UNCTAD/DITC/2013/1**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **AN OVERVIEW OF DITC ACTIVITIES IN 2012**

UNCTAD is the focal point of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) is responsible for subprogramme 3 on international trade, established by the United Nations General Assembly under section 12 (trade and development) of the United Nations strategic framework and programme budget. The present report summarizes the Division's outputs delivered in 2012 under the three pillars of UNCTAD's work (consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance and capacity-building) in areas within its competence. It does not purport to cover exhaustively all activities undertaken by DITC. A self-assessment of the results attained and lessons learnt is also provided, which will be taken into account in the future to improve the quality, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of programme implementation. The present report is the latest in a series of such reports dating back to 2004.



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PROMOTING PROSPERITY FOR ALL THROUGH TRADE:  
FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE





*Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland*

UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) strives to bring about prosperity for all through trade by helping developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs), and countries with economies in transition use international trade as a tool for their inclusive and sustainable development and equitable integration to the global economy. Such efforts are undertaken in the light of UNCTAD's universal membership; accumulated knowledge and expertise in international trade; status as the United Nations focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development; and broad mandates accorded by successive UNCTAD Ministerial conferences, including UNCTAD XIII held at Doha, Qatar, from 21 to 26 April 2012 and other relevant international conferences.

In interaction with member States and other stakeholders, the DITC generates, disseminates and supports implementation of ideas, knowledge and practical solutions for enhancing the beneficial impact of international trade in goods and services, and commodities. The Division also promotes global partnerships in trade to maximize equitable and inclusive access to the benefits of globalization. In its work, the DITC pays special attention to the needs of LDCs, African countries and small and vulnerable economies, as highlighted in the final section of this report.

The DITC implements its mission and mandates fully integrating UNCTAD's three pillars. Intergovernmental meetings are organized and/or serviced by the Division that provides a platform and forum for deliberations and experience sharing on key national, regional and international trade and trade-related issues and proposed best practices. These deliberations are based on empirical data emerging from regularly updated trade-related analytical tools and statistical information, analyses of country/regional experiences and policy-oriented reports prepared by the Division on trade issues identified by member States. This helps to strengthen consensus on policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks favourable for trade and sustainable development. It also provides demand-driven technical cooperation and capacity-building which assists countries and regional grouping in formulating and implementing policies and legislation, and developing human, institutional and regulatory capacities and know-how. Information on such "grass-roots" experiences is then fed into UNCTAD reports and meetings to enrich the analyses and deliberations.

To strengthen the impact of its work and to promote networking and synergy, the DITC cooperates closely with other relevant institutions. Major partners include "policy influencers" such as parliamentarians, academics, the private sector, civil society, regional integration organizations, and non-governmental and in-



tergovernmental organizations (including other United Nations bodies), as well as policymakers based in Geneva, New York and other capitals. The Division contributes to UNCTAD-wide activities (such as Paragraph 166 courses on key issues on the international economic agenda and TrainforTrade). It provides inputs into wider United Nations activities, such as the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and elaboration of post-2015 UN development agenda, and ongoing efforts to tackle climate change. It also contributes capacity-building activities implemented through the United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, the “One United Nations” pilot countries and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs.

The DITC’s work on international trade in goods and services is organized into the following four thematic areas: the development dimension of trade policy and trade negotiations, international trade and the trading system; policy research, analysis and trade information and data; competition policy and law and consumer welfare; and mutually supportive trade, environment and sustainable development approaches. Some key aspects of the Division’s work include:

- (a) Monitoring and assessing trends in the international trading system from a development perspective;
- (b) Serving as a centre of excellence on trade data and statistics, including on non-tariff measures (NTMs) and their trade and development impact, and quantifying the positive interaction between trade and development;
- (c) Supporting enhanced participation of developing countries in global services trade and the impact on development;
- (d) Conducting analysis and research and provide capacity-building assistance in helping developing countries and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement competition and consumer protection policies, promote the sharing of best practices, and carry out peer reviews with regard to the implementation of such policies;
- (e) Conducting analysis, foster international dialogue and consensus-building, and provide capacity-building on the links among trade, environment and sustainable development in such areas as bio-trade, biofuels, climate change, and sustainable consumption and production patterns including organic agriculture;
- (f) Examining the links between gender equality, women’s empowerment, and trade and development;
- (g) Assessing the impact of trade on employment and inclusive and sustainable development, with special focus on the poor and youth;
- (h) Assisting countries in assessing and enhancing the contribution of the creative economy to sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- (i) Supporting trade capacity-building in developing countries, particularly LDCs, as well as through Aft in developing supply capacities, and promoting economic diversification and structural transformation;
- (j) Supporting international trade negotiations, including on World Trade Organization (WTO) accession;
- (k) Analysing and providing assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on regional trade arrangements and how they can be used to optimize development gains;
- (l) Promoting South–South trade, including through support for the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP);
- (m) Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, in the area of international trade;
- (n) Promoting effective utilization of trade preferences including the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP);
- (o) Facilitating intergovernmental deliberations and consensus-building in UNCTAD, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Conference to Review all

Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (held every five years), and other international forums.

The United Nations programme budget allocation for staff and non-staff resources (covering consultants, ad hoc expert groups, staff travel and external printing) to the DITC under the subprogramme on international trade for 2012–2013 is provided in the following table.

#### DITC regular budget allocation for staff and non-staff resources

Category	Resources (thousands of US\$)*		Posts	
	2010 2011	2012 2013	2010 2011	2013 2013
<b>A. Regular budget</b>				
<b>Post</b>	27 868.2	24 689.2	87	70
<b>Non-post</b>	710.0	591.0	-	-
<b>Total</b>	28 578.2	25 280.2	87	70

*\*In 2010–2011 biennium, the budget of the Special Unit on Commodities continued to be reflected in the budget of the Division. In the 2012–2013 biennium, the resources for the Division and that of the Special Unit were separated to reflect the Unit's autonomous nature.*

More detailed information on the activities of the DITC is available on the divisional website <http://unctad.org/en/pages/DITC/DITC.aspx>.

Greater effort was made to publicize the work of the Division. For example, news items were released during 2012 on the following issues among others: world exports of commercial services; the first global services forum; South–South exports flows ; mainstreaming organic agriculture into the development agenda; commemoration of three years of implementation of India's Competition Act ; UNCTAD peer review of competition law and policy; UNCTAD supports West African Economic and Monetary Union member States' reform of regional competition framework;

competition policy week from 9–13 July 2012 ; competition agencies celebrate World Competition Day participation of UNCTAD Secretary-General in various events of the Rio+20 conference especially as regards the green economy and development; first Global BioTrade Congress; impact of NTMs; launching of the joint UNCTAD–WTO handbook on trade policy analysis ; experts recommend revision of United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection ; Nigeria holds its first National Policy Dialogue on development of creative industries ; representatives of United Nations regional commissions review trade and development trends during the Trade and Development Board; and UNCTAD Secretary-General's participation in the opening ceremony of the Symposium on Jamaica's Involvement in Foreign Trade.

The year 2012 was significant for UNCTAD in terms of final preparations for and servicing of UNCTAD XIII. The DITC was fully engaged in the process and in the follow up efforts by member States to translate the mandates from the Doha conference into work programmes under the three pillars. It was also an important year for the Division as it was also leading UNCTAD's contribution to and participation in the Rio+20 Summit, as well as in developing follow up initiatives' to implement the outcome. Additional to these major intergovernmental consensus building events, the Division continued to implement its regular programme of work, focusing on building partnerships, attaining efficiency in work and building synergies within the Division and with other divisions of UNCTAD to maximize the development impact in the background of growing limited resources both from the regular and extra-budgetary sources. In regard to the latter for example, two Division retreats were held in 2011 and two retreats in 2012 to consider ways in which to improve the Division's programming, planning and implementation.



BUILDING CONSENSUS ON MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES FROM GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE

II

## Outputs and impact under the intergovernmental pillar in 2012



*UNCTAD workshop on Generalized System of Preferences, UNCTAD XIII, Doha, Qatar, 22 April 2012*

### A. UNCTAD XIII

In 2012 a key result was the substantive preparations and servicing of UNCTAD XIII in Doha, Qatar from 21 to 26 April. The conference resulted in the adoption of the Doha Mandate that provided new guidance and mandates to UNCTAD for the next four years in supporting countries in pursuing development-centred globalization. The DITC contributed to UNCTAD-wide support in

*Global Services Forum, UNCTAD XIII, Doha, Qatar, 19 April 2012*



servicing the negotiations by member States on the mandates in Geneva and in Doha. It also contributed to organizing and servicing pre-conference events, thematic round tables and parallel events as follows:

- (a) A pre-event on “Redefining the role of the government in tomorrow’s international trade” (Geneva, 26–28 March 2012): the policy dialogue brought together a large and diverse range of experts representing a wide spectrum of stakeholders and opinion leaders (policymakers, businesses, academia and civil society) and discussed the challenges of a rapidly changing trade landscape.
- (b) A Regional Workshop on Competition Law Enforcement in the Gulf Region (Doha, 16–18 April 2012), organized in cooperation and with the support of the Ministry of Business and Trade of Qatar, that discussed challenges and future perspectives for competition law and policy implementation in the Gulf region.
- (c) The “Global Services Forum” (Doha, 19 April 2012), which brought together government and business leaders, regulators, coalitions and associations of services industries and civil society, in devising new strategies to harness the potential of the services sector. The Global Services Forum launched the Arab Coalition of Service Industries, with the aim of promoting partnerships and cooperation among Arab service businesses.
- (d) A meeting of African Trade Ministers (Doha, 20 April 2012) welcomed UNCTAD’s assistance to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), as well as to the African Union Plan to boost intra-African trade.
- (e) A GSTP high-level meeting (Doha, 23 April 2012) that adopted a joint communiqué

## II. BUILDING CONSENSUS ON MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE

reaffirming the commitment of participants to operationalize the results of the Sao Paulo Round so as to release its potential to further boost South–South trade for inclusive development.

- (f) Thematic round table 3 on “Strengthening all forms of cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation” (Doha, 24 April 2012). Participants discussed a wide range of approaches to international cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including in achieving the United Nations MDGs, at the national, regional and multilateral levels against the background of global crises and changes in trade policymaking and trade negotiations.
- (g) A special event on “Reflections on the international trading system and inclusive development” (Doha, 24 April 2012) that discussed the current architecture of the international trading system, bilateral and regional trade agreements and liberalization, and the expansion of regional value chains.
- (h) A special side event on “The future international agenda on non-tariff measures” (Doha, 25 April 2012), in which views were exchanged on the growing effects of NTMs on international trade and elements for an integrated international agenda to effectively address them, including through the Transparency in Trade initiative of UNCTAD and several other international organizations.
- (i) A side event on “Competition and consumer policies for development: UNCTAD and Switzerland capacity-building programmes support to Latin America” (Doha, 25 April 2012), that showcased the successful experiences and positive impact of Competition and Consumer Protection in Latin America (COMPAL) in Latin America, how it assisted young competition and consumer agencies, and the lessons learned for other countries.



- (j) An expert panel discussion on “Mainstreaming sustainability into trade and development policies: towards Rio+20” (Doha, 25 April 2012).  
*African Trade Ministers Meeting, organized in collaboration with African Union, UNCTAD XIII, Doha, Qatar, 20 April 2012*
- (k) A “High-level policy dialogue on the creative economy for development” (Doha, 26 April 2012) discussed the contribution of creative industries towards building more resilient, inclusive and environmentally viable paths to development, and areas in which governments could play a catalytic role by putting in place the policies, regulations and institutions needed to strengthen their creative economies.  
*High Level Meeting, Round Table 3, UNCTAD XIII, Doha, Qatar, 24 April 2012*



## **B. UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The DITC contributed to the sixty-seventh session (October 2012) of the United Nations General Assembly, preparing the annual United Nations Secretary-General's report on International Trade and Development (A/65/211), presenting the report and taking part in the discussions at the General Assembly on developments in international trade in the light of the global crisis and economic resurgence, as well as on the status of the WTO's Doha Round negotiations. The deliberations led to the negotiations and adoption of a General Assembly resolution (A/RES/67/196), which reaffirmed the role of international trade as an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and invited UNCTAD, as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective.

## **C. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

The DITC contributed to the preparation of documents for, and servicing of, the annual session of the Trade and Development Board (fifty-ninth session), as well as of several of its executive sessions. At its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item on "Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective" (25 September 2012) and drawing upon the secretariat's background report (TD/B/59/5) and presentations by panellists including from United Nations regional commissions, member States discussed key issues arising of the international trading system, including global supply chains and NTMs, and their impact on inclusive development; and outcomes of the recently concluded Rio+20 Summit and the implication for trade and development including the interface between environmental policies and competition

policy as well as UNCTAD's effort to review the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection which would also address sustainable consumption issues. During the Board session, a lunch event on "BioTrade: trade working for biodiversity in practice" was organized and provided a platform to share the experiences of Ecuador (biotrade in Ecuador and the Jambi Kiwa experience with herbal teas), and Mexico and Yves Rocher/Natural Resources Stewardship Circle partnership in promoting the sustainable use of candelilla.

## **D. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

The DITC coordinated the preparation and servicing of the fourth annual session of the Trade and Development Commission (Geneva, 12–16 November 2012), together with the Division on Technology and Logistics, and the Special Unit on Commodities. The meeting took stock of the outcomes of the four sessions of each multi-year expert meeting that reported to the Trade and Development Commission namely: commodities and development; services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension; transport and trade facilitation; and international cooperation: South–South cooperation and regional integration; as well as the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Policy. The substantive policy issues that emerged from the expert meetings were discussed based on reports by secretariat and chairperson of the expert meetings. Member States also reviewed, based on presentations of the main activities and outputs of the secretariat, work undertaken in the areas of international trade, commodities, transport and trade facilitation, and cross-divisional capacity-building (para 166 courses and TrainforTrade). These discussions enhanced awareness of member States of the three pillar work of UNCTAD and the strengthening of synergies between them. Member States called for continued strengthening of synergies between the three pillars which remain important. The

agreed conclusions of the Commission underlined the importance of promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD's work, and emphasized that the various expert meetings continue to facilitate a rich and constructive sharing of experiences and best practices, and networking among experts

### E. INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT MEETINGS

#### 1. Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

The DITC organized the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy (IGE) in Geneva from 9–11 July 2012. Representatives from 93 countries and 6 intergovernmental organizations, including the heads of competition authorities, attended the high-level discussions. The IGE emphasized the importance of competition policy and public procurement; discussed cross-border anticompetitive practices and the challenges faced by developing countries and economies in transition in dealing with such practices; reviewed best practices for knowledge and human-resource management for effective enforcement of competition law; as well as the effectiveness of capacity-building extended to young competition agencies. Furthermore, the IGE undertook a tripartite peer review of competition law and policy of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and a peer review of the Mongolian competition law and policy.

As background documentation for the IGE the following reports were prepared:

- (a) Competition policy and public procurement (TD/B/C.I/CLP/14, 16/04/2012) and (TD/B/C.I/CLP/14/Corr.1, 20/05/2012);
- (b) Knowledge and human-resource management for effective enforcement of competition law (TD/B/C.I/CLP/15/Rev.1, 21/06/2012);
- (c) Cross-border anticompetitive practices: The challenges for developing countries



and economies in transition (TD/B/C.I/CLP/16, 18/04/2012); *IGE, Geneva, Switzerland, 10 July 2012*

- (d) Capacity-building extended to young competition agencies (TD/B/C.I/CLP/17, 12/04/2012) and (TD/B/C.I/CLP/17/Corr.1, 09/05/2012);
- (e) Model Law on Competition (2012) Revised chapter III (TD/B/C.I/CLP/L.4, 17/04/2012);
- (f) Model Law on Competition (2012) Revised Chapter VIII1 (TD/B/C.I/CLP/L.5, 18/04/2012).

The report of the meeting and its agreed conclusions were reflected in “Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its twelfth session” (TD/B/C.I/CLP/18) – 02/09/2012, and “Agreed conclusions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy” (TD/B/C.I/CLP/L.6) – 10/07/2012. The experts, inter alia, decided that a further voluntary peer review on the competition law and policy of a member State or regional grouping of States be undertaken in 2013, and recommended that the 2013 IGE, among other issues, discuss the impact of cartels on the poor. The expert meeting was followed immediately by an ad hoc expert meeting on consumer protection as highlighted below. The thirteenth session of the IGE will be held from 8–10 July 2013.

## 2. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension

The DITC organized the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension, in Geneva from 23–24 February 2012. Over the two days, experts addressed inter alia the interactions between regulation of and trade in infrastructure services and devoted specific attention to the financial services sector where governments continue to grapple with post-crisis regulatory reforms, drawing upon the secretariat's background note on "Services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/11, 14/12/2011). Participants stressed that regulatory and institutional frameworks needed to be adapted to specific needs and circumstances facing individual countries and sectors while addressing the diversity of suppliers, private, public, and public–private partnerships. Given the substantial financing needs for infrastructure

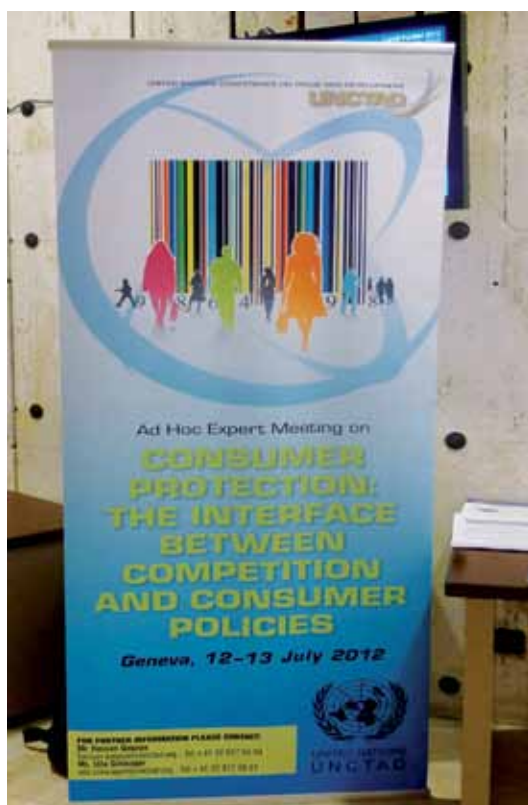
development, private participation and public–private partnerships had also become significant sources of infrastructure development while States continue to play a central role both as regulators and suppliers. Particular attention was given to the increasing role played by regional integration and regulatory cooperation. The meeting highlighted that further research, impact assessments, and services policy reviews could make an important contribution to helping countries identify and implement such best-fit policies and regulations. It concluded that UNCTAD should continue its work to help countries draw developmental benefits from infrastructure services. Participants particularly emphasized that the meeting provided a useful platform for bringing together experts, regulators and policymakers and allowing them to exchange experiences and lessons learned. They highlighted the usefulness of the discussions in providing broad guidance to identify best-fit national regulatory and institutional frameworks for infrastructure services sectors. Participants called upon UNCTAD to continue this multi-year expert meeting, as the work of the meeting facilitated information exchange and robust analysis for the development of best-fit policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks.

The three previous sessions of the expert meeting were organized respectively from 17–19 March 2009, 17–19 March 2010, and 6–8 April 2011. The overall objective of the four sessions was to assist countries in establishing policies as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and their efficiency, competitiveness and export capacity.

## F. AD HOC EXPERT MEETINGS

An ad hoc Expert Meeting on Consumer Protection: the Interface Between Competition and Consumer Policies was held in Geneva from 12–13 July 2012. Experts discussed the emerging issues in consumer protection including new conceptual frameworks, complementarities and areas of tension between

Consumer Protection Expert Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12–13 July 2012





competition and consumer laws, and consumer issues in financial services. The discussions drew upon the secretariat's background note on "Consumer protection and competition policy (TD/B/C.I/EM/2, 13/05/2012) and other technical inputs. The meeting recognized that new facts and conceptual frameworks require a re-evaluation of policy interventions in the area of consumer protection. In this respect, it was decided that the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection need to be reviewed, in order to assess their relevance to today's marketplace. It was recommended that UNCTAD should undertake discussions regarding the possibility of updating the Guidelines under the auspices of the IGE. The deliberations are reflected in its report entitled "Report on the ad hoc Expert Meeting on Consumer Protection" (TD/B/C.I/EM/3, 22/10/2012).

### **G. WORKING PARTY ON THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THE PROGRAMME BUDGET**

The sixty-second session of the Working Party (3–5 September 2012) reviewed UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities and their financing. Technical cooperation thematic clusters were also reviewed including the four implemented by the DITC namely: capacity-building on trade policy; trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy; trade analysis capacities and information systems; competition policy and consumer protection; and trade, environment and development. Some of the key project areas in these clusters include: trade policy formulation: trade preferences including the GSP; trade negotiations in the WTO and in regional trade agreements; WTO accession; GSTP, services, trade and development; trade data bases such as the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) and the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS); NTMs; creative industries; institutional and capacity-building on competition law such as under Competition and Consumer Protection for Latin America (COMPAL) and AfriComp; voluntary peer reviews of competition policy; trade and

development aspects of climate change; sustainable trade and production (biotrade, biofuels, organic agriculture) and others. It was explained that the impact of the assistance provided by UNCTAD in countries included: strengthened economic resilience; competitive and sustainable production and export base; more specific integration of development goals in national development strategies; improved market access and entry conditions for exports of developing countries; better consideration and integration of development dimension into multilateral and regional trade negotiations and agreements; effective participation in multilateral trading system of countries in WTO accession; and enhanced capacities to address anticompetitive practices and promote consumer interests.

### **H. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro from 20–22 June 2012. The trade, sustainable development and poverty reduction aspect of a green economy figured prominently among the cross-cutting themes of the Summit. Recognizing this the DITC, through its climate change programme in particular, worked vigorously to inform the negotiating process and to develop activities to assist Member States enhance trade gains in a greening global economy.

The DITC prepared: (a) three issues of the Road to Rio magazine highlighting green economy challenges and opportunities for developing countries; (b) organized pre-Rio+20 Summit workshops and side events for Rio+20 negotiators and other United Nations delegates in order to raise awareness and understanding on the significant impacts that national green economy policies can have on trade; and (c) as a follow-up to the Rio summit, developed new consensus- and capacity-building activities late in 2012. The three issues of the Road to Rio magazine are described in the next chapter.

In the preparatory process for the Rio+20 Summit, UNCTAD in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), organized workshops and events in New York to inform delegations on a wide range of issues at the interface of trade, the green economy and sustainable development and poverty eradication. These interactive workshops improved delegates' appreciation of the complex nature of ways to enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment policies, seize new export opportunities in green markets, ensure safeguards against green protectionism, and manage the undesirable impacts environment policies may have on trade and vice versa. Additionally, the workshops reviewed trade-related elements of the draft Rio+20 Outcome Document and examined their implications. Workshop presentations and informal summary reports are available at [www.unctad.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unctad.org/greeneconomy). The New York workshops were greatly appreciated by Member States, informing negotiators and facilitating their elaboration of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. Various subsequent side events were organized in New York and Geneva to disseminate results of the workshops to Member States. These events included the following:

- (a) Workshop: "The Trade Dimension of Rio+20: Unpacking the Issues", 19 January 2012, New York;
- (b) Workshop: "The Trade Dimension of Rio+20: Key Issues for the Outcome Document" 16 March 2012, New York;
- (c) Special side event on the key trade issues for the outcome document during the third inter-sessional Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 27 March 2012, New York;
- (d) Briefing to Geneva-based delegates on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, 29 March 2012, Geneva;
- (e) Expert Panel Discussion on Mainstreaming Sustainability into Trade and Develop-

ment Policies: Towards the Rio+20 Summit, 25 April 2012, Doha;

- (f) Informal briefing to New York-based delegates on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation in the lead up to the Rio+20 Summit, 29–31 May 2012, New York.

In the margins of the Rio+20 Summit, the DITC organized the following events that contributed to the deliberations during the Summit:

- (a) BioTrade Congress: "Biodiversity – The Life of the Green Economy" (18 June 2012, Novo Mundo Hotel): Biotrade is one of the promising green economic sectors where developing countries have demonstrated a leadership role. It is the type of trade that supports conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while providing a source of income for local development. Recognizing that biotrade is one of the pillars for achieving biodiversity conservation, sustainable use as well as post-conflict reintegration efforts, the First Global BioTrade Congress provided a platform where biotrade and biodiversity stakeholders shared their experiences and lessons learned, and established further cooperation in implementing sustainable practices on the path to "greening" biodiversity-based sectors. For example, experiences were shared by: Colombia on the green economy and the cosmetic sector; biotrade partners in Africa (through PhytoTrade Africa in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) on natural products for the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and food industries; Ecuador on developing the bird watching value chain; the Andean Community on developing regional strategies; and by the Union of Ethical Biotrade on access and benefit sharing.
- (b) "No One-Size-Fits-All: Exploring New Sustainable and Socially Inclusive Biofuels Experiences in Developing and Least Developed Countries" (19 June 2012, Brazilian Military Institute of Engineer-

ing): By examining biofuel experiences in countries around the world, the event profited from concrete examples of how biofuel in the developing and least developed countries is produced and used to enhance energy diversification, generate income, improve the livelihood of populations and increase welfare. The event encouraged further reflections on how countries can find ways of entry into the green economy by developing their bio-energy potentials, in line with the goals of the Rio+20. As a follow up, agreements were concluded with different institutions such as the Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), the Brazilian Military Engineering Institute, and University of Sao Paulo to facilitate institutional collaboration on issues concerning green economy and bioenergy, with special focus on development.

- (c) "The Trade Dimension in the Follow-up to the Rio+20 Summit" (20 June 2012, Rio-centro Exhibition and Convention Centre): UNCTAD coorganized with DESA this panel discussion which stressed the need to shift emphasis from negotiations to concrete proposals on innovative cooperation frameworks and capacity-building initiatives, while showcasing UNCTAD's analytical work on the trade and development dimensions of the green economy, as well as its technical assistance and consensus building mechanisms to ensure a robust follow-up to the Rio+20 outcomes.
- (d) Several events of the "Rio+20 and You" organized by the Rio de Janeiro City Hall in collaboration with the Planetarium Foundation and Institute Humanitaire: A Summit on Creative Economy and Tourism (16 June 2012) provided for lively debates on how the tourism sector and the creative economy can better support initiatives to ensure a sustainable future for all. It discussed concerted policies that should be in place to bring together objectives of ecotourism and the creative economy to promote the conservation of environmental endowments and cultural heritages, while promoting creative and cultural activities

to revive local communities. This includes environmentally responsible tourism to undisturbed natural areas help to promote culture, including ethnic dances, songs, crafts and also cuisines based on local natural ingredients and traditional knowledge. UNCTAD also contributed, at the invitation of the Minister of Culture of Brazil, to the Sector Dialogues between Brazil and the European Union on Creative Economy (21 June 2012), based on the historical, cultural and economic ties that nurture the international cooperation between Brazil and Europe.

Following the Rio+20 Summit, UNCTAD also participated in various events to unpack the Rio+20 outcome as contained in the final document "The Future We Want", and develop follow-up activities to implement its outcome as relevant to UNCTAD. In particular, during fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board (25 September 2012), member States discussed the implications of the Rio+20 Summit and key areas in which follow-up by UNCTAD can be useful. The DITC also participated in the informal dialogue on the implications of the Rio+20 outcomes to WTO member States on 12 September 2012 in Geneva. The DITC is also contributing to United Nations-wide efforts to implement the decision on defining sustainable development goals, in tandem with efforts to define new United Nations development goals after 2015 when the current United Nations MDGs framework expires.

As regards concrete initiatives to contribute to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome in support of sustainable development and poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, the DITC has elaborated three initiatives to be developed further and implemented with financial support that is to be mobilized especially from extrabudgetary resources. One initiative is to launch a consensus-building platform that would address concerns over the potentially negative impacts that national policies in a greening global economy may have on international trade. It would seek to foster and facilitate evidence-based dialogue and

solution sharing on green protectionism (environmental policies to preserve the environment but which can have trade-restriction effects) for example. A second initiative is capacity-building support to developing countries in conducting 'National Green Export Reviews,' through national multi-stakeholder processes, to help them seize trade opportunities that will arise from the emerging global green economy by helping them to identify promising green export opportunities. This work will draw upon UNCTAD's methodology on "Mapping green product spaces of nations" (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2012/1) that maps out countries' comparative advantage vis-à-vis dynamic green goods and services. A third initiative is a proposed establishment of an African Bioenergy Development Platform to assist interested African countries to develop their bioenergy potential. Proposed activities would include interactive, multi-stakeholder analyses and dialogue to examine what has, can and could be done in the public policy and private domains been to exploit latent bioenergy potentials to meet energy needs and foster human and economic development.

## I. POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The United Nations, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, has initiated a coherent and coordinated approach to the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda and related processes agreed to in Rio+20 Summit. Various coordination mechanisms have been set up to assemble, synthesize and provide innovative suggestions for consideration of Member States on possible new United Nations development goals that will replace the United Nations MDGs when they expire in 2015. Such coordination mechanisms include the United Nations Development Group MDG Task Force and the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was launched in January 2012.

The DITC participates in the post-2015 development agenda discussions in areas

related to international trade and sustainable development. It provided inputs on the contribution of international trade to the United Nations System Task Team Working Group on "Strengthening the global partnership for development to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda, including financing for sustainable development". Under the thematic consultations on "growth and employment", UNCTAD, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), DESA, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), contributed to the first thematic consultations on "Growth, Structural Change and Employment" held in Tokyo (15–16 May 2012). UNCTAD is part of the advisory group on growth and employment. It took the lead in one out of five e-discussions namely "Development-led globalization", in which experts and other users discussed the importance of a changing approach to development. Among the prominent discussants were Gary Gereff, William Milberg, Jayati Ghosh (moderator), Faizel Ismail, Matias Vernengo and Deepak Nayyar. The DITC also contributed to the post-2015 thematic consultations on energy, led by United Nations Energy. Preparations were undertaken and discussions took place in February and March 2013. The DITC also plans to contribute to and has been in contact with DESA on preparations of sustainable development goals as mandated by Rio+20 Summit.

## J. OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The DITC contributed substantively to deliberations on trade policy and development matters undertaken at various major international conferences. Such contributions were provided to, among others, the following:

- (a) The fourth Meeting of the Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-Organization of Islamic Cooperation Trade, 21–22 February 2012, Marrakesh;

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## II. BUILDING CONSENSUS ON MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE

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- (b) First thematic consultation on the post-2015 framework for development on Growth, Structural Change and Employment, Tokyo, 15–16 May 2012;
- (c) The second Global Biannual Conference on Small States, London, 17–18 September 2012;
- (d) WTO Public Forum, Better Jobs through Trade: Presenting the Results of the ICITE (International Collaborative Initiative on Trade and Employment) Project, Geneva, 25 September 2012;
- (e) International Conference on Trade Politics and Sustainable Development in Arab Countries, Amman, 26–27 September 2012;
- (f) African Conference on Implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Dakar, 9–12 October 2012;
- (g) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Forum on Agriculture, Paris, 26–27 November 2012;
- (h) Joint Conference of African Union Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade, Addis Ababa, 26–30 November 2012;
- (i) International Conference on Trade and Employment, Jakarta, 10–11 December 2012;
- (j) International Conference on Global Value chain and Employment, Jakarta, 12–13 December 2012;
- (k) First Annual Course for Developing Country Negotiators: the Strategic Dimension of Negotiations, Geneva, 19–20 November 2012.

The Division organized jointly with the WTO and the International Trade Centre (ITC) the Global Trade Analysis Project fifteenth annual conference in Geneva from 27–29 June 2012. The Project is a network of researchers and policymakers analysing international policy issues. The conference is a major meeting for trade economists. Two hundred and fourteen researchers and policymakers attended the conference to present and discuss new research results. The Division organized jointly with partners two sessions. One on NTMs (with WTO and ITC) and one on trade and employment (with ILO and WTO) and in both sessions research papers and databases were presented by the DITC

The DITC also organized jointly with the ILO a book launch and policy debate on trade and employment (Geneva, 20 January 2012). The book *Trade and Employment: From Myth to Facts* (Jansen M, Peters R and Salazar-Xirinachs JM, eds. (2011), ISBN: 978-92-2-125320-4, International Labour Office, Geneva) was launched by all three editors. In the subsequent policy debate policymakers, international organizations and the civil society emphasized the importance of a better understanding of the link between trade and employment. Trade and labour market policies that could support the employment creation were discussed.



IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT  
AND PROSPECTIVE ISSUES IN TRADE THROUGH  
RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DATA

III

## Outputs and impact under the analytical pillar in 2012

### A. POLICY ANALYSES AND RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN

The DITC has published a number of publications focusing on relevant issues for different stakeholders, particularly developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. This research and analysis has mainly highlighted the impact, challenges and opportunities of trade and development such as the multilateral trading system, trade policy issues and trade in services against the background of the global economic crisis, the need to build up economic resilience and accelerate progress towards achievement of the United Nations MDGs, as well as reviewed trade and related sectoral policies for selected developing countries in an effort to better harness these policies in support of national development objectives. The Division has conducted policy-oriented research and analysis on key issues in international trade and international trading system, as well as new and emerging issues, of particular interest to developing countries such as global/regional value chains.

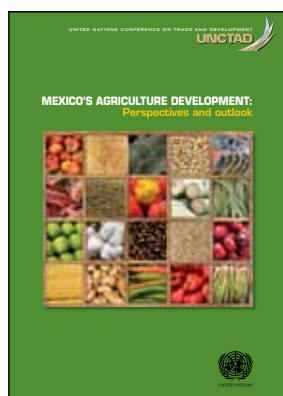
With a view to encouraging staff to internally peer review analytical outputs, the DITC launched the “DITC 60 minutes Talks” which take place once a month (the first Friday). Topics discussed have included NTMs; the direct and relative preferential effects of market access; global value chains; remittances: reducing costs, increasing access; the road from Rio+20: UNCTAD’s Green Economy Programme; regulatory challenges and opportunities in services: developing countries’ perspective; and South–South trade and regional integration.

Several thematic, sector- and country-specific analyses have been prepared by the DITC and utilized in national and regional negotiation forums for trade policy formulation and implementation in particular in developing countries and LDCs. These have targeted important knowledge and expertise gaps in national policy objectives, with a view to enable

stakeholders to articulate their trade interests and use trade to promote development. A number of joint publications with other organizations have also been undertaken. Officials of the DITC have also published papers and articles that addressed specific trade issues. The research and analysis has focused on topics linked to building up productive capacities and transforming export structures, building trade-related institutions and regulatory regimes, and addressing potential sources of protectionism.

The analytical reports prepared by the DITC have been used as material for intergovernmental meetings as well as conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings and advisory missions and primarily aimed at supporting developing countries’ formulation and implementation of national/regional trade policy and strategies, as well as their engagement in regional and multi-lateral trade negotiations.

In response to a request from Mexico’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), UNCTAD carried out a study, with the support of Mexican authorities, on “Mexico’s agriculture development: perspective and outlook” (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1). The study was undertaken by the DITC and the UNCTAD Special Unit on Commodities. The work on the study was supported by the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, and SAGARPA, with special involvement of the Agrifood and Fishery Information Service and of the Mexican Ministry of Energy. Many interviews with stakeholders within Mexico’s agricultural sector, including producers, government agencies, and universities were carried out in the course of research for the study. The study was presented by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organizations on 11 February 2013.





### III. IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ISSUES IN TRADE THROUGH RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DATA

In support of provoking discussion, advancing new ideas, and providing inspiration to stakeholders in addressing issues on the main theme of the Rio+20 conference relating to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, UNCTAD has published since 2011 a magazine series entitled “The Road to Rio+20: For a Development-led Green Economy”. The series highlights critical topics on how a green economy can leverage development and how trade policy can be oriented towards sustainable outcomes given that trade influences the use of natural resources and the quality of the environment. The magazine contributed to the Rio+20 debate through a collection of essays that provided different perspectives on how to increase the benefits and reduce the risks in the transition to a development-led green economy. Essays demonstrated that the potential for the green economy to become the basis for a new development path depends on how its benefits are perceived and how the burden of the transition costs will ultimately be shared. Accessible to a wide audience of specialists and non-specialists alike, all three issues of the journal are available online at: [www.unctad.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unctad.org/greeneconomy).

Three editions of the series have been published so far:

*The Road to Rio+20: For a Development-led Green Economy* – issues 1–3:

- (a) The first issue (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2010/8) was issued on 8 November 2011. It contained essays from a range of eminent personalities involved in sustainable development in responding principally to the questions “what?” and “why?” the green economy, its pros and cons, linkages with trade and impact on sustainable development. The collection looked back at the origins of the term “green economy” as one of low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive development path.
- (b) The second issue (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2011/6) was issued on 8 November 2011. Primarily concerned with the question “how?”, the essays provide a series of real-world references for governments,

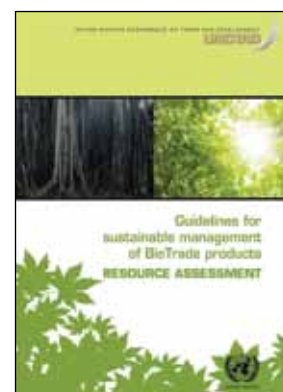
businesses and civil society in regard to issues on questions on the validity of the green economy concept as a motor for development, contested in the first series. These are illustrated by national and corporate experiences, and by insights from research.

- (c) The third issue (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/2), was issued on 4 June 2012. Essays in this series moved the debate forward on the green economy and its development dimension by focusing primarily on commitments and outcomes and the potential of the process leading up to the Conference to generate innovative ideas, policies and to consolidate sustainable development strategies of governments.

In following up on Rio+20 outcomes in regard to assisting countries that would like to assess their potential to produce and export green goods and services, UNCTAD has elaborated the concept of national green export reviews. Such reviews will be based on mapping of green product spaces, drawing upon UNCTAD analyses as articulated in its report “Mapping green product spaces of nations” (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2012/1).

UNCTAD contributed analyses towards policy development for sustainable sourcing and engaging with the private sector within the scope of biotrade, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-listed species, with the preparation of the following analytical studies:

- (a) “Guidelines for sustainable management of biotrade products – resource assessment” (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/1): The guidelines are being used by UNCTAD in a partnership with the Natural Resources Stewardship Circle (NRSC) and the Mexican Government (CONABIO), to support efforts to develop the candelilla value chain, which is used in the cosmetic industry;





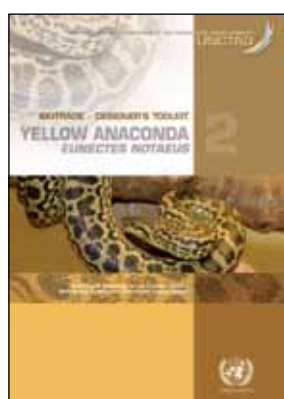
(b) Designer's toolkit – *Crocodylus moreletii* (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/4);

(c) Designer's toolkit – yellow anaconda (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/5);

(d) Biodiversity: the life of the green economy. Report from the first BioTrade Congress (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/6);

(e) BioTrade Initiative strategic direction 2020 (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/7);

(f) Designer's toolkit – Figue (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/8).



An e-learning course – BioTrade and Value Chain Development (in Spanish) – was finalized in 2012, in partnership with UNCTAD's TradeForTrade programme. The first course is expected to be conducted in March 2013 with participants from four Latin American countries. The course aims to provide participants with the skills and abilities to create, disseminate, adopt and adapt the knowledge and tools necessary to facilitate processes that enable the development of value chains of products derived from biodiversity. Twenty-four representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru will be taking part in this training.

National assessments were carried out for Indonesia, particularly in assessing the country's potential to develop biotrade activities, as well as identifying and assessing the promising sector of natural ingredients. The studies developed, and which will be issued in 2013, contained a mapping and evaluation of biodiversity-based products and value chains, as well as identification of national and international legislation relevant to the sustainable trade of natural ingredients from Indonesia and development of a sector strategy.

As biotrade activities are being implemented worldwide, there is a constant need to define and measure their contribution to sustainable development and the conservation/sustainable use of biodiversity in a harmonized and structured manner. UNCTAD developed the BioTrade Impact Assessment System (BTIAS) as an e-tool, to address this need, considering its three basic approaches: value chain,

adaptive management and ecosystem. The BTIAS was finalized and agreed upon by partners in 2010 and the first BioTrade Impact Assessment report was finalized in 2012 with 2010 data as the baseline year. This report showed positive results in most indicators explained by years of UNCTAD and partners' engagement at different levels, and support and participation of governments, donors (led by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)), implementing agencies, businesses and other stakeholders. Through the BTIAS, countries can obtain valuable information for reporting on their progress towards the CBD and Aichi Targets, as well as to their national reporting activities, which relate to environment, socio/economic and governance issues. The online database was also finalized (<http://btias.org/>) that allows biotrade partners to input the data directly and generate BTIAS reports as needed.

Other analytical outputs of the DITC in regard to sustainable agriculture included:

(a) Asia Regional Organic Standard (UNCTAD/DITC/2012/1);

(b) Organic Equivalence Tools, IROCB and Equitool, version 1 (UNCTAD/DITC/2012/3);

(c) Organic Equivalence Tools, IROCB and Equitool, version 2 (UNCTAD/DITC/2012/2);

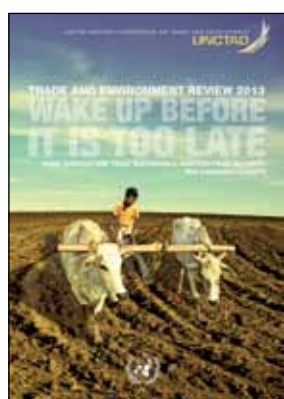
(d) Wake up before it is too late: make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/3).

In the area of services, trade and development the following analytical reports were produced and released:

(a) National Services Policy Review: Lesotho (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1);

(b) Regulatory and institutional framework of services (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/4) Volume I;

(c) Regulatory and institutional framework of services (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/4) Volume II;



### III. IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ISSUES IN TRADE THROUGH RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DATA

(d) Services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension of infrastructure services (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/5);

(e) Maximizing the Development Impact of Remittances (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/8).

As regards trade policy and trade negotiations, various analytical reports were released including the following:

(a) Global Economic Crisis: India (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/22);

(b) Trade liberalization, Investment and Economic Integration in African regional Economic Communities toward the African Common Market. (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/2);

(c) What does it take to Implement Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access for LDCs? Quantifying preference erosion for sub-Saharan African countries in the United States (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/9);

(d) How are the poor affected by international trade in India? (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/7);

(e) Handbook on the Rules of Origin of the European Union (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.25/Rev.3/Add.1);

(f) GSP Handbook of Canada 2012 (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.66/Rev.2);

(g) Evolution of non-tariff measures: emerging cases from selected developing countries (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/53);

(h) A preliminary analysis on newly collected data on non-tariff measures (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/54);

(i) Survival analysis of the exports of LDCs: The role of Comparative Advantage (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/55);

(j) Global supply chains: Trade and Economic Policies for Developing Countries (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/56);

(k) Exchange Rates, International Trade and Trade Policies (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/57).

The first issue of a new biannual "South-South Trade Monitor" Issue No. 1 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TAB/2012/2) was published online (in the web) in June 2012.

In regard to competition policy and law, and consumer protection issues, the following reports were produced for consideration at the twelfth session of the IGE, during which several county voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy were undertaken:

(a) Handbook on Competition Legislation, Consolidated Report 2011–2012 (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/HANDBOOK, 05/07/2012);

(b) Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: A Tripartite Report on the United Republic of Tanzania–Zambia–Zimbabwe (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/1 (Overview), 05/07/2012);

(c) Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: United Republic of Tanzania (Overview) (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/Tanzania (Overview), 04/07/2012);

(d) Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Zambia (Overview) (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/ZAMBIA (Overview), 04/07/2012);

(e) Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Zimbabwe (Overview) (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/ZIMBABWE), 04/07/2012);

(f) Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition Law and Policy: Mongolia (Overview) (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/2(OVERVIEW), 14/06/2012);

(g) Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Mongolia Full Report (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2012/2), 04/07/2012).

The DITC also contributed to a number of joint publications with other United Nations and international organizations. These included the following research outputs:

(a) *World Tariff Profiles 2012* (ISBN 978-92-870-3843-2, November 2012): A joint WTO/UNCTAD/ITC publication;

(b) *Millennium Development Goals Report 2012* (ISBN 978-92-1-101258-3 (Sales No. E.12.I.4, June 2012);



- (c) *MDG Gap Task Force Report 2012: The Global Partnership for Development: Making Rhetoric a Reality* (ISBN 978-92-1-101259-0 (Sales No. E.12.I.5, September 2012);
- (d) *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013* (ISBN 978-92-1-109166-3 (Sales No. E.13.II.C.2), January 2013): Report published jointly with DESA and United Nations Regional Commissions.

In addition a handbook on *Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis* (WTO ISBN: 978-92-870-3812-8, July 2012) was co-published with the WTO. It illustrates and explains the tools and methods commonly used in the analysis of international trade and trade policy. It is of particular interest to policymakers, trade economists and lawyers, and development practitioners dealing with international trade and trade policy issues. It was developed in response to requests from a number of developing countries for training on trade policy analysis. Despite the growing use of quantitative economics in policymaking, no existing publications directly address the full range of practical questions covered by the handbook. These include matters as simple as where to find the best trade and tariff data and how to develop a country's basic statistics on trade. Guidance is also provided on more complicated issues, such as the choice of the best analytical tools for answering questions ranging from the economic impact of membership of the WTO and preferential trade agreements to how trade will affect income distribution within a country.

## B. ANALYTICAL TOOLS AND ENHANCED SOFTWARE

UNCTAD's trade analysis tools, such as TRAINS-WITS, have helped policymakers,

researchers and other stakeholders in identifying and addressing market access barriers, trade opportunities and promoting more informed participation in trade negotiations at multilateral and regional levels. The TRAINS-WITS database is one of the world's largest and frequently consulted – it has about 41,000 registered active users. In 2012, the TRAINS database was updated with new NTMs data covering seven countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Data collection in five countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal), five countries in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) as well as in the Associação Latino-Americana de Integração countries, is in its last stage of completion.

A classification of Non Tariff Measures (NTMs) was published. The classification of NTMs presented in the publication is a taxonomy of all those measures considered relevant in today's situation in international trade. It was extensively discussed and agreed upon by several international organizations forming what was called the Multi-agency Support Team (MAST) group to support the Group of Eminent Persons on Non-tariff Barriers established by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in 2006. Its work spanned from 2007 to 2012, during which time the classification was tested in the field for data collection. This version is presented as the 2012 version, the outcome of that discussion and testing. The classification is seen as evolving and would be adapted to the reality of international trade and data collection needs.

TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**INW**

## Outputs and impact under the technical cooperation pillar in 2012

Complemented with extrabudgetary resources, the DITC implements a large number of technical assistance and capacity-building activities for developing countries, especially LDCs and African countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. It also contributed to implementation of activities organized by other DITCs of UNCTAD, including the Paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action training courses and the Virtual Institute. For example the DITC contributed to the delivery of UNCTAD's twenty-first and twenty-fifth Regional Courses on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda under paragraph 166, that took place respectively for the Africa region in Rabat (11–14 September 2012) and for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region in Muscat (18–21 November 2012). The DITC's contribution to this programme for the two regions has thus set a record of being involved in seven training courses since 2007.

These technical assistance activities were implemented by the DITC under the following four (of the 17) UNCTAD technical cooperation thematic clusters namely: capacity-building on trade policy, trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy; trade analysis capacities and information systems; competition policy and consumer protection; and trade, environment and development.

### A. TRADE POLICY, TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

#### 1. The international trading system, World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations and regional trade agreements

The DITC assisted countries participating in multilateral and regional integration groupings through capacity-building support, advisory services and analytical support. These

activities were extended to trade negotiators and policymakers in individual developing countries as well as country groupings such as LDCs, African Group and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, contributing to their greater preparedness and technical capacities with regard to technical issues on agriculture, the Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations, services, rules and trade facilitation and other topics of trade policy and negotiations.

The DITC also continued to provide support on regional trade negotiations among developing countries. It highlighted the approaches used by RTAs; commented on drafting provisions for negotiations emphasising the development implications of the agreements; and provided assistance to member states on national services regimes and potential regional implications. Synergies were created and maintained among different organizations to avoid any overlap between them.

The DITC also assisted Arab States and affiliated agencies in enhancing intra-Arab trade and economic integration. It provided inputs to the background document of the ESCWA Expert Group Meeting on Preferential Trade Agreements and Regional Integration in the Arab World in Tunis (5–6 December 2012). The meeting assessed the impacts of Arab trade liberalisation and regional integration schemes. The meeting attended by seven Arab States and facilitated by UNCTAD, ITC, the Food and Agriculture Organization, OECD, the European Union, and the African Development Bank, conducted a thorough cross-examination of trade and development implications of the European Union/Arab countries bilateral and regional trade agreements, in terms of economic growth, investment, employment and poverty reduction. During an Islamic Development Bank (IDB) workshop on regional trade agreements (RTAs) in the Arab region in Casablanca (4–6 June 2012, Morocco) the DITC provided inputs on the implications of the proliferation of RTAs on Arab regional

integration processes. UNCTAD's participation in the delivery of technical assistance provided by IDB has been also a regular trend whereby experts from the DITC are invited as resource persons two to three times per year for such activities. This has been the case for 2012. So in addition to the aforementioned workshops, the DITC provided similar support to Arab States on WTO accession issues.

Within the overall context of the technical support and advisory services provided to the ACP States, particularly regarding the WTO Doha and ACP–European Union Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations, support was continued by the DITC in raising awareness among ACP policymakers and stakeholders on the developmental implications of EPAs, to strengthen countries' capacities in designing and implementing policy at the national and regional level, and to enhance the positive development interface between different negotiation processes. The DITC participated in the sixteenth Meeting of the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee (24–25 October 2012) in Brussels. The meeting covered discussions on the main challenges facing ACP in the conclusion of the EPAs.

The strengthening of African regional economic integration and boosting of intra-African trade has been a long-standing priority area of work of the DITC. In the area of services, the DITC contributed to a meeting organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) with the Regional Economic Communities on 29–30 March 2012. The workshop discussed a possible mandate in services for the AUC and to help kick-start activities, while taking into account what the RECs and development partners are already doing in this area, and taking into consideration the mandated African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). The DITC contributed to the discussion with a presentation on mainstreaming trade in services into regional and national development plans.

The AUC eighteenth Ordinary Session Summit of January 2012 had adopted a decision to establish an CFTA by the indicative date of 2017, and also endorsed an Action Plan for Boosting Intra-Africa Trade to which UNCTAD has been invited to provide capacity-building support.

UNCTAD was present at this decisive AUC Summit and, immediately after the adoption of this decision, met with the AUC and Economic Commission of Africa officials to discuss how UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan could be developed, in response to the decision. UNCTAD further organized an African trade ministers' meeting at Doha on 20 April 2012, on the occasion of UNCTAD XIII in collaboration with the AUC Commission. At that meeting, UNCTAD presented a note on UNCTAD's support to the implementation of the AUC Action Plan and the African ministers present expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for this proposed support. Subsequently, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD met with African ambassadors at the AUC Mission in Geneva in June 2012 and further presented UNCTAD's support to the implementation of the AUC Action Plan.

The DITC, invited by the Commonwealth secretariat, participated in the joint Regional Trade Policy Workshop for African Parliamentarians organized by the African Development Bank and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Seychelles on 9–10 July 2012. The DITC presented a paper on "The structure, principles and functioning of the trading system and its impact of growth, development and welfare in Africa", which critically reviewed the impact of recent changes in the multilateral trading systems on the economies and economic indicators of African countries. Parliamentarians indicated that, as a result of the workshop, they had a clearer understanding of the main challenges facing African countries in the multilateral trading system and in particular, the Doha Round negotiations in the WTO. They called for their Governments to speed up integration into multilateral trade negotiations and encouraged UNCTAD and other international organizations to continue providing capacity-building support.

Substantive support was provided to Ministerial and other high-level meetings of regional groupings, and preparatory processes thereof, to identify their common negotiating platforms. These include: (a) AUC eighteenth Summit (23–24 January 2012, Addis Ababa);

(b) fourth Meeting of the Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-Organization of Islamic Conference Trade (21–22 February 2012, Marrakesh); (c) IDB Workshop on RTAs in the Arab Region (4–6 June 2012, Casablanca); (d) Conference on Trade Policy Issues for Commonwealth African Parliamentarians (9–10 July 2012, Victoria, Seychelles); (e) G20 Trade Summit (18–19 June 2012, Los Cabos, Mexico); (f) African Regional Conference on the Trade Component of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco (9–12 October 2012, Dakar); (g) Meeting of the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee (24–25 October 2012, Brussels); (h) International Conference on Cuba, Economic Reforms and Social Innovations (30 November 2012, Turin); (i) ESCWA Expert Group Meeting on Preferential Trade Agreements and Regional Integration in the Arab World (5–6 December 2012 Tunis); and (j) Conference on Global Value Chain and Trade and Employment (12–13 December, Jakarta).

The DITC has continuously promoted dialogue, analytical work and projects on AfT for developing countries in order to have stronger developmental impact. It participated in the meetings of the Aid for Trade Advisory Group of the Director-General of the WTO, and the elaboration and implementation of AfT projects. It is contributing to the elaboration of an inter-agency Arab AfT project under the framework of the United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. It also assisted developing countries in fostering a better understanding of dispute settlement in international trade, investment, and intellectual property through workshops and training sessions.

## 2. Support on World Trade Organization accession

Support on WTO accession is a major area of the DITC's (and UNCTAD's) technical assistance programme through which 22 acceding countries, including all acceding LDCs, are being assisted. The DITC has worked with WTO-acceding countries, helping them with preparation for negotiations, institution-building and reform, training activities, advisory missions, preparation of required documents

and sectoral studies, logistical support and post-accession advice. Assistance provided include technical advice on technical issues in the accession processes, including preparation of documentation, answers to questions submitted, market access offers in goods and services, conduct of impact studies and assessments, training of officials in WTO-related issues. Specifically, UNCTAD's support aims to increase the awareness of the acceding country's negotiating team and stakeholders of the multifaceted issues in the accession process, enhance their expertise of the WTO rules and disciplines, and build their trade policy and negotiating capacities to participate effectively in the accession negotiations.

Advisory services, field missions and capacity-building activities were undertaken during 2012 for the following: Afghanistan (19 June 2012), the Comoros (9–10 July 2012), Seychelles (12–13 July 2012), Azerbaijan (23–24 July 2012), Lao PDR (17–19 September 2012), Uzbekistan (4–5 October 2012) and Kazakhstan (13–15 December 2012). Advisory services were also provided to regional and interregional groups of countries including a seminar on "Doha negotiations and accession process to WTO for the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member States" was organized by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Turkey in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank and the ECO on June 18–20, 2012 in Istanbul. Advisory services were provided to the LDCs Group on improvement of WTO LDC accession guidelines for acceding LDCs (Geneva, 1–15 July 2012). The DITC supported the delivery of an International Conference on concession and commitments undertaken by Arab countries acceding to the WTO in Algiers (14–18 October). Representatives of eight Arab countries at different stages in the process of accession to the WTO, namely: Algeria, the Comoros, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen attended the seminar in addition to a delegation from the State of Palestine.



Throughout 2012, the DITC continued to receive an increasing number of requests for support on WTO accession issues from a variety of countries, including from LDCs, and those in the post-accession phase. However, the lack of adequate resources has prevented the DITC from addressing fully these increased and diversified requests.

In implementing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes on accession, UNCTAD works with and maintains close contacts and cooperation with the WTO secretariat. Several joint advisory missions, seminars and workshops in Geneva as well as in some acceding countries have also been undertaken with the WTO and other relevant agencies such as the World Bank, FAO, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ITC and UNDP. Also, cooperation has been developed with other agencies participating in the Integrated Framework for LDCs.

In 2012 under the United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, UNCTAD agreed with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to implement the trade policy component on WTO accession of a UNIDO project supporting industrial development in Iraq, with funding from Sweden. The project was finalized at the end of 2012 and will be implemented from 2013 until 2015.

### **3. Trade policy formulation and implementation**

With the search for national policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development becoming a central policy concern for many countries, the DITC intensified its support to developing countries to help them elaborate new comprehensive, development-centred trade policy frameworks. The objective is to support developing countries to assess, develop, elaborate and implement 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 in participating effectively in, and benefiting from, international

trade and the international trading system. The DITC's 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.

The DITC's intervention had strong positive impact in strengthening human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade-related policies and negotiations in these countries. In 2012 the DITC continued to assist the Governments of Angola and Jamaica in the follow-up elaboration of the trade policy and its implementation. The assistance has aimed at strengthening self-sustainable national institutional capacities on trade policy and negotiations in participating effectively in, and benefiting from, the multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements. The work is being further intensified with the funding from the United Nations development account.

### **4. Services, trade and development**

The DITC's work on services, trade and development has helped developing countries better understand this economic sector, and the potential development opportunities it can provide. Through country- and sector-specific assessments and field support, the DITC assisted developing countries with the development of their services sector as engines of sustained and inclusive development. Services Policy Reviews for selected countries are undertaken to assess and improve their policy and regulatory frameworks, along with assessment of the impact of trade liberalisation on specific sectors and policy options that can be taken to advance national sectoral development objectives. Guidance is provided for multi-stakeholder consultative processes and sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, to help countries identify best-fit services policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks. Innovative policy options and strategies in services sector that are discussed in the multi-year expert meeting on services are integrated into the menu of options. The DITC's work in this area has helped 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 DITC developed a methodology to assess policy and regulatory frameworks and the impact of trade liberalization in specific sectors and countries – Services Policy Reviews (SPRs). The SPRs provide beneficiary countries with the data and analysis necessary for making informed policy decisions for promoting national services economy including through the liberalization and regulation of service sectors at the national, regional and multilateral levels in order to improve policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, strengthen supply capacities, and identify new opportunities that advance national development objectives. In 2012 an SPR was undertaken for Uganda, and activities were being launched or ongoing for Lesotho, Peru, Nicaragua and Rwanda.

Tailor-made support, training, and advisory services have been provided to policymakers and negotiators in developing countries, including LDCs, the African Group, SADC and COMESA. Technical input, analysis and guidance were provided, for example, to COMESA for negotiating its intra-regional services agreement.

The DITC provided particular attention on technical assistance and capacity-building support on services assessment and negotiations to the SADC secretariat, the SADC Trade Negotiation Forum and SADC policymakers and trade negotiators. Technical assistance was provided to SADC on regional integration and services trade. The DITC participated as resource person in workshops organized by the SADC secretariat on services and the SADC Trade Negotiations Forum-Services meetings in two occasions, from 2–4 April and 5–7 December 2012. In both cases, the DITC provided substantive inputs on issues relating to SADC's built-in services agenda, including rules of origin for services trade and transparency mechanisms. Also, the DITC contributed substantially to a workshop organized jointly by the SADC

secretariat and Trades Centre (Zimbabwe) from 27–29 March 2012 on Enhancing the Participation of SADC Member States in Regional and Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The DITC was called upon by the SADC secretariat and the GFA/GIZ SADC Trade in Services Project to support and participate in the national seminar on trade in services negotiations under SADC and SADC–EPA, held in Maseru (2–4 July 2012). The main seminar brought together all the services stakeholders to prepare for the SADC and SADC–EPA services negotiations and discuss possible further reform in selected sectors and policy options. The DITC's assistance to the SADC secretariat and SADC Member States contributed to strengthening capacities and awareness of countries in the region on how to integrate beneficially into the regional and global services trade and to participate simultaneously in various trade negotiating forums.

The DITC also provided various working materials and studies addressing specific issues and problems identified during regional and multilateral negotiations. It organized or contributed to: (a) National Workshop on Services (16–17 January 2012, Kigali); (b) National Workshop on Trade and Services Liberalization (19–20 January and 2–4 July 2012, Maseru); (c) African Union's Workshop on Trade in Services (29–30 March 2012, Lusaka); (d) SADC Trade Negotiations Forum on services (2–4 April 2012 and 3–7 December, Johannesburg); (e) Seminar coorganized with China on Trade in Services for Developing Countries and LDCs (17–25 May 2012, Wuhan, China); (f) National Workshop on Services (30 October–2 November 2012, Kampala); and (g) National Workshop on Services Policy Review for Peru (10–11 October 2012, Lima). Such assistance has strengthened national and regional strategies, highlighting the importance of services negotiations at the multilateral and regional levels. It has also helped improve coordination between various negotiations, including on the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations and other trade negotiations.

## **5. Trade and development aspects of migration**

The DITC continued its substantive work on migration and development, including the coordination of UNCTAD's participation in major inter-agency initiatives in the field with particular focus placed on mainstreaming migration into development. UNCTAD has partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the WTO, the World Bank and United Nations bodies in order to develop the policies and responses of the United Nations and the international community with regards to international migration. The DITC coordinated UNCTAD's involvement in the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency group that supports international and regional tools related to migration, promoting more efficient approaches to international migration issues. Within the context of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the DITC contributed to trade and development aspects of migration, primarily at the interactive discussions of the GFMD (GFMD Summit meeting 21–22 November 2012, Port Louis, Mauritius). The inter-agency initiatives within the GMG and the GFMD have helped in raising awareness on issues relating to migration, along with improving the current understanding of measures needed for remittances and further aid for migrants.

## **6. Generalized System of Preferences, Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries and other preferences**

The DITC continued its work to enhance the capacity of developing countries in better utilizing existing market access opportunities under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other trade preference schemes. This work consisted in disseminating updated information regarding rules and regulations of various national GSP schemes on the GSP website, including through the preparation of GSP handbooks; compiling preferential trade data; and, providing advisory and capacity-building support to selected developing countries upon request.

Support was also provided in administering notifications regarding certificate of rules of origin. Advisory services on GSP and related market access issues were extended to officials from Qatar (22 February 2012) and Egypt (19 January 2012). A dedicated national workshop was organized for Qatar (Doha, 22 April 2012) in cooperation with the Qatar Development Bank aimed at strengthening understanding of national exporters and the private sector on ways and means to better benefit from various GSP schemes, including rules of origin.

At the South–South level, the DITC provides its technical support to the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) participants. Following the successful conclusion of the São Paulo Round of the GSTP negotiations in December 2010, the DITC continued to support GSTP participants in their efforts towards the Round's effective implementation and follow-up discussions. The DITC assisted GSTP participants in coordinating and backstopping their activities in various GSTP instances (the Subcommittee of Signatories to the São Paulo Round, and the Committee of Participants), including the preparation and organization of the high-level meeting in Doha (23 April 2012) on the margin of UNCTAD XIII. The above high-level GSTP meeting adopted a joint communiqué that emphasized the importance of the expeditious implementation of the São Paulo Round results so as to spur its potential to further boost South–South trade for inclusive development. Technical support was provided upon request to selected GSTP participants.

## **B. TRADE ANALYSIS CAPACITIES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

An UNCTAD XIII pre-event on “Redefining the role of the government in tomorrow's international trade” was organized by the DITC in Geneva from 26–28 March 2012. The policy dialogue brought together a large and diverse range of experts representing a wide



*Peruvian companies made a full presentation on the diversity and quality of products they exported, Study Tour to Seoul, Rep. of Korea, 16-20 April 2012*

spectrum of stakeholders and opinion leaders (policymakers, businesses, academia and civil society) who discussed the challenges of a rapidly changing trade landscape.

Four training workshops on NTMs were held in all developing regions for training of consultants for the identification, collection and classification of NTMs. These training workshops were organized in: Kathmandu for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (12–15 March 2012); South Africa for SADC region jointly with the African Development Bank (Johannesburg, 4–6 June 2012); in San José (Costa Rica) for Central America (3–6 July 2012); and in Abuja for the ECOWAS region (3–7 December 2012).

*Visit to processing plant in Seochon for dried anchovy, Nuri, Study Tour to Seoul, Rep. of Korea, 16-20 April 2012*



The DITC organized and supported the study tour of Peruvian officials and exporters to the Republic of Korea from 16 to 20 April 2012 in the context of enhancing new and dynamic exports of Peru. The study tour was a follow-up to the conclusions of a national workshop, organized on 25 May 2011 in Lima, in which a diagnostic study on three potential export products was presented and discussed among government officials, producers and representations of target import countries. One of the studied products was anchovy for human consumption targeted to the Republic of Korea. The study tour sought essential information on what type of product(s) based on anchovy would suit the Korean market, considering consumer habits and preferences in the country, and knowing that the Peruvian species of anchovy is different from the Asian, any potential trade contacts interested in importing, and sought to strengthen collaboration and joint work among private and public sector. The Peru delegation was composed of two public-sector officials, from the Ministry of Trade and the Export Promotion Agency, and two from the private business sector (the general manager of Small Fish SAC, and the president of Perupez SAC), who were accompanied by a representative of the DITC.

Advisory services were implemented as follows:

- (a) Presentation on regionalism and on market access and export performance experience of Peruvian firms at the Erasmus School of Economics International Seminar in Rotterdam (9–10 January 2012);
- (b) Participation and provisions of inputs to the Inter-agency Technical Working Group Meeting on Indicators and Trends in Implementing the MDGs in New York (21–23 February 2012);
- (c) Presentation on the role of the informal sector in economic development and export performance in a regional workshop coorganized by INPS Campania and the German Consulate in Naples (19 March 2012).

## C. COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The DITC, through its competition and consumer protection programme, implemented several national, regional and international-level capacity-building and dissemination activities in 2012.

The DITC and the Commission on Protection of Competition of Bulgaria supported the launching of the Sofia Competition Forum, a regional initiative which strives to foster cooperation and the development of regional ties in the Balkan region so as to ensure a uniform application of competition rules. It was launched on 12 November 2012. Building on existing international forums, such as UNCTAD, OECD and the International Competition Network (ICN), the Sofia Competition Forum aims to provide the competition authorities of the region a platform to exchange information and expertise in the field of competition policy. Through maintaining a web-based platform for publication of information, materials and presentations, as well as for conducting seminars, the Forum expects to further facilitate the cooperation between competition authorities in the region and foster the development of regional relations among them. Dialogue is mainly focused on issues related to: improving the competition legislation, which fits the specific legal and economic structure and can best address the development needs of the young competition authorities in the region; institutional building of the competition authorities; capacity-building for efficient enforcement of competition law and policy; negotiation processes for European Union membership. The inaugural forum was attended by Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as UNCTAD, OECD and the European Commission.

The DITC organized the Second Intensive Course on International Organizations and Transnational Trade Law (4–7 December 2012)

in the Palais des Nations. The course was attended by Deusto University LL.M. students who benefited from an interdisciplinary overview of the trade-related activities carried out in Geneva, through presentations and interactive debates with representatives of the main Geneva-based trade organizations (UNCTAD, WTO, the World Intellectual Property Organization).

The DITC participated in several international conferences and events related to competition and consumer policies including:

- (a) The eleventh OECD Global Forum on Competition (Paris, 16–17 February 2012), to strengthen cooperation between UNCTAD and OECD on competition issues;
- (b) The ICN conference in Rio de Janeiro from 10–20 April 2012, organizing a side event for dissemination of COMPAL outputs to the membership of ICN;
- (c) The Seoul Forum in Busan (5–6 September 2012);
- (d) The second ASEAN Competition Conference in Ho Chi Minh (13–14 September 2012);
- (e) The ICN Cartels Workshop (Panama City, October 2012) and the ICN Mergers Workshop (Bogotá, November 2012);
- (f) The International Consumer Protection Enforcement Network (ICPEN) Best Practices Workshop, Ghent (Belgium, 9–10 October 2012), and ICPEN Conference Workshop (11–12 October 2012). One of the first outputs is the participation of the European Union, the OECD and ICPEN countries in the revision of the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection. A session on the revision of the Guidelines on Consumer Protection will be considered during the next Ghent ICPEN Conference in April 2013;
- (g) Sixth OECD Committee on Consumer Policy in Paris (16–16 October 2012) to raise awareness of and build support for the revision of the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection.

UNCTAD and the Swiss competition agency (WEKO) collaborate in supporting an internship programme that enables competition and consumer protection officials from developing countries to undertake a three month programme with WEKO in Bern. In 2012, this programme has benefited officials from Colombia, Egypt, and Nicaragua.

Cooperation avenues were explored between UNCTAD, the Organization of American States (OAS), and competition and consumer protection authorities in a meeting in May 2012.

## 1. Competition policy

Under COMPAL (Technical Assistance Programme on Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Latin America), supported by SECO, a number of capacity- and institution-building as well as training and information-sharing events were provided to beneficiary countries. The Advisory Group of Experts and UNCTAD provided recommendations on the Competition Bills of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru for their subsequent enactment. It included field missions to Guatemala (October 2012), Peru (March 2012) and El Salvador (May 2012) for dissemination purposes. Also in 2012, UNCTAD assisted in producing a Guide on Competitive Public Procurement for Ecuador, and a Strategic Plan for Competition Agency of Honduras for the period of 2013–2019.

In Colombia a compilation into a database of legislation, doctrine and jurisprudence

on competition and consumer protection was accomplished by November 2012. The database is already being used by officials at the competition agency (Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, por un comercio responsable) to better substantiate their cases and hence, enhance the quality of the agency's decisions. More than 1,100 documents were analysed and digitalized and more than 1,500 doctrine files were drafted and included in the database showing links to the relevant pieces of legislation. The agency committed to continue the activity with its own resources.

In Costa Rica, UNCTAD provided counsel and support on the design and launching of the competition agency's website, which was presented to the public in April 2012. In Ecuador, a conference on competition issues was delivered in March 2012 in the Universidad de las Américas, followed by a workshop directed at trade associations to raise competition awareness. In El Salvador, an advanced training for staff of the competition agency was organized in October 2012 on specific enforcement issues such as abuse of collective dominance, predatory pricing and parallel practices.

In Honduras, UNCTAD and the competition agency met with representatives of the public sector (members of parliament, the executive, sector regulators, judges, and the consumer protection agency) in May 2012 on advocacy of the competition culture and raise their awareness on competition issues. On that occasion UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding with Honduras enabling the latter to accede to COMPAL. This agreement was presented in the round table coorganized by UNCTAD and Honduras on "State interventionism and competition policy" and in the subsequent dissemination event "The importance of competition for businesses, consumers and national development".

In Nicaragua, training courses on merger case law and analysis were delivered to the staff of the Nicaraguan competition agency by UNCTAD and officials from the competition agencies of Argentina and Colombia (February–May 2012). Two other training sessions on competition issues were organized, one for

*II International Consumer Protection Forum, Lima, Peru, 12-13 November 2012*



#### IV. TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

judges in general (May 2012) and another one for supreme court judges (October 2012). UNCTAD also provided continuous advice to the president of the Nicaraguan competition authority on legal and procedural issues.

In Peru, a training course was organized for Peruvian regional offices on competition and consumer protection issues (November 2012). The activity is ongoing since 2009 integrating a long series of workshops and internships. National and international experts deliver the training courses that are aimed at providing a decentralized competition and consumer protection enforcement throughout the country.

Regional trainings on economic analysis of competition cases were organized for Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru. Four reports were produced suggesting common methodologies for economic analysis of cases, with the aim of facilitating the prosecution of cross-border anticompetitive practices. The first two reports were manuals focused on Colombia and Peru. Following this, two training workshops were organized in these two countries for the staff of the competition agencies. Given the success of the experience, a workshop for Central American countries was held in November 2011, and after that, two more reports were commissioned and produced in 2012 focusing on Central America. In December 2012 two final workshops for Colombia and Peru were organized with a COMPAL consultant and the staff of the agencies working closely in the application of all that had been learnt from real and hypothetical cases.

Two regional training on competition issues for Colombian and Peruvian judges were delivered by UNCTAD, an expert from Oxford University and a Spanish judge in December 2012. Another training session was organized by UNCTAD on economic analysis of cases as part of a regional activity.

The COMPAL Annual Conference, held to gather together beneficiary countries, UNCTAD and the donor country (Switzerland), to share experiences and plan the future activities of the programme, took place in Lima from 20–22 June 2012. It discussed the country reports



*1st COMPAL Workshop for case handlers in for the new Competition Authority, Quito, Ecuador, 17-18 December 2012*

on activities undertaken in 2011 and 2012 and activities planned for 2012–2013, the regional component of COMPAL, and substantive sessions on knowledge and human resources management, and country experiences with merger control.

The COMPAL programme underwent an external evaluation commissioned by the donor country (Switzerland) from March to July 2012. The evaluation praised the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme and proposed recommendations for its continuation.

In Africa, within the framework of the African Competition Programme, country-specific capacity-building activities on competition policy and law issues were undertaken for the Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the Seychelles, training courses on competition law enforcement for the commissioners and case handlers of the Seychelles Fair Trading Commission (FTC) were organized in March 2012. The FTC staff and other participants

*COMPAL II Annual Conference, Lima, Peru, 20-22 June 2012*





*2nd International competition Law Forum, Warsaw, Poland, 27 September 2012*

benefited from the information and skills disseminated during the workshops which, consequently, contributed to the enhancement of their knowledge in the field of competition and investigative techniques.

In Zambia, a two-day training workshop on anticompetitive practices and merger control for commissioners from the Zambia Competition Authority was organized at the margins of the twelfth IGE in July 2012.

In Indonesia, following the finalization of the Cartel Detection Manual, a dissemination workshop was organized by the DITC in Bandung from 10 to 12 September 2012 for the staff of Indonesia's Competition Commission (Komisi Pengawas Persaingan Usaha –KPPU). It helped in disseminating the Manual and in enhancing the understanding of the KPPU case handlers on how to apply detection and investigative techniques and tools described in the Manual into real cartel cases. In Malaysia (24–25 September 2012), a workshop on bid rigging was organized for staff of the Malaysian Competition Commission and other ministries.

## 2. Consumer protection

In respect of consumer protection matters, capacity-building and training activities were implemented at the international and country level. At the international level, the second International Consumer Protection Forum was organized jointly by UNCTAD and the Peruvian consumer protection agency on 11 and 12 November 2012 in Lima. The forum gathered consumer protection agencies from

the Americas as well as regional organizations (OAS), civil society organizations, and academia. It discussed issues regarding (a) revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection; (b) educational programmes for young consumers; (c) e-commerce; (d) implementation of recall systems; and (e) consumer protection in tourism. The third International Consumer Protection Forum will be held in Santo Domingo on 24 and 25 May 2013.

At the country level, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Saint Lucia provided their respective consumer protection bills for UNCTAD's technical review. The Advisory Group of Experts and UNCTAD provided comments for the aforementioned bills and supported the dissemination process in these three countries.

In the Dominican Republic, UNCTAD participated in a two day seminar in August 2012 with consumer associations organized by the Dominican Consumer Protection Agency. It provided counsel on how to best integrate the needs and demands of consumer organizations with those of businesses.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNCTAD drafted the content of a sustainable consumption education programme which was later implemented in secondary schools and universities. This entailed setting up an interactive webpage and several training sessions in educational centres. The highlight of this activity consisted of an e-organization of a competition among students, prizes being awarded for the three best projects. The award ceremony took place in December 2012.

In Colombia, UNCTAD commissioned a viability report to launch a Consumer Quality Seal (Señor Consumidor) among Colombian retail businesses in November 2012. The objective is to promote a self-sustaining consumer protection culture in the private sector, not only in the capital, Bogotá, but throughout the national territory.

In Costa Rica, a new Automatic Market Monitoring System was launched by UNCTAD in March 2012. This system provides consumers with real-time information on market prices and is able to produce statistical data and



reports automatically. Additionally, UNCTAD supported the organization of an ICPEN Best Practices Workshop in San José, training all staff of the consumer protection agency on enforcement issues. UNCTAD organized a two-day seminary on case handling and on safe products to disseminate the procedures used by the consumer protection agency to all relevant state holders (other governmental agencies, academia, businesses, lawyers, and media).

In El Salvador, UNCTAD supported the strengthening of consumer associations by organizing training activities and exchange programmes throughout 2012. This included legal counselling on the steps to become formal consumer associations. UNCTAD also assessed the effectiveness of El Salvador's decentralized offices and provided recommendations to improve their functioning in April 2012. In that same month, UNCTAD presented a series of educational guides for primary and secondary school teachers ("Training Trainers") on sustainable consumption, and later organized training courses on this issue.

In Nicaragua, in February 2012, UNCTAD evaluated the market needs and provided recommendations on new regulations for the functioning of the Nicaraguan internal market encompassing state-of-the-art consumer protection standards. Also, fourteen new products were incorporated in the Price Observatory covering all basic consumer goods. UNCTAD recommended the adoption of a Good Practices Code for businesses from a consumer protection perspective (November 2012).

In Peru, UNCTAD launched a 3D online course for primary school students, hosted in the website of the Peruvian consumer protection agency (April 2012). Similarly, UNCTAD designed an online training course for consumer protection officials, open to staff from all regional offices. UNCTAD drafted a Manual on Labelling for retail businesses, thus increasing legal certainty in the market while enhancing consumer protection culture in the country.

### 3. Voluntary peer reviews

In 2012, the IGE undertook a tripartite peer review of competition law and policy of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and a peer review of the Mongolian competition law and policy.

Following the peer reviews, dissemination events were organized on the recommendations. In Zimbabwe, a one-day training workshop on investigative techniques, economic analysis and judicial review of competition cases was organized back-to-back with the voluntary Zimbabwe peer review dissemination event on 20 November 2012 in Harare for the staff of the Competition and Tariff Commission with the participation of resource persons from the region. In Zambia a one-day training workshop on the relevant market determination and investigative techniques in cartel cases was organized back-to-back with the voluntary Zambia peer review dissemination event on 23 November 2012 in Lusaka for the staff of the Zambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, with the participation of resource persons from the region.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, a one-day training workshop on the relevant market determination and investigative techniques in cartel cases was organized back-to-back with the voluntary country peer review dissemination event on 27 November 2012 in Dar es Salaam for the staff of the Tanzania Fair Competition Commission with the participation of resource persons from the region.

*Tri-Partite Dissemination Event, Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-20 November 2012*



In Ulaanbaatar between 5–7 December 2012, the DITC conducted a dissemination event on the recommendations of the Mongolia voluntary peer review (6 December) and organized a one-day training workshop on anticompetitive practices and competition law enforcement (7 December 2012) for the staff of the Agency for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection of Mongolia, with the participation of resource persons from other competition authorities. The DITC undertook consultations with relevant stakeholders on 5 and 7 December.

In preparation for the voluntary peer review of the competition policy of Nicaragua, Pakistan and Ukraine in 2013, the DITC undertook the preparations of the peer review studies and provided related advisory services. For example, a fact-finding mission in preparation for the Ukraine peer review was undertaken to Kiev from 15–17 October 2012.

## **D. TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **1. BioTrade Initiative**

Since its creation in 1996, UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative (managed by the DITC) seeks to promote trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with the CBD. It has contributed to the identification of a group of producers, processors and retailers who are seriously engaged in and committed to sustainable use of biodiversity and to the fair and equitable distribution of benefits. Today, biotrade is becoming even more relevant as efforts toward biodiversity conservation and sustainable use increasingly implicate a scaling up of biotrade activities to achieve broader and more ambitious global conservation goals and to meet international targets. Additionally, biotrade has a significant potential for contributing to the transition towards more sustainable economies, especially in developing countries. It remains a key concept, process and activity, which increasingly calls the attention of countries, populations and entrepreneurs to effectively integrate and create positive synergies between conservation, sustainability,

equity and trade and development measures.

In 2012, UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative and BioTrade Facilitation Programme Phase Two, supported by SECO, continued to assist developing countries in strengthening the institutional capacity of the national biotrade programmes in developing policy frameworks in support of biotrade. Technical assistance and advisory services were provided by the DITC to biotrade programmes and partners in Burundi, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Viet Nam on issues such as the biotrade concept and methodologies, and value chain development and market access opportunities. It also continued implementing activities under biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements such as the CBD. The Initiative contributed to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Targets and disseminated biotrade activities through documents as well as at CBD meetings.

UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative, in partnership with the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the UNDP Private Sector DITC, continued to support the use of biotrade as an approach to assist reintegration of ex-combatants and livelihoods in post-crisis settings. Biotrade is featured as a reintegration and economic revitalization strategy within the full and operational Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Standards Module on DDR and Natural Resources. In Indonesia, the BioTrade Initiative supported UNDP Indonesia and UNDP BCPR and its project in Aceh Selatan by providing technical advice to the nutmeg value chain and supported the development of the BioTrade Impact Assessment for 2010 and 2011, as well as commissioning the report on the lessons learned in this joint nutmeg initiative. At the national level, UNCTAD has finalized the National BioTrade Assessment and Natural Ingredients Sector Assessment. The experience of working with biotrade in post-crisis settings was shared in events organized by UNDP and its partners in Switzerland and Thailand. The dissemination of these experiences has been crucial in enhancing knowledge on the linkages and opportunities that biotrade provides to local communities in

#### IV. TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

post-conflict settings and has raised interest of several UNDP country offices such as Burundi.

To start the process in Burundi, a value chain training session (through videoconference, 22 August 2012, between Burundi, New York and Geneva) was conducted by UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative to UNDP Burundi and UNDP BCPR staff. It discussed biotrade as a post-conflict livelihoods and recovery option in Burundi.

In Colombia, UNCTAD continued to support the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in ensuring the continuity of implementing biotrade activities and participated in several events related to the green economy and the cosmetic sector.

UNCTAD supported Viet Nam to become a recognized supplier of natural ingredient products traded through supply chains that conform to the principles of biotrade and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity under the project “Development of Biotrade Activities within the Natural Ingredients Sector” (period 2012–2014). In particular, UNCTAD participated in the launching of the BioTrade Project (15–16 May 2012) and facilitated the sharing of biotrade experiences between Viet Nam and Peru in June 2012. The National Institute of Medicinal Materials is the national partner that will also support the development of biotrade in Viet Nam, and Helvetas/Swiss Intercooperation–Viet Nam is currently managing the project.

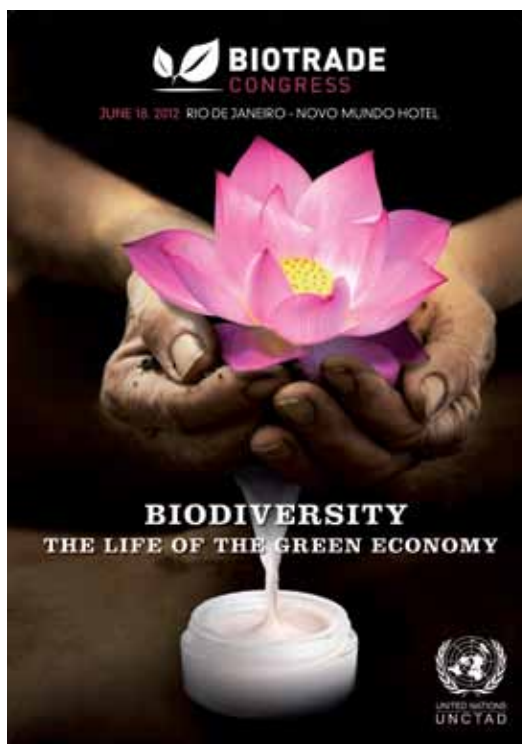
The BioTrade Initiative has continued to support the creation of an enabling policy environment to foster private sector engagement in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. In partnership with the NRSC and the Mexican Government (CONABIO), it supported efforts to develop the candelilla value chain (used in the cosmetic industry), drawing upon guidelines developed by UNCTAD to support efforts in sustainably sourcing the species, namely “Guidelines for sustainable management of biotrade products: resource assessment” (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/1). As noted earlier, a presentation on the development of the candelilla value chain was made at a lunch time event during the Trade and Development Board session.



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The BioTrade Initiative supports the CITES in promoting the sustainable use of CITES-listed species and engaging the private sector, particularly in the cosmetic and fashion sectors. In response to a mandate from CITES, UNCTAD and the CITES secretariat started work on the sustainable use of reptiles through launching a scoping study to propose options of traceability systems for reptile (python) skins. Toolkits for CITES-listed species yellow anaconda, *Crocodylus moreletii* and Figue were also developed.

*Launching of the BioTrade programme in Hanoi, Vietnam, 15-16 May 2012*



*Biotrade Initiative Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 18 June 2012*

To increase awareness and understanding of biotrade issues by the public and private stakeholders, the BioTrade Initiative has organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences and discussions of international development processes (in addition to the First BioTrade Congress mentioned earlier) including:

- (a) Natural Resources Management Training Course (Inter-agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration–UNEP), 27 February–2 March 2012, Montreux, Switzerland;
- (b) Congreso Colombia – Economía Verde, 24 May 2012, Bogota;
- (c) Taller Biodiversidad y Biocomercio – Sector Cosméticos y Aseo, 29 May 2012, Bogota;
- (d) Workshop on Development of BioTrade Activities within the Natural Ingredients Sectors in Hanoi, 15–16 May 2012, Hanoi;
- (e) Regional Training Programme on Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, session four: Livelihoods Recovery and the Environment, hosted by UNDP BCPR–Asia Pacific Regional Centre, 10–14 September 2012, Bangkok;
- (f) UNCTAD (DITC on Technology and Logistics) course on global value chains, 11 December 2012, Geneva.

## 2. BioFuels Initiative

UNCTAD's Biofuels Initiative (managed by the DITC) continued to offer a facilitating hub for programmes or initiatives already underway

*Bio trade Congress,  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,  
18 June 2012*



in a number of institutions. Together with its partners, it has provided developing countries with access to sound economic and trade policy analysis, capacity-building activities and consensus-building tools. It has maintained its partnerships with intergovernmental organizations, governments, applied research centres, non-governmental organizations, and relevant initiatives such as the International Bioenergy Platform of the FAO, United Nations–Energy, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the G8 Global Bioenergy Partnership, UNEP–Risoe, UNIDO, the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne/World Economic Forum Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, the Brazilian Military Engineering Institute, and the University of Sao Paulo among others.

The BioFuels Initiative continued to assist developing countries in their policy analysis and decision-making process on whether biofuels is an option for them in achieving energy security and sustainable development goals. It collaborated with the Government of Mexico in assessing the biofuel option, including the evaluation of policy implementation and analysing developments in biofuels markets, in particular, on issues related to sustainability certification. An examination of the Mexican biofuels programme for the further development of a strategy to facilitate the deployment of bioethanol in the country was undertaken in the first semester of 2012 and provided to the Government.

The BioFuel Initiative continued working on climate-friendly, cost-efficient and development oriented green sectors, which are within reach of developing and least developed countries by deepening analysis on biofuels. It included analysis of the costs of biofuel sustainability certification, and their impacts on developing country producers. Two articles analysing costs have been prepared by staff of the DITC (jointly other authors) and are currently under peer review in academic journals. These are (1) The price for biofuels sustainability in the journal

## IV. TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

*Energy Policy* (Elsevier); and “Mapping green product spaces of nations” in the *Journal of Environment and Development* (SAGE).

In the margins of the Rio+20 Summit, the Biofuels Initiative organized a side event on biofuels on 19 June 2012, which explored new sustainable and socially inclusive biofuels experiences in developing and least developed countries (as discussed in chapter II). As a follow up, the DITC started work on a funding proposal to establish an African Bioenergy Development Platform which, as noted earlier, would assist interested African countries to develop their bioenergy potential.

### 3. Climate Change Programme and sustainable development

In 2012, the Climate Change Programme of the DITC focused its capacity-building activities on assisting developing countries in informing them about the trade and development aspects of the Rio+20 summit, in particular in respect of the green economy, so as to enable to participate in the negotiation of the outcome document, and integrate trade related dimensions. Follow-up initiatives to implement aspects of the Rio+20 Summit outcome have also been launched. These activities were explained in chapter II.

In addition, the DITC contributed to: “Dialogue on the Opportunities of Latin America countries in a Transition to Green Economy” in Heredia (Costa Rica, 25–28 July 2012); and the third Roundtable on Trade and Sustainable Development in Bogota (7–8 November 2012).

### 4. Organic agriculture

The DITC has been implementing a three-year project on “Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic”, funded by SECO under the framework of the United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The main objective of this project is to strengthen the organic agriculture and the handicraft (especially the silk) industries in order to achieve a spill-over effect on those sectors through backward linkages, develop an overall competitive tourism industry, while



*Workshop on Rio+20,  
New York, USA,  
19 January 2012*

at the same time improving the export volume and quality of the above mentioned sectors, thereby positively impacting on poverty in targeted provinces of Lao People’s Democratic Republic. UNCTAD is contributing mainly in the organic agriculture and tourism components of the project (together with ITC).

A major output under the project by UNCTAD was the organization of the second Lao Organic Agriculture Forum in Luang Prabang, at the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, on 10–11 December 2012. The inaugural meeting of Lao Organic Agriculture Forum was held in early 2012 and this second forum in late 2012 was considered important as a platform of public–private sector dialogue to keep the momentum of the project, to acknowledge and showcase what has been done so far, and to discuss future directions. The Forum was well attended with about 40–65 participants

*Workshop on Rio+20,  
New York, USA,  
16 March 2012*



from public and private sectors, including policymakers, agricultural producers, tourism and craft enterprises. It updated participants on the national situation of organic agriculture development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and analysed its current status; facilitated experience sharing with participants about the experiences of organic agriculture development in other countries; facilitated information sharing among civil society, the public and private sectors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on organic agricultural development, including the successful Lao organic businesses experiences; and discussed concrete activities which could be adopted by stakeholders to promote further the development of organic agriculture in the country.

Specific issues discussed included: industrial policy for stimulating the dynamic forces of markets and linking organic agriculture and tourism in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; the Lao Organic Movement Association; state of play and challenges of the Lao organic sector; the Lao organic value chain experiences so far as regard organic farming promotions among small-scale farmers in Luang Prabang; the organic producers group experience in Xieng Kouang; experiences of organizing organic farmer market in Vientiane and issues regarding the running of an organic shop in Vientiane; support mechanism for building Lao organic value chain including supporting farmer markets for local organic production and consumption, and organic guarantee system of the Laos Certification Body; and organic value chain experiences from Malaysia and Singapore, and Thailand. Also an organic farm tour was organized for the participants.

In addition, the DITC participated in the UNCTAD-FAO-International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) initiative in Nuremberg (Germany, 10-20 February 2012). It contributed to the "10 Year Anniversary Conference: Let the Good Products Flow! Global Organic Market Access in 2012 and Beyond" held on the margins of BioFACH, the world's biggest organic trade fair. It, inter alia,

provided an opportunity for those involved in the development of regional organic standards in East Africa, the Pacific, Central America and Asia to share experiences. The Asian Regional Organic Standard (AROS) was approved by the GOMA Asia Working Group that met in Nuremberg prior to the Conference. AROS covers organic crop production, processing and labelling.

The DITC also contributed to the Avenir Suisse Workshop on Commodity Trade in Basel (Switzerland, 10 October 2012); and to the second Annual European Raw Materials Conference in Brussels (20 March 2012).

## 5. Creative economy

Drawing upon its analyses and expertise on creative economy and industries, the DITC made substantive inputs into various national and international events directed at enhancing understanding on the creative economy and developing strategies to strengthen the impact of creative industries on development. In addition to the High-Level Policy Dialogue on the Creative Economy held at UNCTAD XIII and the Rio+20 side events as described earlier, other events benefited from UNCTAD's contribution on creative industries, indicative of growing interest of countries in utilizing UNCTAD's analyses, accumulated knowledge and expertise and database in fully developing and benefiting from creative industries.

During an International Colloquium on Creative Economy in Osaka (Japan, February 2012), the Graduate School for Creative Cities, Osaka City University, organized a seminar to debate the "Analysis of the Creative Economy Report 2010". The university translated key chapters of the report into Japanese to facilitate the debates and three professors made insightful comments on UNCTAD's methodology. A debate on the significance of the creative economy for urban regeneration noted that creative city policies can only be successful if they are part of a broader urban strategy. Japan has strong creative industries for animation, cinema, music, computer games and books but also fashion design and cuisine, which are the core of its soft power sector accounting for

5 per cent of gross domestic product. Osaka University joined the UNCTAD Academic Exchange Network on Creative Economy.

The “CronaFest: Incubation + Creativity + City” event in Mexico City (February 2012), was driven by a private sector initiative from “Incubadora de Talentos” that connected the public and private sectors involving about 75 small businesses with over 300 creative entrepreneurs from the new media sector located in a creative district of the capital. The festival offered a platform to engaging investors, artists, students and citizens to reflect on how to promote the creative industries, through the production of animation content, visual effects and video games. UNCTAD participated in the event and also held consultations with government officials including the Mexican Investment Agency to discuss investments and financing for the creative economy.

The Thailand International Creative Economy Forum (Bangkok, 25–27 March 2012), the second such forum organized by the Department of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, focused on the theme of “Grand to Ground: Capturing Local Value, Creating Global Impact”. It discussed the reinforcement of income generation policy using creative economy by adding value to local or communal values and identity with creativity and bringing them forward to international success sustainably. The forum was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand. It was emphasized that as a middle income country, creativity and value creation were essential to drive prosperity and Thai entrepreneurs need to change their business mindsets towards creating value is an integrated process that combines culture and design with innovation and technology. UNCTAD participated and contributed to the deliberations especially on creative economy opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog into dynamic sectors of the world economy.

China’s International Fair on Trade in Services Fair (Beijing, 28 May–1 June, 2012) on the theme “ Trade in Services: New Vision, New Opportunities, New Development,” was organized by the Ministry of Commerce

and Beijing Municipal Government with the support of the China State Council. The services economy and creative industries were highlighted as key strategic sectors for growth in the China and for Beijing. During the twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012–2015), China has set boosting the development of the service industry as a strategic goal in optimizing and upgrading its industrial structure. Creative industries already account for 12 per cent of gross domestic product. UNCTAD participated as a key partner and discussed strategies to promote the creative services both in traditional fields and fast-growing creative sectors like new media, advertising, arts craft, and art market, cultural and recreational services and opportunities for creative industries at global markets. An important outcome of the fair and reaffirmation of the creative sectors was reflected in the strong investor interest in Beijing’s cultural base. Contracts for 18 projects were signed worth RMB 2.2 billion, which included art, television and filmmaking as well as animation, ballet and theatre.

The Conference on Sustainable Cultural Entrepreneurship, Utrecht (the Netherlands, 12–15 April 2012) was hosted by the School of Arts of Utrecht University on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, with a focus on cultural sustainability and its social and environmental dimensions. The Dutch government included the creative industries among the priorities for its innovation strategy and the university is one of the partners. The city of Utrecht is one of the oldest towns in the country but has a young population and many new knowledge-intensive ventures. Round tables discussed creative opportunities to develop alternative ways of sustainable production, including on the renewing of cities and social innovation. UNCTAD participated in the debate on issues regarding the creative and the green economy, underlying that creativity and intellectual capital are inexhaustible human resources and most creative industries are environmentally friendly, able to generate greener products and services. UNCTAD has collaborated with the School of Arts of the Utrecht University including through organization of several workshops and events are organized at least once a year.

The BCreative 2012 Conference, Vancouver (Canada, 10–12 May 2012) was organized by the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, jointly with the Government of the British Columbia region. It discussed the outline of a strategy to strengthen the creative economy and facilitate policy actions by the provincial and the federal government. Participants discussed lessons from past supportive programmes, debating how new ones should be more effective to maximize its impact. UNCTAD was invited to and spoke at the event.

Nigeria's First National Policy Dialogue on the Development of the Creative/Entertainment Industries vis-à-vis Nigeria's Vision 2020 and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (Lagos, 18–21 July 2012) was organized by the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation with the support of UNCTAD, UNDP and the Nigerian Export–Import Bank. The Policy Dialogue highlighted the rising contribution of the creative industries to Nigeria's economy, gross domestic product, trade, employment, tourism and image promotion and identified of challenges and a addressing them, including through greater synergies between the government and stakeholders including creative professionals.

Post-crisis Finance, Trade and Investment in Emerging Economies: Search for Sustainable Growth Models and the Role of Creative Industries, Istanbul (8–9 November 2012) was organized by the Istanbul Commerce University (with 5,948 students) and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the Ministry of Trade and Customs. UNCTAD participated and contributed to the discussions and to the inaugural opening of the Istanbul Centre for Creative Economy, Cultural Industries and Creative Cities which will be housed at the university campus. The main partners of the centre are the Ministry of Trade and Customs, Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul and

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. UNCTAD had supported the setting up of the Istanbul Centre for Creative Economy, Cultural Industries and Creative Cities and was thus invited to join the advisory board of the centre which has other internationally recognized experts. UNCTAD is working on a proposed protocol of cooperation with the Istanbul Commerce University to strengthen support for the centre.

The China second International Forum: Developing Trade Facilitation to Strengthen the International Competitiveness of SMES (Beijing, 21–23 November 2012) was organized by the Beijing Chaoyang District Commission of Commerce together with Trade Point Beijing and supported by Beijing Municipal Commission of Commerce and Beijing People's Government of Chaoyang District. UNCTAD participated in the discussions on the creative industries and international trade highlighting the main sectors with export potential in the Asia/Pacific region.

The eighth World Summit on Internet and Multimedia and the first China International Creative Economy Conference (Fuzhou City, 27–29 November, 2012) were organized by the International Federation of Multimedia Associations, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Fujian Provincial People's Government with the support of UNCTAD, UNDP, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Culture, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Institute of Digital Francophonie, the Film Federation of India, the International Digital Media and Arts Association and others. UNCTAD addressed the opening ceremony on the importance of the creative economy and particularly on the services. The meeting promoted the networking on the digital and creative industries for the BRICS countries as well as among developing countries.



PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES: COOPERATING  
AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**V**

The Division maintains a wide network of cooperating partners with which it collaborates in promoting international trade, trade policy and trade negotiations and related regulatory and institutional development as effective instruments for trade expansion, sustainable economic growth and inclusive development. For example it provided policy analyses on the international trading system and trade negotiations for reports prepared by United Nations departments, especially DESA, on follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, and the World Economic and Social Survey. Regular contacts and cooperation are maintained with such agencies as UNDP, United Nations regional commissions, OECD, the African Union, the Commonwealth secretariat, the ACP Group, WTO, ITC, multilateral environmental agreements (especially CITES and CBD), and networks dealing with competition policy and law matters. For capacity-building efforts increasingly activities are evolved under the United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and its member agencies, as well as under the AfT initiative. The Division also cooperates with academic institutions and civil society organizations.

### **1. United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators.**

The DITC takes part in and contributes to the United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators. This includes various departments within the United Nations Secretariat, a number of United Nations agencies from within the system and outside, various government agencies and national statisticians, and other organizations concerned with the development of MDG data at the national and international levels, including donors and expert advisers. UNCTAD's contribution (provided by the Division), in close collaboration with WTO and ITC, entails the annual provision of data and analysis for the update of MDG indicators on market access, namely, indicator 8.6 (proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries and least developed

countries, admitted free of duty) and indicator 8.7 (average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries). These data and analyses are integrated into the United Nations annual MDGs reports. The group prepared the annual United Nations Inter-agency Millennium Development Goals 2012 Report which presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs.

### **2. The Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force**

The Division also contributes to the United Nations inter-agency MDG Gap Task Force, which was created by the United Nations Secretary-General to improve monitoring of the global commitments contained in MDG 8, the Global Partnership for Development, through the joint production of the annual MDG gap task force report. The main purpose of the task force is to systematically track existing international commitments and to identify gaps and obstacles in their fulfilment at the international and country level in the areas of official development assistance, market access (trade), debt relief, access to essential medicines and new technologies. The Task Force integrates more than 20 United Nations and other international agencies. The MDG Gap Task Force Report 2012 entitled "The global partnership for development: making rhetoric a reality", found difficulty in identifying areas of significant new progress in the global partnership to achieve the Goals, and for the first time there are signs of backsliding. The Division provides analytical inputs to the report's chapter on "Market access – Trade".

### **3. The Research Partnership Platform on competition and consumer protection**

UNCTAD created the Research Partnership Platform (RPP) in 2010. It is an initiative that aims at contributing to the development of best practices in the formulation and effective enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws and policies so as to promote development. It brings together

research institutions, universities, competition authorities, business and civil society, and provides a platform where they can undertake joint research and other activities with UNCTAD, exchange ideas on the issues and challenges in the area of competition and consumer protection faced particularly by developing countries and economies in transition. Currently, RPP hosts thirty-four institutions consisting of research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations, corporate affiliates and competition agencies

The third meeting of RPP on competition and consumer protection was held on 8 July 2012 in Geneva. It brought together 50 participants from competition authorities, consumer protection agencies, universities and research institutes. Project leaders provided an update of the ongoing research projects. Within this framework, the competitive neutrality project led by Professor Deborah Healey and the Competition Law and the State project led by Professor Eleanor Fox were discussed. Furthermore, a new project proposal was presented on “Benchmarking Competition Systems: A Global Survey of Major Institutional Characteristics”.

#### **4. UNCTAD–Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe Working Group on Trade and Competition**

Two regional seminars on trade and competition were held in April 2009 in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and in May 2010 in Brazil, where Ministers and senior officials of institutions responsible for competition and trade of the Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA) member countries participated. Both seminars concluded with a series of recommendations aiming at enhancing cooperation between competition and trade policies. In particular, a proposal was made to establish a Working Group on Trade and Competition (WGTC) within SELA, which would draw upon the substantive support of UNCTAD. On 19 October 2010 the SELA Council endorsed the proposal and created the WGTC. The mandate of the WGTC is to establish contact and dialogue between trade

and competition officials of SELA countries; to agree on collective actions needed to fight cross-border anticompetitive business practices; to promote studies at regional level on issues of interest to trade and competition authorities; and to share information and experiences as regards these two policy areas.

The first annual meeting of the WGTC was held in Colombia, on 4 and 5 July 2011. The second annual meeting took place in Lima on 18 and 19 June 2012. Between annual meetings, work continues within established working subgroups, which present results in the annual meetings. In Lima the following issues were discussed: coherence between trade and competition policies, competition and trade issues in the health sector, knowledge management and human resources management, public procurement, cross-border anticompetitive practices and technical assistance needs and opportunities for cooperation.

#### **5. The Transparency in Trade Initiative**

Priority attention was given to the implementation of the Transparency in Trade Initiative (jointly by UNCTAD, ITC, The World Bank and the African Development Bank), especially on classification, data collection and measurement of NTMs. In this regard, new non-tariff data were added to the TRAINS–WITS database. Mobilization of financing for the project continued.

#### **6. The International Collaborative Initiative on Trade and Employment**

The International Collaborative Initiative on Trade and Employment (ICITE) aims to seek a better understanding of how trade interacts with employment, promote discussion on these issues and develop policy-relevant conclusions. ICITE is a joint undertaking of 10 international organizations namely UNCTAD, ILO, the World Bank, WTO, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, OAS, OECD, ECLAC and the African Development Bank.

The DITC represents UNCTAD in ICITE meetings. It participated in the steering committee meeting in 2012 and contributed to the ICITE publication (OECD (2012), *Policy Priorities for International Trade and Jobs*, ed. Lippoldt D, available at: [www.oecd.org/trade/icite](http://www.oecd.org/trade/icite)). The Division's contribution discusses the employment effects of the regional integration in SADC. Jointly with the OECD and other international organizations the Division participated as resource agency in activities where results from the ICITE initiative were presented and discussed (International Conference on Trade and Employment, Jakarta, December 2012; WTO Public Forum, Better jobs through Trade: Presenting the Results of the ICITE Project, Geneva, September 2012).

## 7. United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards

The DITC initiated and supported the creation of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), which is a joint project of FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNIDO. The Forum would act as a neutral, independent and credible platform for the provision of information on emerging new and diverse standards arising from the rapidly expanding environmental/sustainability markets in which health, social and environmental impacts of production and

*Annual General Assembly of  
G-NEXID, Doha, Qatar,  
20 April 2012*



consumption playing an increasingly important role in shaping consumer preferences. It would systematically conduct analytical, empirical and capacity-building activities in this field and deal with generic and strategic problems of voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) in a consistent way, without endorsing or legitimizing any specific VSS.

Throughout 2012 preparatory work was undertaken on the launching of the UNFSS which was held in Geneva on 21 and 22 March 2013. In terms of the preparatory work, the first in-person meeting of the advisory panel of the UNFSS focused on developing recommendations on what issues related to VSS. Also, briefings on the UNFSS were provided in a number of events including: UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board meeting (Geneva, 24 September 2012); the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee (Geneva, 11–13 November 2012); the International Conference on Sustainable Business and Consumption in Bonn (Germany, 27–28 November 2012); the GIZ cocoa supply chain technical board meeting in Amsterdam (the Netherlands, 28–29 November 2012); and the OECD Joint Working Group on Trade and Environment Experts (Paris, 10–11 December 2012).

## 8. Global Network of Export–Import Banks and Development Finance Institutions

The Global Network of Export–Import (Exim) Banks and Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID) was launched on 13 March 2006 in Geneva, with support from the Exim Bank of India and UNCTAD. It is aimed at supporting South–South trade and investment relations, which have assumed increasing importance, through trade and investment financing cooperation. G-NEXID is managed by the General Assembly and the Steering Committee.

In 2012, the seventh Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of G-NEXID was held in Doha (20 April 2012) during the occasion of UNCTAD XIII. It enabled member institutions to take stock of work undertaken in the previous year, plan for the year ahead and in addition

to contribute to UNCTAD XIII events. Among a number of cooperative initiatives of the network is the recent involvement of Exim banks in the promotion of the entertainment industries. The Eximbank of India has been implementing a programme for financing the country's export-oriented creative industries, in particular the Bollywood film-making industry. This includes financing of animation, gaming software and content development in movies, media and education, areas that have considerable export potential. Based on this experience, the Eximbank of India recently entered into a partnership cooperation agreement with the Nigerian Export-Import Bank to support the development of the Nigerian movie industry, commonly known as Nollywood, and to enhance its export potential. Another example is an agreement signed on 19 March 2012 by the African Export Import Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America to promote trade and project financing cooperation between Africa and Latin America. This agreement will be implemented by strengthening exchanges of experience and knowledge, mutual assistance in operational areas, consulting for best practices in client service, and cooperation on training and the organization of business events.

### **9. World Trade Organization Director-General's Advisory Group on Aid for Trade**

The DITC has actively participated in all AfT meetings organized by WTO and

OECD, including the Committee on Trade and Development and the WTO Director General's Aid for Trade Advisory Committee. This has contributed to increased its visibility in the AfT global community. Activities have included (a) ensuring that UNCTAD activities are mentioned in reports and communications on AfT, such as the report on "Progress in implementation of the 2012–2013 Aid for Trade work programme" that included a reference on the UNCTAD XIII Conference to be held in Doha; (b) participating in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development meeting in July, 2012, wherein the WTO announced the preparations for the fourth Global Aid for Trade Review to be held in July, 2013. Since then, UNCTAD has been preparing inputs and responding to WTO questionnaires regarding the monitoring process on AfT leading to the Review. UNCTAD's participation at the Director General's Aid for Trade Advisory Group meetings has also been acknowledged and has contributed to exploring joint activities to be carried out with other international organizations. At a meeting in July 2012, UNCTAD reported on its AfT-related activities such as its participation on international meetings such as Rio+20, the work on VSSs, the Global Organic Market Access Project, support to the African Union Action Plan to Boost Intra-African Trade, and to G-NEXID, particularly the proposal to foster cooperation in support of Africa and Latin America trade.





# ANNEX



## INDICATIVE LIST OF DITC PUBLICATIONS FOR 2012

- Services, Development and Trade: The Regulatory and Institutional Dimension.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/4).
- Services, Trade and Development.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/5).
- Mexico's Agriculture Development: Perspective and Outlook.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/2).
- Implications of the Global Economic Crisis on India's Services Sector.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/22).
- Generalized System of Preferences: Handbook on the Scheme of Switzerland.* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.28/Rev.2).
- What Does it Take to Implement Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access for LDCs? Quantifying preference erosion for sub-Saharan African countries in the United States.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2011/9).
- How Are the Poor Affected by International Trade in India: An Empirical Approach.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/7).
- Handbook on the Rules of Origin of the European Union.* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.25/Rev.3/Add.1).
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