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

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2016

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Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ADT	Accounting Development Tool
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
AUC	African Union Commission
BIT	bilateral investment treaty
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMPAL	Competition and Consumer Protection for Latin America
DFQF	duty-free and quota-free
DITC	Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (UNCTAD)
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
DTL	Division on Technology and Logistics (UNCTAD)
EAG	Expert Advisory Group
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
Empretec	Entrepreneurship Development Programme (UNCTAD)
EPA	economic partnership agreement
EPF	Entrepreneurship Policy Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GMG	Global Migration Group
GPM	United Nations Global Policy Model
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GSTP	Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
ICT	information and communications technology
IIA	international investment agreement

ILO	International Labour Organization
INFOCOMM	Market information in the commodities area (UNCTAD project)
IP	intellectual property
IPA	investment promotion agency
IPFSD	Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development
IPR	Investment Policy Review
ISDS	investor–State dispute settlement
ITC	International Trade Centre
JFTC	Japan Fair Trade Commission
LDC	least developed country
LLDC	landlocked developing country
LOAF	Lao Organic Agriculture Forum
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MSME	microenterprise, small and medium-sized enterprise
NCTTCA	Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority
NGERs	National Green Export Reviews
NGO	non-governmental organization
NTFC	National Trade Facilitation Committee
NTM	non-tariff measure
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
RVCs	regional value chains
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	sustainable development goal
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland
SELA	Latin America Economic System
SIDS	small island developing State
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SPR	Services Policy Review
STI	science, technology and innovation
STIP	science, technology and innovation policy
TCCPP	Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Proclamation
TFA	Trade Facilitation
TNC	transnational corporation
ToT	Training of Trainers Workshop
TPFs	Trade Policy Frameworks

TPP	Tran-Pacific Partnership Agreement
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC COP	Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFSS	United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Vi	Virtual Institute (UNCTAD)
VSS	Voluntary Sustainability Standards
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WIF	World Investment Forum
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WIR	World Investment Report
WTO	World Trade Organization

Country/territory/region codes

AFG	Afghanistan	DJI	Djibouti
ALB	Albania	DMI	Dominica
ALG	Algeria	DOM	Dominican Republic
ANG	Angola	DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ANL	Anguilla	DRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ANT	Antigua and Barbuda	ECU	Ecuador
ARG	Argentina	EGY	Egypt
ARM	Armenia	ELS	El Salvador
ARU	Aruba	EQG	Equatorial Guinea
AZE	Azerbaijan	ERI	Eritrea
BAH	Bahrain	EST	Estonia
BAL	Baltic States (regional)	ETH	Ethiopia
BAR	Barbados	EUR	Europe
BDI	Burundi	FIJ	Fiji
BEN	Benin	GAB	Gabon
BER	Bermuda	GAM	Gambia
BGD	Bangladesh	GBS	Guinea-Bissau
BHA	Bahamas	GEO	Georgia
BHU	Bhutan	GHA	Ghana
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GIB	Gibraltar
BKF	Burkina Faso	GLO	Global
BOL	Plurinational State of Bolivia	GRN	Grenada
BOT	Botswana	GUA	Guatemala
BRA	Brazil	GUI	Guinea
BRU	Brunei Darussalam	GUY	Guyana
BUL	Bulgaria	HAI	Haiti
BVI	British Virgin Islands	HON	Honduras
BYE	Belarus	HUN	Hungary
BZE	Belize	IND	India
CAF	Central African Republic	INS	Indonesia
CAM	Central America (regional)	INT	Interregional
CAR	Caribbean (regional)	IRA	Islamic Republic of Iran
CAY	Cayman Islands	IRQ	Iraq
CHD	Chad	IVC	Côte d'Ivoire
CHI	Chile	JAM	Jamaica
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	JOR	Jordan
		KAZ	Kazakhstan
		KEN	Kenya
CKI	Cook Islands	KIR	Kiribati
CMB	Cambodia	KOR	Republic of Korea
CMR	Cameroon	KUW	Kuwait
COI	Comoros	KYR	Kyrgyzstan
COL	Colombia	LAO	Lao People's Democratic Republic
COS	Costa Rica	LAT	Latvia
CPR	China	LEB	Lebanon
CRO	Croatia	LIB	Libya
CUB	Cuba	LIR	Liberia
CVI	Cabo Verde	LIT	Lithuania
CYP	Cyprus	LSO	Lesotho
CZE	Czechia		

MAG	Madagascar	SAU	Saudi Arabia
MAL	Malaysia	SEN	Senegal
MAR	Mauritius	SEY	Seychelles
MAT	Malta	SIL	Sierra Leone
MAU	Mauritania	SIN	Singapore
MCD	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	SLO	Slovakia
		SOI	Solomon Islands
MDV	Maldives	SOM	Somalia
MEX	Mexico	SPM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
MLI	Mali	SRL	Sri Lanka
MLW	Malawi	STH	Saint Helena
MOL	Republic of Moldova	STK	Saint Kitts and Nevis
MON	Mongolia	STL	Saint Lucia
MOR	Morocco	STP	Sao Tome and Principe
MOT	Montserrat	STV	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
MOZ	Mozambique	SUD	Sudan
MYA	Myanmar	SUR	Suriname
NAM	Namibia	SVN	Slovenia
NAN	Netherlands Antilles	SWA	Swaziland
NCA	New Caledonia	SYR	Syrian Arab Republic
NEP	Nepal	TAI	Taiwan Province of China
NER	Niger	TAJ	Tajikistan
NIC	Nicaragua	TCI	Turks and Caicos Islands
NIR	Nigeria	THA	Thailand
NIU	Niue	TIM	Timor-Leste
OMA	Oman	TOG	Togo
PAK	Pakistan	TOK	Tokelau
PAL	Palestinian Authority	TON	Tonga
PAN	Panama	TRI	Trinidad and Tobago
PAR	Paraguay	TUK	Turkmenistan
PER	Peru	TUN	Tunisia
PHI	Philippines	TUR	Turkey
PNG	Papua New Guinea	TUV	Tuvalu
POL	Poland	UAE	United Arab Emirates
PRC	Congo	UGA	Uganda
PUE	Puerto Rico	UKR	Ukraine
QAT	Qatar	URT	United Republic of Tanzania
RAF	Africa (regional)	URU	Uruguay
RAS	Asia and the Pacific (regional)	UZB	Uzbekistan
RER	Europe (regional)	VAN	Vanuatu
RLA	Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)	VEN	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
		VIE	Viet Nam
ROM	Romania	YEM	Yemen
RUS	Russian Federation	YUG	Yugoslavia
RWA	Rwanda	ZAM	Zambia
SAF	South Africa	ZIM	Zimbabwe
SAM	Samoa		

Introduction

1. This annex provides a description of the main technical cooperation projects and other projects undertaken by UNCTAD in 2016. It is presented in accordance with the four themes specified in the UNCTAD Toolbox. Under each theme, there are a number of products around which projects are grouped. For projects that are not linked with any of the 29 Toolbox products, they are reported under the category “Others” of the pertinent theme. A table showing the individual projects implemented under each product and under the category “Others” of each theme is provided. The technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which draw on research conducted by UNCTAD and on policy suggestions arising from the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Theme A: Transforming economies, improving competitiveness

2. Attaining SDGs requires building productive capacity and transforming economies by shifting resources to more productive and sustainable sectors and enhancing their competitiveness. Investment, trade and technology are important channels for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation. Trade and trade related investment, combined with technology upgrading, could enable countries to improve productivity, develop productive capacities, and climb regional and global value chains. UNCTAD technical cooperation helps developing countries attract FDI towards sectors that would lead to economic transformation, better integrate into regional and global value chains, and foster the nexus between trade, productive capacity and employment. It also supports these countries in formulating services-driven development strategy, developing national green sectors and e-commerce, and leveraging science, technology and innovation for productive capacity-building.

3. In this section, 9 products under the theme of *Transforming economies, improving competitiveness* are reported. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2016 and key results to date. For technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the theme of *Transforming economies, improving competitiveness*, however, not linked with any of the existing 9 products under this thematic area, they are reported under A99 Others.

A1 Investment Policy Reviews

Table A1
Investment Policy Reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/3AW	Examen des Politiques d'Investissement et Programme de Suivi	2003–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/8AC	Assistance in formulating investment policies and building human and institutional capacities for sustainable development	2008–	Sweden
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BGD/OT/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/OT/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands

4. **Development context:** To fully reap their associated benefits for development, which are not automatic nor evenly spread across countries, FDI inflows should be directed towards national actions that lead to transforming a country's economy. To support developing countries in their efforts to diversify their economies, attract higher levels of FDI and promote sustainable development, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies – the Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) – of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment. These Reviews, which are country-specific, provide action-oriented policy advice and concrete recommendations. To foster their implementation and further build capacity for investment policymaking, UNCTAD then provides support through technical assistance activities to developing countries.

5. **Objective/features:** The IPR process promotes ownership and learning. The programme is conducted in five consecutive phases:

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

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

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

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

(e) *Implementation report and additional follow-up actions.* About five years after the completion of the review report, UNCTAD conducts an assessment of implementation of recommendations and makes proposals for further and longer-term technical assistance.

6. **Outputs:** In 2016, the main outputs delivered by the Investment Policy Review and follow-up programme include:

(a) Published the IPR for Tajikistan, continued the work on a new IPR for the Gambia and fine-tuned the methodology for carrying out the regional IPR of South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia,

the Republic of Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Kosovo¹).

(b) Organized two intergovernmental presentations for the IPRs of Kyrgyzstan and for Tajikistan.

(c) Published the report on the implementation of the IPRs of Benin, Botswana and Dominican Republic.

(d) Carried out technical assistance activities to support the implementation of the IPR recommendations and to deal more effectively with issues related to investment policies, promotion strategies, international investment agreements and business facilitation. The countries benefiting from these activities notably include Benin and Kenya.

7. More concretely, following activities were implemented in 2016 at country and sub-regional levels:

8. **Benin.** The Implementation Report of the IPR of Benin was completed in 2016, after receiving comments from the Government. The IPR of Benin, published in 2005, contained several recommendations to increase FDI attraction and contribute to the country's sustainable development. Its strategic chapters focused on how to improve the investment climate, reinforce competitiveness through entrepreneurship and human capital development, better infrastructure and enhanced productive. The Implementation Report found that since undertaking the IPR in 2005, Benin carried out a number of the report's recommendations, which had a positive impact on FDI attraction. These include establishing a single window for business registration, reforming taxation, and modernizing the port of Cotonou. However, private sector development and the country's capacity to meet the sustainable development goals still face some challenges. Among these, improving public-private dialogue, access to land and commercial justice remain priorities. In December 2016, UNCTAD prepared comments on the draft Investment Code of the Government of Benin. UNCTAD comments stressed the importance of promoting, through the code, a strategic approach to investment and noted that it would be important to add or complement a number of key, including with regards to key standards of investor treatment and protection, to align the code with good international practices.

9. **Botswana.** The Implementation Report of the IPR was undertaken with a fact-finding mission in Gaborone in April 2016. The report completed by UNCTAD shows that significant progress has been made in implementing the IPR recommendations. This is the case in particular with respect to FDI entry, competition policy, the tax regime and the investment promotion agency. However, the report also notes areas where challenges persist, including permits and licences, access to land, human resources development and a narrow approach to local private sector development, based primarily on public procurement preferences. Stressing the imperative of sustainable development, the report recommends further actions to strengthen the business environment and stimulate the contribution of the private sector to the economy. The report was completed taking into account comments from the Government and published at the end of the year.

10. **Dominican Republic.** In 2016, UNCTAD completed the Implementation Report of the IPR of the Dominican Republic. The report shows that a large number of reforms recommended by the IPR, published in 2009, have been implemented, including the adoption of a modern company law, the revision of the land legislation and the digitalization of the national cadastre, the complete restructuring and modernization of the investment promotion agency, the adoption and current revision of a model BIT, the establishment of the Empretec programme. The reforms also include several improvements in the areas of entry of foreign skills, governance and taxation. Since

¹ United Nations Administrative Region, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and also in line with the International Court of Justice Opinion on the declaration of independence of Kosovo.

2009, FDI inflows have registered a significant upward trend, with average annual inflows more than doubling compared to the pre-IPR period. Nonetheless, some key issues identified in the IPR have not been addressed, and remain major obstacles to further economic diversification and poverty reduction. These, as well as other issues, are the object of new UNCTAD recommendations formulated in an Action Plan on Investment that the Government intends to use to further improve the investment environment in the country.

11. **Kenya.** The Government of Kenya requested UNCTAD's assistance to develop, in cooperation with the World Bank/IFC and the UNDP Kenya, the country's National Investment Policy (NIP). The NIP is expected to lay out the policy (including legal, regulatory as well as institutional issues) guiding investment decisions in the country. UNCTAD contributed inputs, comments and support to the NIP process, which included extensive consultations with stakeholders from private and public sectors throughout the country. UNCTAD also provided direct support to facilitate the country consultations taking place in different counties of Kenya. The NIP should be completed in early 2017 and submitted to Parliament for adoption.

12. **Kyrgyzstan.** UNCTAD published the Investment Policy Review (IPR) of Kyrgyzstan in 2015. At the request of Government, the IPR reviews the legal and regulatory framework for investment and makes concrete recommendations to promote economic diversification and sustainable development through a series of measures to improve the business climate, harmonize the legal framework for investment, mainstream sustainable development principles in investment policymaking and better use modern investment promotion tools. The strategy to foster economic diversification focuses on specific sectors where FDI could play a significant role, including agriculture and food processing, garments and textile, tourism and mining. The report was discussed at an intergovernmental meeting in Geneva in November 2016 with high-level representatives of the country and the private sector.

13. **Morocco.** The Implementation Report of the IPR of Morocco was presented at a national workshop in Rabat in January 2016. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants and organized in cooperation with the Moroccan Investment Development Agency. In addition to informing participants about reform efforts that had been undertaken since the publication of the IPR in 2008, the workshop provided an opportunity to discuss additional measures required to further improve the investment environment.

14. **Tajikistan.** UNCTAD also prepared, in cooperation with the UNDP Office in Dushanbe, the IPR of Tajikistan. The report contains an assessment of the FDI-specific legal and institutional framework as well as the general business climate. It provides concrete recommendations to enhance the investment promotion functions of the investment promotion agency and to improve absorptive capacity for attracting and benefitting from FDI through skills development, entrepreneurship, technology transfer and linkages policies. The IPR acknowledges that the country has undertaken important reforms in investment policy and promotion, but it also shows that more work is needed to improve coordination and policy implementation. The report was successfully presented at an intergovernmental meeting in Geneva in the presence of high-level government officials and representatives of the private sector.

15. **South-East Europe.** UNCTAD undertook research and analysis to draft its first regional IPR, which focuses on the region of South-East Europe. Consultations with the Regional Cooperation Council, UNCTAD's partner in the project, continued throughout 2016 and the scope of the IPR was confirmed to include: (1) investment laws and FDI entry, protection and treatment, (2) international investment agreements, (3) procedures to create a business, (4) fiscal policy, corporate taxation and investment incentives, (5) labour market and skills, (6) competition regulation, and (7) regional investment promotion. An expert group meeting, held in Geneva in November 2016 and organized in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council and CEFTA, further discussed the methodology developed by the UNCTAD secretariat for the undertaking of the IPR and the initial draft sections of the report. The approach proposed was validated by experts. The IPR of the South-East Europe will be finalized in 2017.

16. **Overall results:** Overall the various activities undertaken under the IPR programme have contributed to improving the policy, regulatory and institutional environment in developing countries and economies in transition. The Investment Policy Reviews have played a key role to strengthen the investment policies and strategies of these countries in order to allow them to attract higher levels of FDI and derive larger development gains, while minimizing as much as possible the potential costs, in line with UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD). Furthermore, many activities to support the implementation of the IPR recommendations have been undertaken under the project. Evidence of impact of the programme can be illustrated at three levels: a country's commitment and endorsement of recommendations, implementation of IPR recommendations as well as, impact on investment flows and investment environment.

17. The importance and relevance of the IPR work is reflected by the involvement of Heads of States or Governments in the process and their commitment to implement its outcome. In most cases, the IPRs have been presented to and discussed with Heads of States and cabinet ministers.

18. For instance, cabinet ministers and ambassadors from beneficiary and partner countries systematically participated in the intergovernmental presentations of the IPRs that took place in Geneva, often in the context of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

19. Government officials have also directly expressed their interest in the IPR programme. For instance, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Geneva said, on 15 November 2016, that "the IPR is one of UNCTAD's most focused, targeted and useful technical assistance tools".

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

21. The Implementation Reports prepared by UNCTAD, including those of Benin, Botswana and the Dominican Republic completed in 2016, showed that, on average, Governments have implemented a significant number of IPR recommendations, which led to increased interest by existing investors, and enhanced capacity to market investment opportunities. In many countries, these have been accompanied by significant increases in FDI inflows. The findings of the Implementation Reports are complemented by additional desk research which shows that in other IPR beneficiary countries, many of the recommendations have indeed also been taken on board.

22. According to information available to us, we can show that close to 350 IPR recommendations have been adopted by beneficiary countries of the IPR programme. About 40 per cent of these recommendations were implemented with the assistance of UNCTAD. Certain key areas figure prominently as IPR implemented recommendations, especially those concerning promotion and facilitation of investment, fiscal policy, public governance and institutional setting as well as concessioning and public-private partnerships for infrastructure development.

23. IPR countries across different regions experienced increases, in some cases sharp ones, in FDI inflows. While these increases partly reflect the ongoing internationalization of production, they were also driven by greater openness towards foreign investment and more importantly by an improved investment framework due to effective reforms. While a causal relationship between FDI flows and the implementation of IPR recommendations cannot be directly assumed from the patterns observed, it is nonetheless pointing to the fact that these countries were ready and willing to reform their investment climate.

24. A different and perhaps more direct way of looking at the impact of IPRs over the years is to take stock of their incidence on national policies and on the ensuing reforms to the investment climate. International doing business indicators confirm the reform

drive of IPR countries. For instance, between 2013 and 2015, out of the top 10 reformers among developing countries during each year, half were IPR countries.²

25. Another way to attest for the overwhelming expression of interest in the IPRs is illustrated by the number of countries that have requested to benefit from the programme, including follow-up technical assistance. Official requests for investment policy reviews are in the pipeline for 29 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Oman, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

A2 Services Policy Reviews

Table A2
Services Policy Reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9BG	Trust Fund on Services, Development and Trade	2009–	Multi-donor

26. **Development context:** Services are essential to the efficient functioning of economies as well as are enablers of development because they provide important inputs for production; they are essential to the efficient functioning of economies and structural transformation and facilitation of upgrading, diversification and competitiveness in developing countries. Furthermore, the services sector can make significant contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which refer, for example, to the developmental potential of tourism services; infrastructure services and social services (such as health and education services). The regulation and promotion of infrastructure services such as financial, transport, ICT, water and energy services are particularly important. Infrastructure services provide fundamental inputs to all economic activities and are a direct determinant of the economies' productivity and competitiveness, whereas regulations are key determinant of the sectoral performance. Developing countries face challenges in identifying and addressing the services-related needs of the domestic economy and then translating them into policy and trade negotiating positions, with a view to enhancing the quantity and quality of services output and the contribution of the sector to sustainable development. SPRs aimed to provide recommendations to policymakers and trade negotiators to improve regulatory and institutional frameworks and to identify trade policy options that advance national and sectoral development objectives.

27. **Objectives:** UNCTAD SPRs respond to increased demand, from countries for a national strategy for services sector development and increasing exports. SPRs aim to provide recommendations to policymakers and trade negotiators, which are drawn from a case-study approach employing both qualitative and quantitative analyses, to improve regulatory and institutional frameworks and to identify trade policy options that advance national and sectoral development objectives. SPR activities are designed to assist developing countries, with a particular focus on least developed countries as well as small and vulnerable economies, and in three regions, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The regional component was aimed to build

² Since 2014, the World Bank has revised its methodology to measure the distance to frontier in investment climate reform. The revised performance is based on the new methodology, as reported in *How far have economies moved toward the frontier in regulating practice since 2013?* (figure I.5), Doing Business 2015, World Bank, 2014, and in *How far have economies moved toward the frontier in regulating practice since 2014?* (figure 4.2), Doing Business 2016, World Bank 2015.

on these national experiences and on best practices to provide useful information to other developing countries not covered in the SPRs.

28. **Outputs:** SPRs constitute part of a broader UNCTAD comprehensive work programme on services economy and trade. These activities are informed by evidence-based research and analysis on such issues as market trends and the economic and legal aspects of the services economy and specific services sectors, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and international trade negotiations. Synergies were created with ongoing analytical and intergovernmental work, especially through the Multi-year Expert Meeting (MYEM) on Trade, Services and Development: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension. The follow-up of meetings and deliberations of the WTO services council and bodies has also been synergic with work in support of services-related objectives of developing countries.

29. SPRs assist developing countries in assessing their services economy and trade and reviewing their existing policy and regulatory frameworks to inform their efforts to formulate best-fit national services regulatory and institutional frameworks to develop competitive productive capabilities in services sector and better engaging in international trade negotiations and agreements dealing with services. SPRs are a systematic review of economic, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and support developing countries' informed policy making, regulatory formulation and institution building, as well as trade negotiations. Up to date, SPRs have been conducted for Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Rwanda, Lesotho, Peru, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Bangladesh (phase I and II), Colombia and Uganda (phase I and II)³. In 2016 the national Services Policy Review was initiated by the request of Government of Namibia. At the request of ECOWAS secretariat, the regional Services Policy Review has been initiated to help support the deepening of regional integration and negotiations in CFTA.

30. **Results/impacts:** Services Policy Reviews for selected countries are undertaken to assess and improve their policy and regulatory frameworks and trade policies, along with the impact of trade liberalization on specific sectors and countries and trade policy options that advance national development objectives. SPRs have provided policy recommendations on legislative actions, innovative strategies and action plans to enhance services economy, trade and development, and to enhance regulatory institutions. Such contribution of SPRs is acknowledged by beneficiaries and member States. For instance, the Ambassador of South Africa serving as the Chair of MYEM on Trade, Services and Development reported "I would like to emphasize that from the meeting deliberations, it was clear that UNCTAD's work on services, in particular Services Policy Reviews, have had a real impact on the ground, and allowed countries to assess services sectors and provide actionable recommendations, of a cross-cutting and sectoral nature, towards strengthening services economy and trade". The Ambassador of Bangladesh stated that: "(Services Policy Review of Bangladesh) will also help in the ongoing process of formulating an integrated national policy on "Trade in Services" in order to fine-tune our objectives at the national level and also in regional and international trade negotiation regimes." The Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Uganda expressed her appreciation to UNCTAD for undertaking two SPRs.

³ National Services Policy Review: Kyrgyzstan, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/2, National Services Policy Review: Nepal, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/, Services Policy Review: Rwanda UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/6, Services Policy Review: Lesotho UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1/Rev.1, Services Policy Review: Peru UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/11, Services Policy Review: Nicaragua UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/13, Services Policy Review: Paraguay UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2014/2, Services Policy Review: Bangladesh (Phase I and II), UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/2, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/3, Services Policy Review: Uganda (Phase I and II), UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/1, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/12

A3 Trade Policy Framework Reviews

Table A3
Trade Policy Framework Reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/2CT	Training and Capacity Building in LDCs and Developing Countries on Trade Policies Formulation for a better understanding of and Participation in the International Trading System	2003–	Norway
ROA-2904 (K8)	Capacity building for the formulation and implementation of MDG - oriented trade policies in developing countries contributing to accelerating achievement of MDGs in the context of multiple and interrelated development challenges	2013–	Development Account

31. **Development context:** Promoting a coherent and integrated approach to national trade policy formulation and implementation became a salient challenge for national policymakers, as an increasing number of countries reformulate their national trade policy frameworks and strategies to better draw development benefit from trade and respond to the imperatives of SDGs, including in progressing towards the achievement of SDG Goal 17.11 on increasing the exports of developing countries, Goal 8 (economic growth) and Goal 9 (industry, innovating and infrastructure). Developing countries and countries with economies in transition continue to face significant challenges in the formulation of development-oriented trade policy framework that are best-fit to their national circumstances and development needs. In 2016, UNCTAD successfully completed a UN Development Account Project (1213K) to support developing countries in the assessment and reassessment of national trade policy regimes in order to assist in developing, preparing and implementing new trade policy measures and strategies. Effectively done, trade policy can drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Linking trade policy and productive capacity and structural transformation is thus crucial for the achievement of SDGs.

32. **Objective:** The aim of Trade Policy Framework Reviews is to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according a country's own development priorities and needs. The Reviews, via research and training activities, provide the tools to policymakers in developing countries and transition economies that enable them to set their own priorities, make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at the sectoral level.

33. **Outputs:** UNCTAD assisted beneficiary countries in assessing and preparing MDG/SDG-oriented trade policy frameworks (TPFs). As of December 2016, TPF reviews were conducted for nine countries (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia)⁴. These analyses and policy recommendations were reviewed and validated by national stakeholders, and associated advisory and capacity building support have strengthened stakeholders' understanding and analytical skills. This has supported the formulation, updating and reformulation of actual trade policies, and fostered inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations for inclusive trade policymaking. Several countries have embarked on the implementation of

⁴ Trade Policy Framework: Angola (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/5); Trade Policy Framework: Zambia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/4); Trade Policy Framework: Tunisia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2014/1); Trade Policy Framework: Jamaica (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/9); Trade Policy Framework: Botswana (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/1); Trade Policy Framework: Namibia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/2); Trade Policy Framework: Panama (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/3).

recommended policy measures. Such experience could be usefully replicated in a broader number of countries in need.

34. A number of advisory services and capacity-building support were undertaken to assist beneficiary countries in assessing and preparing SDG-oriented TPFs, including: Advisory mission and multi-stakeholder consultative workshop on TPF for Namibia (30 August- 1 September 2016, Windhoek, Namibia); Advisory missions and multi-stakeholder consultative workshops on TPF for Algeria (23-26 July and 14-15 September 2016, Algiers, Algeria); Advisory missions and multi-stakeholder consultative workshops on TPF for Botswana (20-23 September and 13-18 February 2016, Gaborone, Botswana); Advisory mission and multi-stakeholder consultative workshop on TPF for Kenya (16-21 July 2016 , Nairobi, Kenya); Advisory mission and multi-stakeholder consultative workshop on TPF for Zambia (27-30 September 2016, Lusaka, Zambia) Advisory mission and multi-stakeholder consultative workshop on TPF for Panama (20-23 September 2016 ,Panama City, Panama). UNCTAD conducted a series of advisory support to Bhutan to develop its trade and development law in the context of its trade policy reform aimed at WTO accession (15-24 April 2016, Thimphu, Bhutan). Similar support aimed at national trade policy formulation was also provided on ad hoc basis to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

35. UNCTAD organized a Meeting on Trade Policy and Sustainable Development (18-19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya) for African countries to exchange of country experiences and lessons learnt on trade policy frameworks. The objective of this Meeting was to foster exchange of experiences and lessons learnt in formulating and implementing development-oriented national trade policy frameworks. The Meeting also provided an opportunity for experience sharing between those countries and other countries that have an advanced record of formulating development-oriented TPFs, such as Mauritius, Ghana and Kenya. The meeting examined the role of trade policy in the achievement of Agenda2030 for sustainable development. The meeting served as a platform to take stock of experiences and lessons learned in the formulation and implementation of national TPFs geared towards sustainable development and SDGs, and providing useful insights into the identification of best practices.

36. **Results/impacts:** UNCTAD support has contributed to enhanced understanding of developing countries' policymakers and trade negotiators on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development. UNCTAD assistance enhanced ability of policymakers and trade negotiators to analyse, formulate and implement SDG-oriented trade policies. These activities contributed to enhancing the understanding and capacity of trade policy community of the contribution of trade to sustainable development, and equipping them with policy analysis and policy framework that promote policy coherence to support the achievement of SDGs.

37. By end 2016, nine comprehensive trade policy frameworks were prepared and steps taken at least in four countries to reflect them in the review, formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes. For instance, Botswana, Jamaica, Namibia and Zambia have identified concrete measures to implement their respective trade policy framework, including through the development of implementation roadmap and matrices. This support has been appreciated by the beneficiaries. The Director of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia stated as follows: "Words alone are not enough to thank UNCTAD for its financial and technical support. Long live this UNCTAD-Government partnership and we will engage you again in the implementation phase very soon." The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Rwanda stated as follows: "UNCTAD has been very supportive in the area of trade policy formulation and in building our capacity to implement the recommendations of the (TPF) review."

A4 Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews

Table A4
Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-2902 (I8)	Strengthening national capacities to manage policies and frameworks on science, technology and innovation in Asian countries	2013–	Development Account
RWA/OT/ECD	Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review of Rwanda	2016-	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

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

39. **Objectives and features:** The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review programme provides policy advice to countries requesting assistance in building and maintaining a dynamic and responsive science, technology and innovation framework that can foster technological capabilities, create effective innovation systems, facilitate technology acquisition and improve national innovation performance. It aims to ensure that national science, technology and innovation programmes become an instrument for supporting relevant components of the national development agenda, helping local industry compete in a knowledge-based, global economy. The theoretical framework that underpins the programme and its implementation methodology are presented in the document entitled *A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews* (available at http://unctad.org/en/Docs/dtlstict2011d7_en.pdf).

40. The reviews assess the strengths and weaknesses of a country's innovation system, including the policy framework, capabilities, innovation effort and performance, and generally include an analysis of the technology and innovation challenges and opportunities in specific industries or issue areas (such as ICT, biotechnology or energy) of high priority for the beneficiary country. Key science, technology and innovation issues that affect the productivity and competitiveness of industries are identified. The reviews include recommendations for action to revamp policy frameworks, including policies, regulations, measures and practices that can improve technological and innovation capacity, increase investment in innovative activity, raise productivity and upgrade competitiveness. The primary beneficiaries of the reviews are the major players in the national innovation system, such as policymakers (from the science and technology ministries or similar bodies, the trade and industry ministries, and other ministries of key importance for science, technology and innovation), the business community and academic and research institutions.

41. **Outputs:** A main set of outputs of the programme in 2016 were the finalization of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After an initial mission in November 2015, a second fact-finding mission was held in

July 2016 to complete data and information and fill gaps in the draft. The mission also included presentations of some preliminary drafts to selected stakeholders. Based on the additional information and discussions held during the mission, the draft was revised. An advanced draft of the review was presented and discussed at national stakeholders workshops in October 2016. Further revisions were made to produce the final version. The final review was launched to the press in Tehran, and presented at a major national conference on technology management issues, both in December 2016. The formal launch of the STIP Review was formally launched at the twentieth session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development in May 2017 in Geneva.

42. One output of the programme in 2016 concerned the follow-up of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) review of Thailand. A second training activity on supporting high-growth entrepreneurship and innovation with universities was organized in November 2016 to identify specific actions that Thai universities and other national actors can take to build entrepreneurship ecosystems and support high-growth and technology-based entrepreneurship. The workshop was addressed to the focal points of Thai universities and of public agencies that are working in the new national entrepreneurship promotion programme that the country is currently putting in place.

43. 2016 also saw the implementation of the STIP Review of Rwanda. This STIP Review was initiated on the request of the Minister of Trade, Industry and East African Community Affairs of Rwanda and was conducted with financial assistance of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. A first exploratory mission in April 2016 interviewed STI stakeholders and examined STI policies and activities. A second mission in December 2016 presented analytical findings and recommendations and received feedback from STI stakeholders during a national workshop while building capacity for implementation with a separate full-day session on innovation policy and funding. The formal launch of the STIP Review will be held at the UN CSTD at its twentieth session on 10 May 2017 in Geneva.

44. UNCTAD in collaboration with the International Trade Centre supported the Government of Mauritius (between February and October 2016) with the elaboration of an innovation cross-sector strategy for Mauritius' National Export Strategy. UNCTAD provided an analysis of Mauritius national innovation system and facilitated discussions among national stakeholders to agree on a Plan of Action to build innovation capacities that support the national export strategy of Mauritius.

45. **Results:** The STIP review of Thailand has been a reference document for the national STI reform processes. A number of policy measures in line with the recommendations contained in the report have been introduced since its publication in 2015. As a result of the workshop on high-growth entrepreneurship and innovation with universities, focal points of 30 universities have identified a number of actions to support innovation in collaboration with universities (a key recommendation contained in UNCTAD's STIP review of Thailand) and these have included strengthening incubators, developing training material, and fostering collaboration with private sector and among entrepreneurial universities.

46. The STIP Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran is being discussed within policymaking bodies in the Islamic Republic of Iran. There has been a proposal to establish working groups to facilitate targeted discussions on the review and its findings to determine what follow-up to undertake.

47. The STIP Review of Rwanda provides a reference for the revision of the national STI policy, initially conceived in 2006. The draft STIP Review contains 10 overall recommendations, 30 recommendations regarding general STI policy and conditions, and 10 recommendations for four economic sectors (energy, ICTS, industry and agriculture). Its observations on the structure and interaction of various policies that effect innovation performance have yet to materialize in policymaking as it is still a work in progress. The national workshop gathered 60 STI stakeholders, mostly policymakers from key government institutions, while the capacity-building session involved 30 national academics, entrepreneurs and policymakers. Of these 30, 7 were women.

48. As a result of UNCTAD's support, the Government of Mauritius has developed a Plan of Action to build the innovation capabilities necessary to support its National Export Strategy.

A5 E-commerce and Law Reform Programme

Table A5

E-commerce and Law Reform Programme

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9AS	ICT Policies for Development	2009–	Finland, Germany, Republic of Korea

49. **Development context:** As recognized at the World Summit on the Information Society, ICTs have considerable potential to enable development. In the Doha Mandate, member States reconfirmed the relevance of the work of UNCTAD in the area of ICT, as established in the Accra Accord. The Nairobi Maafikiano gave increased attention to the area of e-commerce and the digital economy. The new mandate urges UNCTAD to strengthen several aspects of the work in this area, including policy analysis and capacity-building in the area of e-commerce legislation.

50. **Objectives and features:** UNCTAD work in this area aims to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to use ICTs for pro-poor economic growth, productivity and development. This includes research work that links to technical assistance to support countries to harmonize legal frameworks and create an enabling environment for electronic and mobile commerce.

51. **Outputs:** Extra-budgetary funding contributed to the dissemination in 2016 of the Information Economy Report 2015: Unlocking the Potential of E-Commerce for and Developing Countries (IER2015), as well as to the production of the UNCTAD B2C E-Commerce Index in April 2016. Both reports were instrumental in supporting UNCTAD technical assistance and the birth of the eTrade For All initiative.

52. An ad hoc Expert Meeting on Data Protection held at the occasion of the UNCTAD E-Commerce Week 2016 was supported by a study titled *Data Protection Regulations and International Data Flows: Implications for Trade and Development*. The study draws on 19 written contributions by public and private institutions and NGOs involved in data protection and privacy.

53. The UNCTAD E-Commerce Week also included several sessions on various topics related to e-commerce and cyberlaws, including the launch of a study on the *Harmonization of cyber legislation in Latin America*, as well as public consultations of the new initiative called eTrade For All, attracting more than 250 participants from over 70 countries. A study on the *Harmonization of cyber legislation in the Caribbean* was prepared following the regional workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2015.

54. The global database on cyberlaws developed in 2015 (unctad.org/cyberlawtracker) was updated to reflect the state of e-commerce laws in 2016.

55. **Results:** UNCTAD's ongoing work on e-commerce in general and the IER2015, in particular, raised considerable interest in 2016. It led to innovative work on eTrade For All initiative which was launched during UNCTAD XIV and eTrade Readiness Assessments in two least developed countries (non-toolbox trust funds). The work on ICT for development over the past few years, helped considerably by extra-budgetary funding to this trust fund, have contributed to generating an outcome of UNCTAD XIV that was very supportive of the work on e-commerce and the digital economy.

56. The studies on cyberlaw harmonization provide up-to-date information on the legal framework of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, reporting progress made by the countries in regard to electronic transactions/electronic signatures, online protection of consumers, protection of personal data, industrial and intellectual property, domain names, cybercrime and security of information, and pending legislation and challenge. The studies inform about the commitments and responsibilities assumed by the individual countries in regard to cyber legislation, bearing in mind the regional context, so as to identify the collaborating agencies and the implications, limitations and challenges involved. Reference is made to many agencies in the region that have generated a wide range of legal instruments and public policies and the need for coordination with the governments of the countries so as to promote progress in this regard.

57. Following the discussion in the IER2015 on measuring e-commerce, a new initiative was launched together with WTO and Universal Postal Union (UPU) to examine new and innovative ways of improving the availability of official and private sector data on cross-border e-commerce. This could have significant positive effects for policy-making related to e-commerce and trade.

A6 Investment Guides

Table A6
Investment Guides

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands

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

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

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

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

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

60. During a project, UNCTAD creates a national iGuides platform for the country and trains the government staff assigned to the project in researching and compiling the necessary information and entering it into the system. Once completed, an official launch is organized in the country, and the platform is made publicly available to investors. At the end of project implementation, the beneficiary country has its own iGuides platform and trained staff to administer and update it under the continuous guidance of UNCTAD. The iGuides online platforms replace the previous practice of publishing printed investment guides. It is essential that the new iGuides allow information to be kept up to date by Governments and may be accomplished in a third of the time and at half of the cost.

61. **Outputs:** In 2016, iGuides were completed in Antigua and Barbuda, Bhutan (completed in 2015 launched in 2016) and Mongolia. Work on an iGuide was started in Benin, as were preparations for an iGuide project in Malawi, as the start of a process of collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In addition, online training was conducted for government officials and investment promotion agencies in beneficiary countries to continuously update information in their existing national iGuides.

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

A7 Non-tariff Measures

Table A7
Non-tariff Measures

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
EUR/0T/DCF ^a	Addressing Market Access Barriers in Selected Supply Chains in CEFTA: Analysis and elaboration of policy recommendations	2014–	Germany
INT/0T/CBG	Non-tariff measures trust fund (under TNT programme)	2013–	World Bank
INT/0T/DAY ^a	Collection and Classification of United States Non-Tariff Measures	2014–	European Commission
INT/0T/EAW ^a	NTM data collection for TPP countries	2016–	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
INT/0T/FAU	NTM data collection for APEC economies	2016–	National Graduate

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
			Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
INT/9X/00J	Development and dissemination of selected computerized trade data	2000–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/FAD	Non-Tariff Measures for East Asia and ASEAN Countries	2016–	Conference Board of Canada
ROA-2962 (9N)	Strengthening capacities of policy-makers to assess implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate policy responses	2014–	Development Account

^a Project that was “operationally but not financially completed” or “completed” in 2016.

63. **Development context:** International trade is increasingly regulated by a wide array of trade-related measures other than tariffs. Such non-tariff measures (NTMs) are policy measures, other than customs tariffs, which can have an economic impact on international trade in goods in terms of quantities traded, prices or both. NTMs include sanitary and phytosanitary standards, technical barriers to trade, rules of origin and others. Those measures, although legislated with non-protectionist intents, can have important implications for international trade both in terms of increasing trade costs and of trade diversion effects.

64. **Objectives/features of the programme:** UNCTAD has developed a comprehensive programme covering the entire chain of non-tariff measures (NTMs), ranging from conception (i.e., what are the policies and regulations that determine trade and market access, and how information about NTMs can be structured), data collection and dissemination, to research, policy advice and capacity building in countries and regional integration groupings. It leads international cooperation (working with FAO, IMF, ITC, OECD, UNIDO, World Bank and WTO) on the development and revision of the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures. UNCTAD assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in enhancing transparency and building analytical capacity on NTMs by way of: collecting and making available online NTMs data to enhance transparency on these measures; conducting regional reviews of NTM integration; providing online and in-country training on data collection NTMs and on data sources, tools, methods and policy-relevant research questions on NTMs; and undertaking advisory services upon request to countries and regional groupings in building up capacities to address NTMs and remove non-tariff barriers.

65. Output:

(a) NTMs data for all 10 ASEAN countries collected jointly with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and the 12 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries (supported by World Bank and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies of Japan) were launched in Geneva on 13 April 2016 and Washington on 15 June 2016.

(b) UNCTAD database on NTMs is the world’s largest and most comprehensive one covering 80 percent of world trade. The data dissemination was improved with the launching of a new dissemination tool, I-TIP for NTMs.

(c) UNCTAD conducted capacity building through online trainings and face-to-face workshops on NTMs in Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam namely: 16 - 18 February 2016, Siem Reap, Cambodia; 14 - 17 March 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia; 6-10 June, 23 and 24 June 2016, Hanoi, Viet Nam; 18 - 19 August 2016, Lima, Peru; 22 - 23 August 2016, Colombia; 7-9 December 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea; and 12-16 December, Bangkok,

Thailand. Government officials from these countries were trained to strengthen their capacity for good regulatory policies and regional integration and to enhance their competitiveness.

(d) An online training for African officials for standard bureaus on NTMs data was conducted as part of an initiative between UNCTAD and the Tripartite (COMESA-SADC-EAC) on non-tariff barriers and regional integration. This followed a joint UNCTAD, EAC, COMESA and SADC training in Nairobi, Kenya from 18-20 July 2016 for Bureau of Standards officials from 12 tripartite countries to deal with NTMs and non-tariff barriers (namely Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

(e) UNCTAD developed an online course on the economic analysis of NTMs (with the support of Finland, the Russian Federation and the One UN Fund for the United Republic of Tanzania). The course was held from October 10 to December 4, 2016. It attracted a record-breaking 267 applications from lecturers and researchers representing 73 countries around the world, among which 70 candidates were extended admission. The graduates, representing 44 countries, unanimously agreed that the course has enhanced their knowledge of data sources, tools, methods and policy-relevant research questions on NTMs.

(f) Support was provided to policy makers on regulatory policies affecting trade, upon request, to countries and regional secretariats including CEFTA, MERCUSOR, ASEAN, Tripartite (EAC, COMESA, SADC), and African Union.

(g) Analytical papers were produced and disseminated on G20 regulatory policies on LDCs, MERCOSUR regional integration, and on NTMs and firm size linkages. The World Tariff Profile 2016 by ITC, WTO and UNCTAD was improved with the addition of a section on NTMs.

66. **Results:** In 2016, several important results were realized. First, with regional and national ownership, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite is now working to increase transparency on non-tariff measures. The regional transparency initiative has adopted UNCTAD's data collection approach and is receiving technical support. UNCTAD assistance in the data collection process has also led to a stronger involvement of National Standards Bodies with the Ministries of Trade, which is leading to greater national and regional policy coherence (SDG target 17.14 / indicator 17.14.1).

67. Second, based on a Heads of State mandate, the UNCTAD-ERIA project significantly increased transparency on NTMs in the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Leaders Summit of 2016 recognized the UNCTAD-ERIA dissemination portal (asean.i-tip.org) as a foundation for national repositories and mandated a regular review of the database. The 2015 East Asia Summit of Economic Ministers' Meeting also highlighted the role of the database for the ambition to reduce non-tariff barriers in the region. Furthermore, the data has been used for the implementation of Customs Single Windows in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam (in progress).

68. Third, in the ongoing negotiations for the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), the draft texts and discussions are building very strongly on the regulatory approach and the transparency measures that are being implemented by the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite region in collaboration with UNCTAD. The lessons learnt from the Tripartite, with UNCTAD support on transparency and analysis, are serving as building blocks for the continental integration model.

69. Fourth, in the CEFTA region, an UNCTAD support project has identified obstacles to intra-regional trade stemming from misalignment of regulations and also customs processes (in collaboration with DTL). Inter alia, the CEFTA Parties agreed at the final meeting that products compliant with EU regulations should also be accepted within the region. Regional negotiations and national public-private dialogue continue on the implementation of mutual recognition of conformity assessment and other policy recommendations.

70. Fifth, the Latin American Integration Association is continuing to promote trade through the continuous provision of updated information on NTMs to policy makers, exporters and importers, based on UNCTAD methodology and technical support.

A8 National Green Export Reviews

Table A8
National Green Export Reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-2960 (9L)	Supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews	2014–	Development Account

71. **Development context:** The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development recognized that countries' transition to a green economy can make increasing contributions to sustainable development and poverty eradication through economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, environmental protection and social equity. Sustainable products, defined as internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced and promote sustainable consumption, offer considerable export opportunities for developing countries. And because many sustainable products are produced in rural areas by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), by lower- and medium-skill workers including women and youth, their production can contribute significantly to environmental protection, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, economic diversification, job creation and poverty reduction in economically marginalized rural areas of developing countries. To seize these new inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities, developing countries need strengthened capacity to identify their production and export strengths for sustainable products and put into place national policies, regulations and institutions needed to create an enabling environment for their production and export. UNCTAD's National Green Export Reviews (NGERs) respond to an emerging demand from developing countries to assess national potential to advance the development of national green sectors and generate new employment, increased export opportunities and advance sustainable development. Conducting NGERs enables UNCTAD to work in close partnership with countries seeking to strengthen their green economies. The Reviews assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement green economy policies and establish regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and competitiveness of their green sectors.

72. **Objectives/features of the programme:** The NGERs guide beneficiary developing countries towards realizing new production and export opportunities in sustainable green goods and services. The Reviews seek to improve the ability of public and private stakeholders – government officials and decision-makers from business and civil society – to build national productive and export capacity in sustainable products. Each Review provides a roadmap for implementing a comprehensive and full-featured set of activities needed to stimulate national production and export of sustainable products through a country-owned and country-driven set of national activities. NGERs use UNCTAD's analytical Green Product Space (GPS) approach to validate the growth potential of green sectors and products so that the more promising ones can be selected by stakeholders as the focus of the Review. Technical assistance is provided to developing countries in seizing new green export opportunities, specifically by identifying and constructing effective policy reform packages to ensure development gains from a greening global economy. Through consensus-building, stakeholders identify green products, prepare national strategies and action plans to build production capacity, diversify product offerings and boost export volumes for green products/sectors.

73. **Output:** in 2016, UNCTAD assisted beneficiary countries in examining and developing green productive and export capacities as part of options for transition into greener and more climate-resilient economies under a UN Development Account project on Supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through National Sustainable Product Export Reviews. UNCTAD organized national stakeholder workshops in beneficiary countries to train participants in identifying promising sustainable product sectors based on country-specific results generated by UNCTAD's Product Space Methodology; identify national and global market opportunities; identify barriers to production and export; and select sectors and products as the focus of further development.

74. In the margins of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a side event on NGERs was organized in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank on 14 November 2016. The event provided a platform for both Morocco and Oman to present their national experiences and results of their NGERs. At the meeting, the Islamic Development Bank announced its full financial support for an NGER in Senegal, working together with UNCTAD.

75. The following workshops on National Green Export Reviews were organized:

(a) 1st National Stakeholder Green Export Review, 23 to 24 February 2016, Muscat, Oman;

(b) 2nd National Stakeholder Green Export Review, 2 to 3 May 2016, Fez, Morocco;

(c) 2nd National Stakeholder Green Export Review, 5 May 2016, Rabat, Morocco;

(d) 1st National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 3 to 4 November 2016; and

(e) 1st National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Beirut, Lebanon, 6 to 7 December 2016.

76. The following NGER reports were prepared:

(a) National Green Export Review of Vanuatu: Copra-Coconut, Cocoa-Chocolate and Sandalwood (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2016/1);

(b) Examen national de l'export vert du Maroc étude de base de la CNUCED (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/1); and

(c) National Green Export Review of Ecuador – Executive Summary in English (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/2).

77. **Results:** Through the National Green Export Reviews, beneficiary countries have increased capacity in identifying, selecting and validating the growth potential of green sectors and products. The capacity- and consensus-building national workshops assisted stakeholders in assessing the policy, regulatory and institutional requirements for supporting the development of selected sustainable product sectors. The technical assistance provided empowered them to identify reforms and adopt recommendations and action plan in selected sustainable product sectors thereby creating an enabling environment for their production and export. NGERs are country-owned and stakeholder-driven and the eventual implementation of the action plan validated by both public and private stakeholders will contribute to generating new employment, increased export opportunities and advance sustainable development. The adoption of the NGER reports presents an opportunity to venture into innovative approaches to building production and export capacity in diverse sectors.

78. Ecuador is the first beneficiary country to have completed the NGER process. The National Action Plan for Green Exports and Products, which was developed under the NGER and adopted by the government in 2015, aimed at making the cocoa-chocolate and fisheries sectors more "green" and productive. The action plan included, among others, an assessment of the regulatory systems – legislation, regulations and institutions

that govern the sectors – and identify what is needed to improve transparency and product traceability, from harvest to consumer, and how to comply with international sustainability standards. UNCTAD organized the third workshop on “National Green Export Review: Status of the implementation of the National Plan of Action” on 4 February 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. At the workshop, the government confirmed that a full review of the regulatory system has been conducted. In the case of the fisheries sector, the action plan specifically called for improved efforts against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. In addressing this, the government adopted the National Fisheries Development Law (Decree 852 of 28 December 2015) that increased the capacity of the State to fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities, including the ability to sanction vessels and companies that engage in these practices. The Decree also regulates the development of the aquaculture sector by introducing several measures and requirements to ensure the sustainability of the sector. Regarding compliance with standards, Ecuador has developed voluntary sustainability standards and submitted applications for several international environmental sustainability certifications.

79. In the case of the cocoa-chocolate sector, the government developed a new plan to improve productivity and sustainability. The strategy will make Ecuador the first country to have a complete traceability of the entire cacao harvest, from the field to the factory, and to certify all cacao and chocolate as environmentally or socially sustainable. This will set apart and position the Ecuadorian cacao in the global chocolate market as the main supplier of “green” cocoa and chocolate.

A9 Accession to the World Trade Organization

Table A9

Accession to the World Trade Organization

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9AU	Trust Fund on WTO Accession	2009–	Multi-donor
IRQ/OT/CAH	Trade policy and trade negotiations capabilities of the Government of Iraq strengthened within the frame of TBT/WTO	2013–	UNIDO

80. **Development context:** Accession to the WTO is important in the trade and development strategies of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially in facilitating their integration into the international trading system. In the accession process, the country seeking accession is required to accept disciplines which imply economic, legislative and judicial reforms and to organize its administration so as to participate effectively in the accession negotiations and subsequently to implement its obligations as a WTO member. This process contributes to building the country’s institutional capacity as it establishes transparent and efficient economic and trade regimes and to enhancing its capacity to defend its rights in future negotiations at all levels. The terms accepted by the acceding country can have a major impact on the course of its future economic and social development. However, preparation for and participation in accession negotiations requires considerable financial and human resources - resources which many acceding countries, and LDCs in particular, lack. Thus capacity building support to countries in the process of accession to WTO is important in order to manage their accession process and to undertake trade policy reforms as well as strengthening institutions to participate and benefit from the multilateral trading system.

81. **Objectives:** UNCTAD technical assistance on WTO accession targets building human resources, regulatory, policy and institutional capacities in WTO acceding countries to deal more effectively with the challenges of the international trading system

and take advantage of emerging opportunities as well as to build up their ability to implement their obligations associated with WTO membership. The technical assistance provided by UNCTAD has increased the awareness among the acceding country's negotiating team and stakeholders of the multifaceted issues in the accession process, as a result of their better understanding of the WTO rules and disciplines, including the special and differential treatment and other developmental provisions. It has therefore enabled them to participate more effectively in the accession negotiations. The programme further assists countries in maintaining coherence between undertakings at multilateral and regional levels including South-South.

82. **Outputs:** UNCTAD assisted 22 acceding countries,⁵ including all acceding LDCs that were negotiating or preparing their WTO accession. The assistance provided include training activities for accession negotiating team and other stakeholders in Geneva and in countries, with simulation exercises to prepare them for meetings of their Working Party and with their trading partners; advisory missions on the substance and the process of accession; preparation for accession negotiations, including hands-on assistance in the preparation of required documentation such as the memorandum of foreign trade regime and in considering questions posed by WTO members.

83. Advisory services, field missions and capacity-building activities were undertaken during 2016 as follows: (a) Advisory mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran on WTO accession issues (26–28 February 2016, Tehran); (b) Advisory mission and workshop on WTO accession issues for Turkmenistan (17-20 April 2016, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan); (c) Technical consultations with Azerbaijan key negotiators on WTO accession issues (21–22 July 2016, Geneva,); (d) Workshop on the update and validation of the Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (14-18 November 2016 Beirut, Lebanon); (e) Workshop on Iraqi Private sector and government dialogue on WTO accession: Costs and benefits (04- 07 April 2016, Amman, Jordan), and; (f) advisory support to Bhutan to develop its trade and development law (15-24 April 2016, Thimphu, Bhutan).

84. UNCTAD provided substantial advisory services on post-accession issues to Cambodia Government on Draft Trade Development Act (15-20 April 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia). The Trade Development Act is expected to positively impact on the country's trade regime. It reflects good trade governance through GATT and WTO principles, whilst addressing the country's trade development aspirations, including both foreign and domestic trade.

85. UNCTAD also took part in Trade Policy Forum for Central Asia (11-13 May 2016, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) with participation of senior representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran and Belarus. One of the key objectives of the Forum was to promote the integration of Central Asia countries into the multilateral trading system through WTO accession negotiations. UNCTAD provided substantial policy advice and assistance on economic and trade policies towards coherence in policy measures, laws and regulations with due consideration of WTO requirements in adopting and implementing these measures.

86. In implementing these activities, UNCTAD worked closely with external partners, including WTO secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, UNIDO, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and UNDP. An extensive network of cooperation had been established with national trade institutions and trade policymakers and regular contacts are maintained with donors. In beneficiary countries, UNCTAD's activities have complemented the assistance provided by bilateral donors.

87. **Results/impacts:** UNCTAD technical assistance on WTO accession responds to the overall needs of acceding countries by focusing on building capacities for policy making and trade negotiations to ensure informed policy decisions in the accession

⁵ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Nepal, Samoa, Seychelles, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

process, based on national policy objectives and ensures full national ownership of the course of the accession process by beneficiary countries. UNCTAD successfully supported the accession negotiations of a number of developing countries and countries in transition. It is particularly notable that the following countries-beneficiaries of UNCTAD's General Trust Fund for WTO Accession recently became WTO Members: Seychelles (26 April 2015), Kazakhstan (30 November 2015), Liberia (16 December 2015) and Afghanistan (29 July 2016). UNCTAD assisted these countries throughout their accession processes and made direct contributions. These countries repeatedly highly appreciated UNCTAD assistance and indicated that the impact of UNCTAD's technical assistance programmes was particularly relevant in many areas.

88. UNCTAD's technical cooperation on WTO accession had been evaluated positively through independent evaluations ("Evaluation of UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance and capacity building on accession to the WTO" (TD/B/WP/190); "External evaluation of UNCTAD Sub programme 3: International trade" (TD/B/WP/274)) as endorsed by UNCTAD member States.

89. Throughout 2016, UNCTAD continued to receive an increasing number of requests for support on WTO accession from a variety of countries, including from LDCs, and those in the post-accession phase. In order to meet the important needs of acceding countries it is necessary to secure adequate funding for UNCTAD technical assistance on WTO accession.

A99. OTHERS

Table A99

Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/1BN	Capacity Building in Investment Promotion	2001–	Multi-donor
INT/OT/3BB	Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirement and International Trade	2003–	Netherlands
INT/OT/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
RAS/OT/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015-2017	2015–	ASEAN
ROA-2907 (N8)	Building National capacities for promoting foreign direct investment in green and other growth sectors	2013-2016–	Development Account
BEN/OT/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/OT/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/OT/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
URT/OT/BBM	Delivering as One, Tanzania project	2011–	"One United Nations"
URT/OT/DAK	UN Inter-Agency Cluster DaO Joint Programme on Market Value Chains Tanzania	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
INT/9X/00M	Support to the GSTP	2000-	Multi-donor

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-2939 (8AR)	Strengthening capacities of African countries in boosting Intra-African trade	2014-2016	Development Account
LAO/0T/DBN	Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in Lao People's Democratic Republic - Phase II	2014-	United Nations Office for Project Services
ROA-2966 (R9)	Strengthening the capacities of developing country policy makers and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development	2016-	Development Account
ROA-1617 (L10)	Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	2016-	Development Account
ROA-2911 (8P)	Strengthening pro-growth macroeconomic management capacities for enhanced regional financial and monetary cooperation among selected countries of Latin America and Caribbean, and West and Central Africa	2014-	Development Account
EGY/0T/EBD	ICT Policy Review: E-commerce Strategy for Egypt	2015-	Master Card
RWA/0T/FAV	ICT Policies for Development: E-Commerce Strategy for Rwanda	2016-	Rwanda
INT/0T/BCY	Building capacity to produce indicators for supporting ICT for development policies and mainstreaming ICT in women entrepreneurship programmes	2013-	Sweden
INT/0T/FAQ	e-Trade For All Coordination	2016-	Multi-donor
INT/0T/7CB	Special Trust Fund for Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to WSIS follow-up	2007-	Switzerland
INT/0T/BCW	Improving access to medical products in developing countries through capacity building for local production and related technology transfer: Phase II	2012-	World Health Organization

1. Trade policy and negotiations

1.1. Capacity-building on market access and trade preferences, including GSP and GSTP

90. **Development context:** The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), instituted in 1971 under the aegis of UNCTAD, has contributed over the years to creating an enabling trading environment for developing countries, particularly LDCs. Trade preferences is an important trade and development policy tool available to developing countries in enhancing their trade competitiveness. Following the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Decision in 2005 in which members agreed that developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so would grant duty-free and quota-free market access for exports of LDCs, improvements were made to various GSP schemes and/or new schemes for LDCs were launched. The provision and utilization of trade preferences is a key goal of the Istanbul Program of Actions adopted at the UN LDC IV in 2013, as further reaffirmed in SDGs Goal 17.

91. The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) was established in 1988 as a framework for the exchange of trade preferences among developing countries. The third round of GSTP negotiations (the São Paulo Round), launched at UNCTAD XI in 2004, was successfully concluded in 2010.

92. **Objectives:** The objective of UNCTAD's support on GSP and other preferential arrangements is to help developing countries – particularly LDCs – to increase utilization of GSP and other trade preferences. Such support includes raising awareness and enhancing understanding among exporters and government officials in beneficiary countries of the trading opportunities available under the schemes; strengthening understanding of technical and administrative regulations and laws governing preferential market access, particularly rules of origin; and disseminating relevant information for users of GSP and other preferential schemes.

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

94. **Outputs:**

(a) **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other trade preferences:** UNCTAD has continued to promote greater awareness and understanding among developing countries of ways and means of better utilizing the preferences available under GSP and other preferential schemes through regular dissemination of relevant information on the dedicated website, provision of administrative support on certificate of origin Form A, compilation, updating and processing of trade data, the publication of handbooks on the GSP schemes and newsletters, and provision of technical cooperation and capacity-building activities. UNCTAD ensured the dissemination of relevant information through updating and revising GSP Handbooks of individual GSP and related schemes and preparing related studies. It also continued compilation and updating of the UNCTAD GSP database based on the data submitted by GSP donor countries, which provide useful information on trade conducted under each preferential scheme.

(b) **Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries:** In 2016 UNCTAD continued to provide substantive, technical and administrative support for the implementation of the GSTP Agreement, and the follow-up and implementation of the third round of GSTP negotiations. The GSTP participants continued to strive to secure early operationalization of the results of the São Paulo round. Substantive assistance was provided to GSTP participants, particularly to signatories to the São Paulo Protocol, on some outstanding technical issues such as rules of origin, scheduling and other technical issues.

95. **Results/impacts:** UNCTAD's support in this area has contributed to building the knowledge base and to wider dissemination of GSP-related information, including through the preparation of GSP handbooks, and collection and analysis of GSP trade data, as well as improved understanding and awareness of GSP among exporters and government officials in some individual beneficiary countries. UNCTAD contributed to making LDC preferences more effective, so that they better contribute to the Istanbul Program of Action, and further towards SDGs.

96. UNCTAD's support to participants in GSTP has ensured its smooth functioning of the Agreement, and effective follow-up of the São Paulo Round results towards its effective implementation by the signatories. Effective implementation of the São Paulo Round results is expected to further expand and deepen South–South trade and cooperation.

1.2. *Boosting intra-African Trade*

97. **Development context:** Intra-African trade represents around 15 per cent of Africa's total global trade in 2016. With a view to boosting intra-African trade as a mean to strengthening overall African trade performance, member States of the African Union

adopted the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) agreement to liberalize trade among African countries. In support of this objective, UNCTAD provided technical assistance dedicated to supporting the establishment of the CFTA. UNCTAD, through a Development Account project on “Strengthening Capacities of African Countries in Boosting Intra-African Trade through Support for Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area Project”, and provided training to stakeholders, including policy makers, trade negotiators and experts from African countries, African regional economic communities, and the African Union Commission to enhance their knowledge and capacity to negotiate a CFTA contributes to boosting intra-African trade in goods and services.

98. **Objectives/features:** UNCTAD supports African countries in designing an effective, efficient and inclusive CFTA that can create enabling conditions for boosting intra-African trade which in turn would contribute to lifting African countries’ economic growth and development. It developed and disseminated negotiations-cum-training material on CFTA related issues directed at enhancing knowledge among policy-makers, experts and private sector on requisite policies and measures for establishing the CFTA. It also assisted in building capacity of African policy-makers, experts and private sector to adopt and implement policies and measures to promote establishment of the CFTA.

99. **Output:** In 2016, the final year of implementation of the Development Account project, UNCTAD implemented the following activities:

(a) About 35 trade policy makers and negotiators from ECOWAS member States, AUC and other stakeholders participated in the ECOWAS-UNCTAD-GIZ Stakeholder Consultation to Develop a Regional Strategy for the CFTA Negotiations, 9-11 March 2016, Accra, Ghana.

(b) About 90 African governmental trade policy makers, and other stakeholders, took part in the UNCTAD Policy Dialogue on Best Practices in Negotiating Trade Agreements, 30 November 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the Africa Trade Week 2016.

(c) UNCTAD supported an African Ministerial Event on Investment facilitation in the era of anti-globalization, 29 November 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the occasion of the African Trade Week 2016.

100. UNCTAD provided advisory services on the CFTA in the following events.

(a) Capacity Building for the African Union Continental Free Trade Area Negotiators, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-24 February 2016.

(b) Third World Network Africa and UNECA Colloquium on the Continental Free Trade Area: Internal Challenges and External Threats and Civil Society Strategy Meeting on Advocacy Around Africa’s Trade and Development Challenges, Accra, Ghana, 29 February-3 March 2016.

(c) Joint AUC and ECA Expert Group Meeting on a Draft Text for the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, 2-6 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya.

(d) African Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum Meeting, 16-20 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya.

(e) Joint AUC and ECA Expert Group Meeting on a Draft Text for the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, 20-23 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya.

(f) AUC/ECA Africa Trade Week 2016, 28 November - 2 December 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

101. The following training-cum-negotiations reports were prepared and disseminated:

(a) African Continental Free Trade Area: Policy and Negotiation Options for Trade in Goods (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/2016/7);

(b) African Continental Free Trade Area: Some Issues in Liberalizing Trade in Services (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/2016/6);

(c) African Continental Free Trade Area: Advancing Pan-African Integration. Some Considerations (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/2016/5);

(d) African Continental Free Trade Area: Developing and Strengthening Regional Value Chains in Agricultural Commodities and Processed Food Products (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/2016/4).

102. **Results:** A substantial stock of knowledge on the CFTA that is available, in print and online, to African policy makers, trade negotiators, civil society, academia and the private sector to consult and make use of in the ongoing process of negotiating, establishing and implementing the CFTA. This stock of knowledge is comprised of training-cum-technical materials on intra-Africa trade in goods liberalization, intra-African trade in services liberalization, African agricultural value chain development, and African regional integration via the CFTA as well as related challenges and opportunities for setting up a comprehensive, modern and people-oriented CFTA. Over 400 African Governmental officials including trade policy makers and trade negotiators, African Union Commission (AUC) technical experts, African Regional Economic Communities member States' negotiators and technical experts from the secretariats, and other stakeholders, were trained, informed and their expertise honed on trade liberalization issues in respect of setting up the CFTA in trade in goods, agriculture value chains, trade in services, the conduct of intricate trade negotiations among 52 African States, and the CFTA architecture and complementary policies.

103. With support from UNCTAD, ECOWAS member States adopted the "ECOWAS Regional Strategy for the Establishment of CFTA Negotiations". This strategy will guide ECOWAS member States in their negotiations with other African States on the trade agreements under the CFTA.

1.3. *Support to developing countries on trade negotiations*

104. **Development context:** The outcomes of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO (Nairobi, 15–19 December 2015) revealed that the multilateral trading system is facing major uncertainties regarding the prospect of the closing of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, which comes on top of a series of changes in the structure and direction of international trade. The impasse of the Doha Round reflect wider tensions between globalization and national development interests, underlining the need to seek new ways to foster multilateral consensus in addressing trade barriers and enhancing more open and fairer international trade. The growth of trade in intermediate goods, linked to the spread of international production, has been accelerating in recent years and often includes a strong regional component. Along with the proliferation of regional trade agreements, the drive towards regionalism will be a major focus of the trade policy agenda over the coming years. Favourable economic realities have also contributed to increased South-South trade. Properly harnessed, this too can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development. Still, the multilateral trading system needs to be reinvigorated. However, greater coherence needs to be built throughout the different layers and components of the international trading system at multilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral levels to ensure trade's contribution to inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

105. **Objective:** UNCTAD provided capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly LDCs, and their regional groupings, Africa, small and vulnerable economies, and countries with economies in transition in the areas of multilateral and regional trade negotiations, services regulatory and institutional frameworks at the national levels, WTO accession; promoted coherence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system, supported regional cooperation mechanisms as well as utilization of trade preferences. Technical support is provided on key areas of trading system, and trade negotiations such as agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, rules, trade facilitation, the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, and special and differential treatment as well as implementation of WTO Agreements. Given the limited progress in the Doha Round and renewed interest in regional trade arrangements, UNCTAD also placed greater emphasis on development impact of regional dimension of trade (South-South, South-North).

106. **Outputs:** In 2016, UNCTAD significantly intensified its support to African countries in their engagement in CFTA negotiations which were officially launched in June 2015 during the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union. UNCTAD assisted African countries, the African Union Commission and grouping and individual countries in all the areas of the negotiations particularly trade in goods and services. As the CFTA negotiations progressed, UNCTAD intensified its support to African countries in 2016 to assist them in building and strengthening their trade negotiating capacities and enhancing better understanding on technical issues arising from CFTA negotiations. Such support was provided in close cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC). UNCTAD prepared technical notes, policy analysis and advisory support, especially on options for negotiating modalities for trade in goods and services, to the CFTA negotiating and advisory processes, as well as to the AUC, African regional economic communities and individual AU member States.

107. UNCTAD participated in all of the three sessions of the CFTA Negotiating Forum (23 February, 16-20 May, 3-7 October, 21-28 November 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Meeting of the CFTA Task Force (9-11 January 2016, Nairobi, Kenya) as well as in all four Joint ECA/AUC expert meetings to prepare draft CFTA legal texts (2-7 May, 20-22 July, 11-16 September, 1-5 November 2016, Nairobi, Kenya), and supported the AUC, AU member States and RECs in their preparation for the CFTA negotiations. For instance, UNCTAD supported ECOWAS to conduct regional consultations on CFTA, by co-organizing ECOWAS-UNCTAD-GIZ Stakeholder Consultation to Develop a Regional Strategy for the CFTA Negotiations (9-11 March 2016, Accra, Ghana). UNCTAD also provided two analytical papers on modalities on tariff negotiations and tariff data analysis at their request. UNCTAD's publication, "Elements of Modalities for the African Continental Free Trade Area: Some key issues for consideration", (DITC/2015/MISC3-en) has an immediate impact given that Member states have always been making reference to it during their TNF meetings.

108. UNCTAD assisted the AUC and ECA in the organization of the first Africa Trade Week (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 November-2 December 2016). UNCTAD is recognized as a major strategic partner in their conduct of CFTA negotiations. This recognition has been captured in official documents of the AU CFTA Negotiation Forum which requested that AUC in collaboration with UNCTAD and ECA to support the work of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, including on the drafting of the CFTA document and on the consideration of specific subjects like modalities for trade in goods and in services.

109. UNCTAD supported the African group, the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, and LDCs in the follow-up to the WTO 10th Ministerial Conference and in preparation for the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference. UNCTAD's technical support allowed them to better understand the substantive issues that are being discussed including special and differential treatment, Electronic Commerce, emerging trade issues such as linkages with employment, migration and global value chains, and the outstanding issues of the Doha Round in agriculture, services and non-agriculture market access. UNCTAD assisted in preparing substantive negotiating positions, promoting their negotiating interests in agriculture, services, non-agricultural market access, special and differential treatment, in defending them and linking them to their broader development goals such as industrialization. In this context UNCTAD participated in various retreats including African Group Ambassadors and Experts Retreat "Taking stock of Nairobi outcomes and charting the way forward for DDA conclusion" (25-26 April 2016, Chavannes de Bogis, Switzerland), LDC Ambassadors retreat on Multilateral Trade Negotiations (17-18 April 2016, Montreux, Switzerland), High Level Consultations on Trade Negotiations and CFTA (26 – 27 October 2016, Chavannes de Bogis, Switzerland).

110. UNCTAD provided support to LDCs in negotiating their specific interests including duty free quota free market access (DFQF) and rules of origin, the implementation of the Preferential Treatment in Favour of Services and Service Suppliers of LDCs and their participation in services trade and preparing positions on special and differential treatment. Individual countries were also supported in understanding the development implications of granting DFQF to all LDCs for all their

products, especially textiles and clothing in markets of developed countries such as the United States where African LDCs benefit from the African Growth Opportunities Act.

111. UNCTAD contributed and provided substantive support to various high-level meetings, technical meetings, and seminars organized by developing countries and groupings as well as at international conferences and events including: side events during UNCTAD XIV, namely “Ministerial Round Table: Where next for the multilateral trading system?” (18 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya), and “Trade Policies and Sustainable Development Ministerial Meeting” (19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya) with participation of ministers, high ranking officials as well as international organizations.

112. ACP States continue to face daunting challenges in effectively negotiating adequate terms of full EPAs in a manner to fulfil the stated objectives of EPAs, i.e., to serve as an instrument for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and regional integration, as well as in building requisite human and institutional capacities to effectively implement resulting provisions of EPAs in broad areas, and benefit from resultant economic opportunities, some of which requires significant human capital formation, institutional upgrading and infrastructure investment. UNCTAD provided analytical and operational support to ACP States in their EPA negotiations and implementation processes. UNCTAD continued to work closely with the ACP Group of States and the ACP Group Secretariat. Technical assistance provided by UNCTAD to ACP States builds on the expertise and experiences accumulated in the Secretariat in the areas of capacity building of developing countries in trade policy and negotiations at national, regional, inter-regional and multilateral levels, including ACP-EU negotiations on EPAs. It builds on the internationally agreed UN 2030 Agenda, which provides a universal set of common objectives, and on the Global Strategy for the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy. UNCTAD’s support to ACP States aimed at the following: (a) strengthen institutional capacities to better manage simultaneous and parallel negotiations at sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels; (b) build up and enhance human resources and capacities in the area of trade policy and negotiations, as well as dispute settlement; and (c) strengthen the contribution of services sector to development under programmes on trade in services.

113. UNCTAD has also supported developing countries with regard to dispute settlement in international trade, investment and intellectual property such as under WTO, WIPO, including its arbitration and mediation centre, and international commercial arbitration such as by UNCITRAL. UNCTAD has developed training materials and delivered capacity building activities on procedural and substantive aspects of international dispute settlement systems, in order to address capacity constraints faced by developing countries in this area. For instance, UNCTAD contributed to Expert Group Meeting on CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement) negotiations (6-8 December 2016, Podgoritca, Montenegro).

114. Trade policy and trade negotiation capacities of countries were also built through provision of training courses organized under Paragraph 166 and the Virtual Institute, including regional courses for Western Asia (9 to 27 October 2016, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman) and economies in transition (30 June to 18 July, Belgrade, Serbia). These contributed to their greater preparedness and technical capacities with regard to trade policy and multilateral and regional negotiations.

115. **Results/impacts:** Through its integrated analytical and capacity-building activities, UNCTAD has strengthened capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, and helped them integrate beneficially into the global economy and the international trading system. Synergies with the analytical work developed for United Nations flagship publications, such as the “International Trade and Development - Report by the Secretary General (A/71/275)”, have been relevant for the technical cooperation activities on trade policy and negotiations. UNCTAD assistance enhanced ability of policymakers and trade negotiators of developing countries and countries in transition to appreciate the importance of the coherence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system, which is needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development. UNCTAD’s intervention has had sustained positive strong impact in

strengthening human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade negotiations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. UNCTAD's support on CFTA negotiators was particularly strongly appreciated by the beneficiaries. In her letter to UNCTAD Secretary-General dated 10 March 2017, Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, the AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry, noted that "I am glad to inform you that African Ministers of Trade have noted with appreciation the support of UNCTAD and requested additional technical support for the CFTA negotiations", and stated that "UNCTAD's contribution to the CFTA Negotiating Forum is critical and my sincere hope that you will continue to make your teams available to support the CFTA in its various institutions - including but not limited to the CFTA NF". As the only organization within the UN family with a special mandate to focus on trade and development issues, UNCTAD is strategically positioned to meet such needs to make a difference and impact on the development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1.4. *Services for development and trade*

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

117. **Objectives:** UNCTAD pioneered the conceptualization, policy analysis and inter-governmental deliberation on services economy and trade. This work is all the more relevant today as the achievement of many goals and targets under SDGs requires well-functioning infrastructure and basic services, and universal access to them. These goals include: Goal 1 on ending poverty (financial services); Goal 2 on ending hunger and achieving food security (financial services); Goal 4 on education (education services); Goal 5 on gender equality (financial services); Goal 6 on water and sanitation (water services); Goal 7 on ensuring access to energy (energy services); Goal 8 on sustained growth (financial services); Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure (e.g., financial, ICT and telecommunication, transport services); Goal 10 on reducing inequality (remittances); Goal 11 on cities and human settlements (transport services); and Goal 17 (information and communication services). Such prevalence of services in SDGs renders Agenda 2030 essentially the services agenda. UNCTAD's work on trade in services, services data and statistics and analysis of trade and services for development and on infrastructure is expected to contribute to Goal 8.2 of SDGs to achieve higher economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, as well as Goals 9 on industry, innovating and infrastructure, and 10 on reduced inequality.

118. UNCTAD's support in the area of services is aimed to enhance expertise and human, regulatory and institutional capacities to elaborate and implement national services regulatory frameworks, services sectoral assessments and preparations for (a) regional negotiations with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade; (b) participation in WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations; and (c) responding to the challenges associated with parallel negotiations between the multilateral track and regional tracks. UNCTAD's work on services also contributes to efforts in reducing overall trade barriers, including through the participation on 5-7 October 2016 in the Multi-Agency Support Team expert meeting on non-tariff measures classification, particularly in the working group on post-sales

services and distribution restrictions, and in the PRONTO meeting, a collaborative project on regulatory barriers to trade.

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

120. The objective of the fourth session of MYEM on Services, Development and Trade (18–20 May 2016) was to identify best-fit practices at the levels of policymaking, regulations, institutions and trade negotiations, linking services, trade and development, including strengthening national services regulation without creating trade barriers. The session focused on the coherence between policies, regulation, institutions and trade liberalization by examining practices and experiences in building coordination and coherence between trade negotiators, policymakers and regulators, and making regulatory and trade agendas mutually supportive in services sectors. The meeting was conducted on the basis of an exchange of experiences and lessons learned, including from UNCTAD's Services Policy Reviews, UNCTAD's Global Services Forum and other work from UNCTAD's toolbox on services. Beyond continuing work on services trade negotiations and infrastructure services economy and trade, some specific areas for further work were suggested, including services and diversification and structural transformation and value chains, preferential services market access initiatives, proper collection of services data, the digital economy/e-commerce and ICT services-enabled trade, financial inclusion and remittances, as well as cross border regulatory cooperation and international standards on services.

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

122. UNCTAD further promoted policy debate at the Global Services Forum, held on 21 July in Nairobi, Kenya, at the occasion of UNCTAD XIV, jointly organized with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The meeting deliberation underscored that services had not received the level of attention they deserved in structural transformation and trade negotiations, despite links to many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regard to infrastructure development. There were various barriers to trade in services and a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to services was therefore needed. UNCTAD is committed to more ambitious work on services and the Forum served as the launching pad for its future work, including through the Services Policy Reviews and the multi-year expert deliberations. The deliberation underscored the importance of services trade facilitation as well as contribution of tourism sector to development in Africa.

123. UNCTAD supports to African countries in preparing for the CFTA services negotiations aims at strengthening the expertise and capacity of policymakers and trade

negotiators with respect to services policy issues and negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. UNCTAD supported training activities for ECOWAS on trade in services (Trade in Services Training Workshop: “Strengthening ECOWAS Services Negotiation Capacity”, 26-28 July, 2016 Abuja, Nigeria), ECOWAS member countries in elaborating their negotiating positions for the CFTA at the UNCTAD/ECOWAS Stakeholders Consultation meeting on the CFTA (9-11 March 2016, Accra, Ghana). At the request of ECOWAS Secretariat, the regional Services Policy Review has been initiated to help support the deepening of regional integration and negotiations in CFTA.

124. In 2016 substantive contribution were made to national and regional technical and consultative meetings, such as: a) 6th Annual meeting of the China association of Services (15-16 December 2016, Beijing). b) Workshop on the role of services in development policies (10-12 November 2016, London, United Kingdom); c) Trade in Services capacity building Training Workshop for Tunisian trade officials (15-17 November 2016, Tunisia, Tunis); d) Study Visit of the Indonesian Delegation to Geneva on Trade in Services Negotiations (27 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland); and e) Seminar on Promoting Services Trade “Professional services trade” and “R&D services trade” in ASEAN member States (29-30 November 2016, ASEAN-Japan Centre). UNCTAD provided support to LDCs in negotiating their specific interests including the implementation of the Preferential Treatment in Favour of Services and Service Suppliers of LDCs and their participation in services trade. Training provided under Para 166 courses and the Virtual Institute also included services components. UNCTAD’s participation in the WTO Public Forum, on 28 September 2016, with the presentation “Goods are services in boxes: what future for mode 5?” also contributed to these capacity-building efforts.

125. UNCTAD has emphasized the importance of potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities’ abroad as well as the issue of maximizing the development impact of remittances. It has contributed to international policy deliberations, including under the Global Migration Group (GMG), International Organization for Migration, World Bank and WTO. UNCTAD took part in GMG Strategic Retreat 2016 (21-26 February 2016, New York, United States of America) and in the GMG Principals’ meeting (8 November 2016, New York, United States of America). The deliberation 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. UNCTAD participates in the Global Migration Group, and cooperate with international organizations and member States on migration issues. UNCTAD is also part of the GMG working group on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies and the GMG working group on data and research. Under the latter, UNCTAD has further contributed to the GMG publication “Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development”, expected to be published in 2017. In the GFMD context, the Division collaborated with other United Nations agencies to improve the policy and operational responses of the United Nations system and the international community to international migration.

126. UNCTAD is a member of the International Telecommunication Union Focus Group on Digital Financial Services, a multi-stakeholder platform on financial inclusion and digital finance. In 2016 UNCTAD participated in meetings of International Telecommunication Union -T Focus group on Digital Finance (20-23 July 2016, New York, United States of America and 6-8 December 2016, Geneva, Switzerland) and co-authored the publication “The Digital Financial Services Ecosystem”.

127. **Results/impacts:** UNCTAD work on services, trade and development has helped developing countries better understand this area, and the potential opportunities this field can provide. There is close synergy between the three pillars of UNCTAD’s work in its services. For example, synergies with the analytical work developed for United Nations flagship publications, such as and the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017”, have been relevant for the technical cooperation activities on services economy and

trade. Through country- and sector-specific assessments and field support, UNCTAD has assisted countries with the development of their services sector.

128. Sharing of experiences and lessons learnt is a special feature of UNCTAD support. The outcome of the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade has been widely disseminated and share through international and national conferences. The dissemination of findings of the intergovernmental meetings and analyses of UNCTAD helped countries to consider steps towards strengthening their regulatory and institutional mechanism in support of infrastructure services and identify best-fit national policies, so that they can have a stronger positive impact on development. UNCTAD work in this area has helped reform sector policies and regulations, improved access to essential services, and generated important data and reference material for multilateral and regional trade negotiations as well as for national services policy formulation. The developmental benefits of international migration and related remittances received added emphasis by UNCTAD in the light of its growing impact on development prospects.

2. Trade, environment and development

2.1. *Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirement and International Trade*

129. This project covers work of UNCTAD on Voluntary Sustainable Standards and on the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), a joint initiative of UNCTAD and four other UN agencies (FAO, ITC, UNEP and UNIDO). UNFSS is an intergovernmental forum for discussion on policies and national experience on private standards as means of achieving public sustainability objectives, including poverty reduction and improved access to foreign markets, while reducing the compliance costs with such standards.

130. Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) have emerged in the past 2 decades as standards specifying requirements relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including respect for human rights, workers' health and safety, decent income, environmental degradation, etc. The increased prominence of VSS has also led to the emergence of international forums where issues relating to VSS can be discussed. The UNFSS was formed in 2013 to provide information and analysis on VSS. In particular, the Forum has focused on understanding the contribution VSS can have in helping developing countries achieve their sustainable development goals.

131. **Outputs:** The project delivered the following major outputs in 2016:

(a) The publication of the Flagship report on "Voluntary Sustainability Standards and the Role of Government". The publication looks at the challenges facing VSS, such as: ensuring that VSS benefit those who need it most, proliferation of standards and lack of inter-operability, applicability of VSS in local operating contexts, costs of VSS implementation, credibility, legitimacy, and accountability of standards, and ability to generate transformational impacts.

(b) Support of development of VSS National Platforms in India, China and Brazil:

132. The Indian National Platform on VSS was successfully launched on 18 March 2016, with the presence of the Madame Rita Teotia, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India. The Quality Council of India and UNFSS collaborated on setting up a National Platform on VSS in India. The launch was covered by national media.

133. UNFSS support on post launch activities have aimed to cover the following activities:

a) Creation of the Secretariat of the National platform at the Quality Council of India;

(b) Formation of National Stakeholder Group on India National platform;

(c) Preparing a Priority Group Study to address the following:

(i) Identification of the priority product groups in India that are particularly exposed to VSS in export markets;

(ii) Analysis of existing gaps for the priority product groups and discussion of opportunities for overcoming them;

(iii) Review of the best practice cases in India that already successfully comply with VSS, as well as the opportunities for their emulation in the priority product groups.

(iv) Comparative analysis of VSS of what standards might be the best fit for assuring market access and meeting specific sustainability goals at micro- and macro-economic levels with reference to mega regional trade agreements and their possible impact on Indian trade.

134. Creation of the Secretariat of the National platform at the Quality Council of India. As soon as the Platform was launched, the Quality Council of India, with the support of UNFSS-UNCTAD, created a Secretariat for the National Platform. Dr. Manish Pande was nominated Secretary of this Secretariat. UNFSS-UNCTAD provided advice on the definition of the work plan of this Secretariat.

135. The first task of the Secretariat was to support the 11th Indian National Quality Conclave that took place in New Delhi on August 19-20, 2016. UNFSS, with the funding of this project, attended the event as a resource person, presented on VSS and Sustainable Development Goals, and discussed the strategic development plan of the India National Platform on VSS.

136. Formation of National Stakeholder Group (Platform Steering Committee). This Group was created under the Quality Council of India and UNFSS leadership during the fall of 2016 as multi-stakeholder approach to the VSS work in India. The group had its first meeting on December 8, 2016.

137. Participation of the Indian VSS National Platform at both UNFSS event in WTO Public Forum in Geneva in July and in Berlin.

138. Priority Group Study titled “The India Story: Impact of Private Sustainability Standards on Market Access and Sustainable Development.” The lead author of the study is Mr. Manish Pande. UNFSS-UNCTAD has provided guidance and inputs to the study all through the preparation process. The study identifies the positive impacts that Private Sustainability Standards have on enhancing the sustainable development of the business environments, and hence promoting SDGs. The study identifies the market access conditions for three priority product groups of agri-food (tea and grapes), textiles and forestry. Lastly, it addresses how to unlock the Indian potential of attracting international investment and business by aligning its policies on sustainability.

139. **Results:** The main achievement of the programme to date is summarized below:

(a) The priority group study will serve as an input for the Indian VSS Steering Committee, which in itself will implement its recommendations and assure its national dissemination. It will contribute to the identification of trade and development opportunities in India of products with strong sustainability standards components, and also achieving other policy objectives. The study will be published as an UNCTAD publication and disseminated by UNFSS member agencies.

(b) The success story of the Indian VSS National Platform has inspired other developing countries such as Brazil and China to embark in the process of launching their own National Platform emulating the Indian example.

(c) Strong collaboration was formatted between Voluntary Sustainability Standards bodies, such as the ISEAL Alliance, UNFSS five agencies, in particular, UNCTAD, and national standards setting bodies, such as Indian Quality Council of India. Fruitful collaboration will provide synergies in other work agendas such as the development of other National Platforms in China and Brazil.

(d) The creation of the National Platform in India will advance the understanding and utilization of policy tools for sustainability and development purposes. The VSS National Committee will steer the process in India.

2.2. *Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phase II*

140. **Development context:** Agriculture faces unprecedented challenges and promising opportunities globally. The challenges result from the need to secure food supply for a rapidly growing human population, while at the same time having to minimize the adverse impacts of agricultural production on the environment. Promising opportunities relate to new management options, opened up by alternative production techniques, technological developments and changing consumer preferences. As the Lao People's Democratic Republic develops, it is important for its agricultural production to follow suit, improving the quality and sustainability of its products. This includes expanding markets of organic products. To that end, trainings were delivered to government officials, extension workers and farmers on organic production methods, as well as on certification processes. As traditional farming practices are still prevalent in the country, a move into organic agriculture made use of existing traditional knowledge and entrepreneurial skills of farmers. As a systems-practice, organic farming avoids or reduces the need for direct control techniques such as pesticides, herbicides, fast-acting fertilizers or veterinary medicines. Organic production relies on preventive and system-oriented practices, which can deliver savings to producers and command higher prices with consumers.

141. **Objectives/features:** UNCTAD is implementing organic agriculture development activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic under the project "Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phase II", funded by SECO (Switzerland) under the framework of the UN Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. UNCTAD is contributing to the organic agriculture and tourism components of the project (together with ITC).

142. **Output:** In 2016, UNCTAD continued to assist the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in organizing the Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF). The Forum facilitates information and experience sharing among stakeholders interested in organic agriculture development. Specifically, it is a platform to inform participants of the organic agriculture situation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as discuss future directions to enhance production and sales, which could be undertaken by public authorities and the private sector (farmers). It also seeks to facilitate information sharing among civil society, the public and private sectors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on organic agricultural development, traceability, standards, as well as linkages with the tourism industry in the country. As one of the concluding activities of the project, the 5th Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF 5) was organized from 15 to 16 June 2016 in Vientiane to take stock of Lao Organic Agriculture Strategies developed by the Department of Agriculture, which benefited from recommendations from the four previous LOAFs (2012-2015); develop partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the organic agriculture sector in the Lao People's Democratic Republic while increasing coherence between different key public and private stakeholders, organizations and donors involved; and facilitate business-to-business meetings between buyers and producers through trade fairs. A pre-LOAF 5 workshop was also organized on 14 June 2016, which served as a coordination meeting for the private sector to identify, prioritize and recommend specific issues and critical activities for consideration during the LOAF 5. At the pre-Forum, the option of the private sector to lead the organic sector was also proposed. A Business Mission for Thai Organic Enterprises Investors to the Lao People's Democratic Republic was also organized from 10 to 15 June 2016 in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Investors and representatives from the Thai organic businesses participated in the mission, which aimed at facilitating business contacts between Thai and Lao organic enterprises (including producer groups) for possible future trading and investment opportunities. Activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic have been carried out in full cooperation with the UN CEB Inter-Agency

Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC, ILO, UNOPS) as well as local partners including the Green Community Development Association, the Lao Certification Board, the Earth Net Foundation, the Lao Certification Body, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and several Lao businesses and farming groups. UNCTAD presented the project's highlights and outputs in BioFach 2016 on 11 February 2016 in Nuremberg, Germany.

143. **Results:** The annual organization of the Lao Organic Agriculture Forum has been recognized as an important instrument for networking, policy discussions and coordination among organic agriculture stakeholders. Organic agriculture has a great potential in the Lao People's Democratic Republic albeit the challenges that organic producers face. By bringing key stakeholders from the public and private sectors together, the LOAFs have been successful in addressing these challenges. The government has identified organic agriculture sector as one of its priorities and as such, since 2013, it has been developing and formulating a strategy, which will increase organic farming from over 1,500 to 70,000 farms by 2025. By 2030, it also envisions the agriculture sector to be modernized, green, prosperous, commercial and sustainable. However, to achieve this, there is a need to improve the basic infrastructure and legal instruments, especially production standards and human resource development to ensure that organic production meets safety and competitive standards. The sustainability of the LOAF as a platform for key stakeholders in promoting organic agriculture and farmers' livelihoods is a collective responsibility and local private sector leadership will be needed.

2.3. *Creative Economy*

144. **Development context:** Creative industries are a potential source of development gains for all countries and in particular developing countries, including in terms of employment generation for women and youth. Participation in creative industries enhances human capital for higher skill occupations, and creates new export opportunities for products and services based on indigenous knowledge, design and local culture. Realizing such gains require carefully formulated policies and strategies at national and municipality levels that integrate the complexities of the interaction between economic, cultural, technological, industrial and social dimensions of the development process and that are implemented on a multidisciplinary basis given the multidisciplinary facet of creative industries. UNCTAD work on the creative economy and industries has demonstrated that building a supportive environment for creative industries requires a holistic approach to development policy and planning centred on providing support, incentives and tools to local actors. Policies for the creative economy must respond not only to economic needs but also to special needs of local communities related to education, cultural identity, social inclusiveness and the protection of local natural and environmental resource endowments, as well as integrating these into local, regional and international markets.

145. **Objectives/features:** UNCTAD provides demand-driven policy advice to governments and municipalities; undertakes policy-oriented research to identify issues and policy options to assist governments and municipalities in policy formulation to nurture their creative economies; provides data on trade in creative industries; promotes synergy inside the United Nations system aiming at complementarities and policy coherence on creative economies; assists developing and other countries in enhancing their capacities for creative industries at national or municipality levels; and maintains and expands its creative economy network as a catalyst for collaborations and sharing of best practices and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, including governments, academia, creative business and the civil society.

146. **Outputs:** In 2016, UNCTAD continued updating its online database summarizing the global trade of creative goods and services. The database provides an essential tool to demonstrate the potential of the creative economy to foster socio-economic development. It also continued its analytical work on the Creative Economy Report 2016. The publication will emphasize the trade and development dimensions of the creative industries integrating key developments in the area of ICTs, innovation, capital and

sustainable development. UNCTAD also prepared country profiles of over 80 countries on their participation in trade in creative goods. The Creative economy outlook and Country profiles: Trends in international trade in creative industries (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/5) was also published.

147. UNCTAD participated in various meetings and events where it highlighted the potential contribution of the creative industries in eradicating poverty and the role of culture and creative industries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as related technical, financial and development needs. These meeting and events included the following:

- (a) Dubai–Shanghai Design Dialogue, 14 March 2016, Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- (b) Expert Forum on the Creative Economy, 6 April 2016, Brussels, Belgium;
- (c) Workshop on Creative Economy, and launching of the advanced version of Istanbul Creative Economy Report 2015, 14 April 2016, Istanbul, Turkey;
- (d) Beijing International Forum on Creative Economy: A Dynamic Force for the Sustainable Development of Cities, 30 May 2016, Beijing, China;
- (e) Forum on Cultural Industries 2016 – One Belt One Road Initiative and Opportunities for Macao Cultural Industries, 5 to 9 June 2016, Macao, China;
- (f) Creative Economy Dialogue 1: Dynamic Regulatory Support and Sustainable Financing for Creative Industries, 19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya;
- (g) Creative Economy Dialogue 2: Catalyzing the Growth of the Creative Industries, 20 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya;
- (h) China Beijing International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE), 27 to 30 October 2016, Beijing, China.

3. Investment trends and issues

3.1. Technical assistance on regional investment cooperation

148. **Development context:** An important pillar of UNCTAD's activities is to support developments in member countries through analytical work and technical cooperation. In this regard, UNCTAD continued to extend technical assistance to ASEAN in 2016 to prepare the annual *ASEAN Investment Report 2016 on Foreign Direct Investment and MSME Linkages*.

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

150. **Objectives and features:** The objective of the series is to present analyses of latest FDI development and the regional investment environment in an integrating ASEAN, including implementing an ASEAN investment work programme in relation to the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. The report aims to provide analytical inputs for discussion by relevant ASEAN bodies of key investment issues and related policy. The report is part of the ASEAN's efforts to promote transparency and investment opportunities in the region.

151. In the preparation of the *ASEAN Investment Report*, a series of consultative meetings between staff members of UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat were held to discuss the outline, key issues, messages, research process and production of the report.

152. **Outputs:** The 2016 *ASEAN Investment Report: Foreign Direct Investment and MSME Linkages* was published in September 2016. The report was launched and presented on 6 September 2016 at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

153. **Results:** The report was well received by ASEAN's stakeholders. The contents of the report have been used by ASEAN bodies and in ASEAN's discussion on issues pertaining to FDI and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the context of regional integration. The report has also been distributed at various ASEAN official and private sector meetings, including dissemination through the ASEAN secretariat's and UNCTAD's website. The support of UNCTAD in the analytical research and preparation of the report was acknowledged by ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Investment Area Council at their meeting on 3 August 2016, where it was also agreed that the key findings of the report would be presented at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, which was held a month later in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

3.2. *World Investment Report series*

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

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

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

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

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

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

156. Major outputs for *World Investment Report 2016 (WIR16)* include the following:

(a) The *WIR 2016* analysed the ownership patterns of multinational enterprises (MNEs), outlining the main trends and rationales for these ownership patterns. It then explored the policy implications from these chosen ownership structures, notably in the areas of investment, tax and competition policy. It also introduced the Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation, which was welcomed by the Trade and Development Board at its November 2016 meeting, supporting its further dissemination through the three pillars of UNCTAD's work.

(b) The Report also showed the most up-to-date data on global and regional FDI flows, including M&A and TNC data sets, presented the FDI potential and performance matrix, and attempted to quantitatively measure the impact of FDI for development – the FDI contribution index. These sets of data are useful for countries in terms of preparing their policy analyses and assessment to attract FDI.

(c) *WIR16* was released worldwide on 21 June 2016. Launch sessions were held in five countries –Bangladesh, India, South Africa, Switzerland and Turkey; and two webinars were held – in English and Spanish – with a Q&A session for accredited journalists. To facilitate global media coverage, four sets of press releases were prepared, translated into official UN languages and some other local languages. The Report was also presented and discussed during a high-level session of the Trade and Development Board.

(d) The WIR can be freely downloaded as either individual chapters or the entire Report from the UNCTAD website.

(e) Databases on FDI, mergers and acquisitions and the largest TNCs were maintained and updated.

157. **Results:** Since the release of the WIR 2016, its Overview in six languages has been downloaded more than 24,000 times – an increase of more than 70 per cent in downloads on the year before. The substance of the report was covered in 1,809 press articles in 95 countries, with authoritative news publications such as the Economist and the Wall Street Journal producing articles about the substantive chapter on company ownership structures.

158. The *WIR16* was successfully presented at the 63d Session of the TDB in December 2015, where UNCTAD’s Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation was commended for its “timeliness and quality”.

159. UNCTAD’s foreign direct investment tables (inflows and outflows) were among the most visited on UNCTADstat in 2016, accounting for 25 per cent of all UNCTAD page views (as measured in October 2016).

3.3. *Capacity-building in FDI statistics*

160. **Development context:** Scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency in existing data reporting systems cause problems in formulating policies and strategies regarding FDI. There is also a shortage of studies on the role of FDI and its impact on sustainable economic development and its contribution to the transfer of technology, human resource development and export performance. In response to recommendations made by the UNCTAD Expert Meeting on “Capacity-Building in the area of FDI: Data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries” in December 2005 and endorsed by the tenth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (Geneva, 6–10 March 2006), UNCTAD continues to provide technical cooperation in the area of FDI statistics. In addition, the Group 77 and China at the 59th Session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD in September 2012 appreciated the new initiative of preparing FDI contribution index and strongly recommended that UNCTAD collect data on activities of TNCs for LDCs, and if there is none, they requested UNCTAD to provide guidance or technical assistance to those countries to collect these essential data.

161. **Objectives/features:** The overall objective of the project is to increase FDI inflows to developing countries, particularly LDCs, by formulating FDI policies based on quality FDI data and information of TNCs operating in the region or the country. Specifically, this project aims at enhancing the capacity of government agencies in these countries to compile, disseminate and analyse data on FDI and TNC activities by implementing internationally recommended methodological standards and enabling national authorities to maintain high-quality and up-to-date databases. It also intends to strengthen networking among national authorities involved in FDI data compilation and reporting and in FDI policy issues and investment promotion activities, so as to facilitate the exchange of experience.

162. **Outputs:** Technical assistance in 2016 focused on the preparation of the investment report in selected regions and countries such as ASEAN, COMESA and CEFTA on the basis of data collected as part of the statistical capacity building projects undertaken by UNCTAD. In addition, in 2016, UNCTAD together with The Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT) and the MENA Centre for Investment organized the second meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Task Force on foreign investment statistics. In the meeting it was agreed to combine the efforts in implementing a GCC coordinated foreign investment survey and to establish a Joint GCC Task Force on foreign investment statistics.

3.4. *Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investment*

163. **Development context:** There is an increasing interest in investment in agriculture in developing countries, by both foreign and local investors. After decades of struggling to attract corporate investment, including FDI, into their agricultural sectors, developing countries are now faced with significant challenges in terms of how to accept the type, size and number of such investments in order to maximize development benefits, while minimizing socioeconomic and environmental risks. To ensure net positive outcomes for host countries, actions are required by Governments, corporate investors in agriculture, and other stakeholders affected by the investments, especially local communities.

164. **Objectives and features:** UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank (the Inter-agency Working Group or IAWG) proposed and put into play a set of Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment in 2010. The Working Group has since implemented a twin-track approach, which comprises research related to the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (first track) to establish a solid base of evidence on the impacts of investment, and to use the lessons learned as a basis for refining the principles, informing various consultation processes (second track), including through the Committee on Food Security, and – most importantly – using the evidence to provide technical assistance to host country governments, investors and communities.

165. **Outputs:** A major part of the Working Group's research is an ongoing series of projects by UNCTAD and the World Bank, empirically testing and using the principles with investors and communities. Field-testing of the principles commenced in 2013, and was concluded during 2014, including detailed interviews with 39 agribusiness investors and around 550 other stakeholders. The final report on the findings was published in April 2014. A follow-up report, which translated the findings into policy guidance on the negotiation of contracts between investors and governments, was published in June 2015. A second phase of fieldwork involving more in-depth interviews with communities surrounding agricultural investments visited in the first wave commenced in 2014 with the intention of better understanding the impacts on local individuals, communities, businesses and regions. This field work was completed in 2015 and a comprehensive report condensing and updating the findings was finalized in 2016 (published in 2017). The work undertaken in 2016 focused on the third phase of the programme, the pilot use of the principles in new agricultural projects, and the development of dissemination materials and channels. In May 2016 a workshop, conducted under the IAWG programme, was held in Lilongwe, Malawi aimed at infusing principles into relatively new agribusiness operations in Malawi, and a number of other selected countries. Other investors and communities that have been visited to date are Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana and Uganda. Selected events at which the programme's findings were disseminated and discussed include the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington, D.C. (March 2016), the Annual Investment Meeting on global FDI in Dubai (April 2016), G7 International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition in Tokyo, Japan (October 2016), ECOWAS Training course on the role of legal frameworks in attracting high-quality and sustainable investment in agriculture in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (November 2016), Workshop for ASEAN Agricultural Investment Negotiators, Bangkok, Thailand (November 2016) and the tenth Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators, Colombo, Sri Lanka (November 2016).

166. **Results:** Technical assistance is provided to policymakers, investors and communities during the fieldwork process itself. As a result of national workshops provided to policymakers, the programme has received a follow-up request for capacity-building in investment screening in Malawi. On the basis of empirical field testing and stakeholder feedback, UNCTAD and the World Bank have commenced the preparation of knowledge notes aimed at providing practical, applicable guidance to agribusiness investors and host country Governments on specific topics.

4. Investment promotion

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

168. **Objectives and features:** UNCTAD's work on investment promotion aims to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to create and manage the policy and institutional framework for attracting and retaining foreign investment and in developing an operating climate in which FDI and international business can thrive and contribute to sustainable development. The investment promotion programme provides advisory services and training and prepares publications related to investment policies, legislation and regulations, institutional arrangements and good governance to attract and retain sustainable FDI, investment promotion strategies, and investment facilitation practices. Special attention is being paid to strengthening investment promotion programmes in LDCs, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States.

169. **Outputs:** In 2016, the main outputs of the programme were as detailed below.

Publications, training material and newsflashes

170. During 2016, UNCTAD produced an array of publications to detail and disseminate information about various aspects of investment promotion, including for the promotion of green and sustainable FDI. These included:

(a) Investment Promotion Agency Observer No. 5 on *Promoting green FDI – practices and lessons from the field*. The note included best practice case studies from the Republic of Korea, South Africa and the United States.

(b) A monthly news flash of the Smart Promotion Network was published. The newsflashes, which reach 2,800 investment promotion stakeholders, included the latest on FDI trends, investment promotion strategies and practices, upcoming events, and publications of interest to investment promotion professionals and policymakers.

(c) Two IPA Observer publications are under preparation, with the following working titles: *Investment Facilitation: The Perfect Match for Investment Promotion* and *Investment Promotion Guide for Sustainable Development Goal Projects*.

(d) The UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards 2016 brochure. The brochure provides an overview of the Investment Promotion Awards winners since 2002;

(e) An information flyer on UNCTAD's greenFDI.org platform to promote investment in sustainable development.

171. In addition, UNCTAD maintains an online platform on green FDI. The site is targeted at IPA professionals and policymakers (see greenFDI.org) and seeks to meet the learning and networking needs expressed by IPAs worldwide in promoting green investment. The website features a resource centre with over 300 recent publications related to green investment, a vast network of IPA contacts, and information on UNCTAD's work on sustainable investment. In 2016, the website was further enhanced with new features, including a gender resource centre category.

Workshops and Training

172. Several workshops and training events were organized in different regions in the course of the year, covering an array of topical investment promotion subjects. On 17 July 2016, UNCTAD organized an Investment Promotion and Facilitation Workshop in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. The workshop, which was held in Nairobi before the World Investment Forum, brought together investment promotion experts for a practical, hands-on session on investment promotion and facilitation practices, and how they could support the sustainable development goals. The workshop also reviewed the latest investment trends, prospects and findings from an UNCTAD-McKinsey IPA survey on the current state of investment promotion and facilitation. Over 150 investment stakeholders participated, including IPA officials from 21 countries.

173. UNCTAD co-organized a session on international investment and launched the Chinese version of the *World Investment Report 2016* during the China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen, China, on 8 September 2016. The event attracted over 100 investment experts and representatives of the media.

174. On 13 October 2016, during the World Investment Conference 2016 of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, UNCTAD, together with the ILO, OECD and UNIDO, held a workshop on the SDGs and Investment Promotion. Over 80 IPA officials from developed and developing countries participated in this workshop in Istanbul, Turkey.

175. From 21-22 November 2016, UNCTAD, in partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, organized a capacity-building workshop in Amman on the promotion of FDI for 66 diplomats, staff of the Jordan Investment Commission, and representatives from several Jordanian ministries, companies, and associations. This was the first training event for Jordanian diplomats on investment promotion organized by UNCTAD. The training, which included interventions by Jordanian government institutions and the private sector, gave participants an overview of FDI trends and policies, its potential impact on sustainable development and the role that diplomats can play in the promotion of foreign investment.

176. From 6-7 December 2016, UNCTAD, in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Institute for Diplomatic Studies, organized a capacity-building workshop on the promotion of FDI. Held at the Dr. Boutros Ghali Hall of the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Cairo, the two-day event provided training for a group of 45 diplomats, commercial attachés, and senior staff of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones and the Egyptian Ministry of Investment. The workshop was the fifth training event for Egyptian diplomats on investment promotion organized by UNCTAD.

Advisory services

177. To support India's anticipated solar energy leap as envisioned by its National Solar Mission, UNCTAD helped the national investment promotion agency, Invest India, to strengthen its capacity to promote FDI in the solar energy sector. Advice was given on market trends and investment opportunities in different subsectors of solar energy in India and the role that Invest India can play in attracting solar energy FDI. On 10 March 2016, UNCTAD in partnership with Invest India, organized a stakeholders workshop on the promotion of FDI in solar energy projects in India to share findings and experiences and discuss a template project proposal for foreign investors in the solar energy sector. The workshop brought together 50 participants, including senior staff from Invest India, national and state ministries, government agencies and NGOs, as well as investment promotion officials from 8 Asian and African countries (Bhutan, China, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam).

178. UNCTAD had follow-up advisory meetings with KenInvest, Kenya's national IPA, on the implementation of the outcomes from a regional workshop on promoting FDI in the solar energy sector, held in Nairobi in 2015, and showcased the solar energy

sector and other SDG projects during the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2016 (WIF 2016) in Nairobi.

International meetings and networking events

179. From 10 to 11 January 2016, UNCTAD participated in the Urban Thinkers Campus meeting organized by the International Real Estate Federation and the Dubai Real Estate Institute. At the meeting, urban developers, innovate thinkers, financial experts and representatives from international organizations discussed urban challenges and ways to manage the future growth of cities in a sustainable manner. Outcomes of this and other Urban Thinkers Campuses fed into the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda, the Habitat III outcome document.

180. The annual UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards, which have honoured best practice in various fields of investment promotion since 2002 were held in the context of the World Investment Forum on 18 July 2016 in Nairobi. In 2016, awards were given to agencies for excellence in partnering on investment promotion. The selection of the Award winners was based on a global survey of IPAs by UNCTAD. In total, 51 agencies participated in the competition, which was one of the most competitive and largest editions of the awards since inception. IPAs from India, Lesotho and South Africa received awards.

181. On 19 July 2016, a High-level Conference on Investment Promotion in the SDGs was organized in Nairobi as part of the WIF 2016. The Conference included three sessions on, respectively, Partnerships for Investment Promotion, Promoting Investment in Information and Communication Technologies for Development, and The Role of Non-Traditional Investors in Financing SDG Projects. The Conference had 250 participants.

182. On 20 July 2016, UNCTAD organized, in partnership with UN Habitat, a Panel on Promoting Investment in Urban Development. In the panel discussions, city leaders, including the Governor of Nairobi City County, investors and city development experts shared their views and outlooks on sustainable urban development and the role of FDI. Around 250 people participated in the meeting, which was part of the WIF 2016.

183. During the WIF 2016, several events and meetings were organized in partnership with the East African Trade and Investment Hub to promote FDI in Eastern Africa. These included a Conference on Investing in Eastern Africa and a CEO Matchmaking breakfast with the UNCTAD Secretary General, each attended by over 200 private sector executives and government officials.

184. On 14 October 2016, at the World Investment Conference 2016 of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies held in Istanbul, UNCTAD participated in a high level panel on FDI as a main driver to achieve the SDGs. Other participating organizations included the International Chamber of Commerce, ILO, OECD, UNIDO and the World Bank.

185. On 13-14 October 2016, UNCTAD participated in the Vienna Investment Conference organized by UNIDO on the role of FDI in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialization and growth. UNCTAD provided presentations and participated in discussions with international organizations, the academia, the private sector and country delegations.

186. **Impact and results:** During 2016, 400 investment promotion officials, policy makers and diplomats from 32 countries and territories received training in investment promotion (including 8 LDCs, 7 landlocked developing countries and 3 small island developing states). In addition, 1,000 investment stakeholders participated in UNCTAD investment promotion conferences and meetings. About 40 per cent of participants in the training workshops were women. Feedback received from workshop participants indicated that the training had met its objectives and that participants planned to apply the learning to their work.

187. In 2016, a three-year Development Account project on building national capacities for the promotion of FDI in green and other growth sectors was finalized.

Over the period, the project had 51 beneficiary countries, including 31 LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. An external evaluation of the project concluded that the project was remarkably effective and efficiently managed. The evaluation survey suggested that beneficiary IPAs should be able to sustain what they have learned from the project.

188. The seven issues of the Investment Advisory Series continue to be disseminated among the investment promotion community. The *Investment Promotion Handbook for Diplomats* (No. 6, Investment Advisory Series A, 2011) guided the UNCTAD training of diplomats that took place in 2016 in Jordan and Egypt. During 2016, guides and handbooks in the Investment Advisory Series, including the guide on *Promoting Low-carbon Investment* (No. 7, Investment Advisory Series A, 2013), were distributed at UNCTAD meetings and training sessions.

189. Over 2,800 investment stakeholders received the monthly Smart Promotion Network newsflashes, including chief executive officers and senior officials from national and subnational investment promotion agencies. In 2016, an average of 374 people read the newsflash each month when they received it. Smart Promotion Network issues from 2016 and previous years can also be downloaded from the UNCTAD website greenfdi.org.

190. Since the launch of UNCTAD's greenfdi.org platform, it has been visited over 10,000 times by users from 156 countries and territories, including 122 developing and transition economies (measured in March 2017). In 2016, the greenfdi.org website had 2498 sessions from 1475 visitors from 111 countries and territories.

5. Macroeconomic and development policies

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

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

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

193. **Objectives/Features:** This project aims at facilitating the economic cooperation and integration among the 4 developing economies in Southern Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, and around the potential regional economic growth

pole (South Africa). In particular it aims at identifying regional value chains and at fostering industrial policy coordination in the region. The project will also build the capacity of selected developing countries in formulating policies for the progressive diversification of the production and export structure of the economy by using UNCTAD research methodologies and tools.

194. In order to achieve these objectives a series of studies has been commissioned to analyse the economic structure of the region and identify opportunities for fruitful cooperation. These studies will focus on specific regional value chains (RVCs) and on the domestic and regional policy measures needed to foster their development and maximize their impact on the welfare of the population of the target economies. The first drafts of these studies will be presented in a first regional workshop designed to kick-start the policy dialogue among the government target countries on the identified RVCs and at supporting the establishment of a regular dialogue between the public and the private sector at the regional level. A second regional workshop will be organized at the end of the project aiming at enhancing the coordination of policy in the region through the validation of the policy recommendations put forward in the studies.

195. In the final biennium national workshops will be organized in each of the target countries to enhance the comprehension of the dynamics behind the process of structural transformation and build local capacity to formulate policies to sustain industrial development and linking into the identified RVCs.

196. **Outputs:** The project started its implementation in June 2016. The first months of the implementation of the project have been devoted to the discussion of the project's strategy with the target countries and the main counterparts, and to the identification of consultants and background papers to be commissioned. In the context of UNCTAD XIV in Nairobi, a first kick-off meeting was organized with the representatives of the target countries. Other meetings were held with missions of the participating countries in Geneva, institutional partners (OECD Development Centre, UNIDO and UNDP) and the Department of Trade and Industry and the Industrial Development Corporation in South Africa.

197. Three studies have been commissioned to regional consultants. The studies focus on the three regional value chains identified during the first round of meetings as those could be developed in Southern Africa: agro-processing, capital equipment for mining and renewable-energy based technologies. The first regional workshop has taken place in Pretoria, jointly organized with the South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry on March 27 and 28 2017. Target countries endorsed the integration agenda and had the opportunity to give their feedback on the undergoing studies. Tanzania proposed to host the second regional meeting which will take place in December 2017.

198. **Results:** It's too early to measure the results of the project only after a few months of implementation. We have realized however that our initial activities are generating interest in the countries involved and raising awareness on the importance of strengthening regional ties and developing RVCs in key sectors.

5.2. *Strengthening pro-growth macroeconomic management capacities for enhanced regional financial and monetary cooperation among selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa*

199. **Development Context:** Regional financial and monetary co-operation, especially through the form of south-south mechanisms, have become a particularly important means by which developing countries seek to tackle vulnerability and build resilience. Especially since the 2007–2008 economic and financial crisis, many new macroeconomic mechanisms and institutions have emerged in the effort to meet both urgent short-term needs and longer-term developmental needs through south-south solidarity and cooperation. This trend is driven in part by frustration with the existing international financial architecture, but also by the desire to strengthen regional production and trade in the light of low global trade prospects and a reappraisal of the impact of more conventional south-north trade patterns. Some older south-south mechanisms have also adapted to the new needs and perspectives. Hence the financial

and monetary landscape has changed profoundly. South-South virtual payment systems and currency swaps are helping reduce exposure to exchange rate volatility and promote regional trade; regional trade-finance arrangements have expanded. Regional reserve funds are helping soften liquidity crises, sometimes responding more quickly and without the restrictions associated with traditional sources of finance. Regional infrastructure funds and development banks are providing long-term finance; regional industrial policies and institutions are being established to increase market scale and breadth, and promote technological upgrading, diversification and value-added. Some of these mechanisms have grown large surprisingly quickly – some national developing country development banks now have a regional presence that exceeds the traditional multilateral sources of finance.

200. **Objectives and features:** Not all of these new macroeconomic mechanisms are well known about outside their immediate regions; and some appear to be working more effectively than others. Moreover, even though there has been such a flurry of new offerings increasing the scale of assistance to which developing countries can turn, challenges remain in terms of ensuring they can offer a sustainable service that is distinct, different and truly developmental. There are growing concerns about the scale and cost of debt, which has been rising very strongly for many developing countries. Therefore, this project aims to gather and share information about these regional-integration mechanisms currently existing and the experiences of developing countries using them. It aims also to build consensus on the potential benefits of regional financial and monetary cooperation and the policies needed to enable this.

201. Features of the approach have included a series of commissioned research activities designed to improve understanding about important new initiatives and the challenges they face, as well as workshops and seminars designed to share experiences about policy management in these areas of macroeconomic strategies and instruments, public debt and finance for development. Participants at meetings have included senior officials of ministries, banks and reserve funds engaged in south-south activities as well as academics and policymakers.

202. **Outputs:** During 2016 two important regional seminars were held as part of this project. The first took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in July. It included an informal two-day workshop involving development banks and experts on south-south integration, which was followed by a formal ministerial round table as part of the deliberations for UNCTAD XIV. The round table was titled “South–South mechanisms to tackle vulnerabilities and build resilience: the innovative use of regional financial and monetary integration” and was very well attended, indicating the interest on the part of delegates in this topic for development. It helped to share experiences of some of the ways in which south-south integration contributes to build resilience and boost development, including the fact that these mechanisms appear to help developing countries expand their voice and political engagement within multilateral processes. The second regional workshop was held in Quito, Ecuador, in collaboration with the Government of Ecuador and the Union of South American Nations. Speakers included newly appointed country representatives of the Banco del Sur, and the meeting facilitated several discussions about the experiences of different regional development banks and regional reserve funds. During the workshop the founder Chair of the new Bank was elected. Participants at the seminar were interested on the ways in which south-south collaboration could help promote the development of productive capacities and enhance fiscal capacity, among other means of building resilience and reducing vulnerability in an uncertain global environment.

203. During 2016, several research activities carried out for this project were completed, deepening and broadening knowledge and understanding about the mechanisms and policies through which developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia are pursuing regional financial and monetary integration. These included commissioned papers focusing on regional reserve funds and regional infrastructure financing mechanisms, and the policy frameworks that are needed to help support development banks. Research findings are being disseminated through the regional seminars and a variety of publications; full publication of all the findings is expected for

2017. The research and discussions associated with the project indicate that there are still many areas where further analysis is needed on the role of south-south collaboration to support finance for development.

204. **Results and impacts:** The project has gathered important new information about pro-growth macroeconomic policies, enabled a sharing of country and institutional experiences, and helped improve understanding of the scope for regional monetary and financial cooperation, and its impact. According to participants in its seminars and workshops, it has enhanced their knowledge about regional macroeconomic issues and improved skills with respect to policy management.

5.3. *Advisory services provided through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Labour Organization (ILO)*

205. **Objectives:** This MoU aims at a more intense collaboration between UNCTAD and ILO in order to strengthen their role in informing policy decisions based on rigorous technical analysis, particularly on the priority themes of macroeconomics, trade and employment – which require comprehensive solutions. Among the four areas of work included in the MoU, the one on “Macro Policies, Growth and Labour Market” has been an effective channel of development and dissemination of the UN Global Policy Model (GPM).

206. **Outputs:** Work in this area has continued to deliver several outputs throughout 2016:

(a) Five new papers reviewing the UN Global Policy Model were prepared by academic experts at the request of UNCTAD, and published in 2016:

(i) Michael Landesmann, Review of the GPM: Trade and Economic Growth;

(ii) Marc Lavoie, A Macro-financial Assessment of the UN GPM;

(iii) Jo Michell, Evaluating the UN Global Policy Model;

(iv) Özlem Onaran, Review of the Dynamics of Employment and Income Distribution in the UN GPM;

(v) Servaas Storm, Global Policy Coordination for Development: the UN Global Policy Model.

(b) A new website has been made available, which includes references and UNCTAD papers on the UN GPM, the mentioned papers by academic experts and consultants, and a list of links to ILO and UNCTAD policy-oriented publications that benefited from the joint work (ILO-UNCTAD) using the GPM (see debt-and-finance.unctad.org/Pages/GPM.aspx). The ILO has added a link to this work on a page dedicated to the joint collaboration.

(c) Collaboration of the two institutions at the G20 has continued and embraced new analysis on the effect of policies supporting aggregate demand on economic growth and sustainability. The most salient example was the effective coordination of inputs of the ILO and UNCTAD at the above-mentioned meeting held in Paris, March 2016.

(d) Improvements, expansion and maintenance of the global database used for the UN GPM, called ‘World Database’ (WD). This is becoming a major tool to advance our joint work on technical assistance to third parties.

207. With a view of making the WD available to other organizations and universities, both institutions continue to seek active participation of potential partners. The priority during this year has been to engage with the network of universities and think-tanks using the ‘academic version’ of the UN GPM, the Cambridge-Alphametrics Model (CAM). Hence, ILO participated in a meeting of European academic network in Poggio Mirteto, Italy, on 20–25 June 2016. Among other aspects, the discussions raised the need to deepen exchanges on areas of industrial and regional policies, social protection and employment.

5.4. *Advisory services provided to the Group of 20 processes through the “Framework Group” for macroeconomics, finance and trade*

208. UNCTAD has continued to offer technical assistance and contribute to the policy debates at the working group of the Group of 20 (G20) which deals with strategic policy decisions on economics, finance and trade, the ‘Framework Group’. During 2016, and based on the efforts conducted since the beginning of its participation in the ‘Framework Group’ in 2009, UNCTAD contributed to introduce ‘inclusive growth’ as a central axis of the strategic policy discussions. On this basis, the aim of UNCTAD for the year 2016 was to focus its technical assistance on the need to revisit the role of aggregate demand and fiscal policy in particular, and to propose a review of the continuing deceleration of global trade.

209. During the meeting of the ‘Framework Group’ in Paris, 22-23 March 2016, UNCTAD was invited to make contributions to three themes: structural reforms, international trade and inclusive growth. On the theme of inclusive growth new aspects were introduced to strengthen the contributions made in the previous cycles. These called attention to gender issues as well as the equity concerns that can arise in context of trade and financial liberalization. On structural reforms, recalling model simulations carried out with the UN Global Policy Model (GPM), UNCTAD proposed policies to enhance growth by promoting faster wage growth and a pro-active fiscal policy. On international trade, UNCTAD stressed that the configuration of global demand was relying excessively on faster growth of demand by deficit countries, which widened global imbalances and generated financial vulnerabilities. It also stressed that the slowdown of trade was the result of adjustments mostly in such countries. Therefore, UNCTAD recommended that a sustained growth of global demand necessitates stronger stimuli from surplus economies.

210. Through its technical assistance and policy advice, UNCTAD has contributed to the progressive reorientation of the views of several countries within the G-20, which have recognized the need for aggregate demand stimuli. Likewise, the IMF has, in the course of the year, revised its earlier insistence on fiscal austerity and recognized that the policy stance of all G20 members should shift towards expansionary or at least accommodative.

6. ICT policies for development

6.1. *ICT Policy Reviews: E-Commerce Strategies for Egypt and Rwanda*

211. **Development context:** Nairobi Maafikiano mandated UNCTAD to “Strengthen its work on enhancing development gains from the digital economy and e-commerce through policy analysis, national information and communications technology policy reviews...”. E-commerce strategies focus on the e-commerce component of ICT policies with a view to leveraging it for development gains.

212. **Objectives and features:** The analysis in the IER2015 served as essential input into UNCTAD’s work on ICT Policy Reviews, notably in the case of Egypt. Moreover, several other developing countries have requested UNCTAD assistance related to the development of national e-commerce strategies, such as Rwanda where the Ministry of Trade in 2016 requested UNCTAD assistance in developing an E-Commerce Strategy.

213. **Outputs:** UNCTAD continued its work to help the Government of Egypt develop a National E-commerce Strategy. A comprehensive assessment of the current status of e-commerce in Egypt was conducted on the basis of several fact finding missions, interviews with approximately 100 government officials, consultations with key stakeholders, desk research and surveys. UNCTAD partnered with the World Bank to develop the e-payment component of the strategy, as well as cooperated with several UN agencies, including UPU, ILO, UNESCO, ITC, OECD, EC, WIPO in other areas of the E-commerce strategy. At a Vision Workshop in Cairo in March 2016, attended by approximately 50 high level Egyptian government officials and from the private sector, a draft e-commerce vision and associated national objectives were established for the strategy by delegates.

214. **Results:** The strategy report, including an action plan, is scheduled to be finalized and launched in early 2017.

6.2. *Building capacity to produce indicators for supporting ICT for development policies and mainstreaming ICT in women's entrepreneurship programmes*

215. **Development context:** Policy interest in the digital economy, including cross-border e-commerce and international trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services was increasingly apparent in 2016. Digital trade represents an increasingly important component of the information economy and links economies to global value chains. This interest was echoed by discussions at the WTO, and the German Presidency of the Group of 20. Nairobi Maafikiano also stated that UNCTAD should “Strengthen its work on enhancing development gains from the digital economy and e-commerce through... improving access to data and statistics on the information economy to assess policies and measure impact, including through the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development”.

216. **Objectives and features:** The trust fund aims to build the capacity of countries to produce information economy statistics to enable the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policymaking. Improved statistics and internationally comparable statistical indicators help assess (monitor and evaluate) the results of policies aimed at increasing the use of ICT by businesses, developing the ICT sector, and promoting international trade in ICT goods and services, as well as ICT-enabled services.

217. **Outputs:** The definition and concepts developed by UNCTAD to measure international trade in ICT-enabled services in a comprehensive and comparable way were approved by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016. It served as a basis for the production of a model survey questionnaire to enable pilot surveys on international trade in ICT-enabled services in developing countries. The questionnaire was developed with inputs and feedback from experts from other international organisations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as from four developing-country agencies directly involved in producing international trade in services statistics. The questionnaire builds on existing measurement frameworks and draws on the experience of other national statistical agencies in undertaking similar surveys, making reference and use of existing international classifications. Final agreement on the questionnaire was reached at an ad-hoc expert meeting in December 2016.

218. **Results:** UNCTAD collaboration with others in the United Nations system included co-leadership of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and of its Task Groups on Gender and ICT and on Measuring Trade in ICT Services. Regarding the latter, the work on measuring trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services has filled a gap in international trade statistics. The development of the model questionnaire to measure international trade in ICT-enabled services led to the commitment of four countries (Costa Rica, Egypt, India and Thailand) to conduct pilot surveys. The expected end result is that the countries will be able to compile, analyse and publish the first official statistics on international trade in ICT-enabled services during 2017.

6.3. *eTrade for All Coordination*

219. **Development context:** In the context of UNCTAD work of e-commerce and the digital economy, Nairobi Maafikiano proposes a new eTrade for All initiative to expand efforts to assist developing countries in using and benefitting from e-commerce.

220. **Objectives and features:** The eTrade for All initiative is a demand-driven mechanism in which leading development partners cooperate with the private sector to pool capabilities and resources. Its goals are to raise awareness of opportunities to leverage e-commerce, to mobilize and rationalize financial and human resources to implement e-commerce projects in developing countries, and to strengthen coherence and synergies among partners' activities with a view to enhancing aid efficiency.

The main tool of the Initiative is the eTrade for All Online Platform which will go live in 2017. At the end of 2016, the initiative already counted with 19 partners from the public sector and 21 from the private sector, managed independently through the Business for eTrade Development Council.

221. **Outputs:** Work on technical development and the interface design of the new eTrade for all platform started in 2016. The online information hub will help developing countries and donors navigate the supply of and demand for support to e-commerce development, learn about trends and best practices, and raise visibility for the various partners' initiatives and resources.

222. As part of eTrade for All, UNCTAD pilot-tested two rapid assessments in Bhutan and Cambodia to provide a primary analysis of the current e-commerce situation- with their opportunities and barriers- at the national level. An action matrix was produced and shared at the national level in the 2 countries.

223. **Results:** The operationalization of the eTrade for All platform started with project-management, technical development, interface-design and stakeholder coordination activities. The action matrix included in the Rapid Assessments carried out in Bhutan and Cambodia in the framework of eTrade for All initiative has gathered government support and is being shared with the donor coordination communities at the national level. The action matrix highlighted the most relevant partners that could support e-commerce development in the 7 policy areas identified.

224. At UNCTAD, the rapid assessment project generated wide interest among potential partners and prospective donors. UNCTAD therefore developed a comprehensive "e-T.Ready project" to cover 15 LDCs during the period 2017–2018.

7. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

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

225. **Development context:** The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and in Tunis (2005), was the first major United Nations event that discussed the potential opportunities and developmental impacts posed by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The Summit established a vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. In 2015, this vision was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes.⁶ In the last decade, there has been a rapid growth in fixed and wireless broadband, mobile Internet, smartphones and tablets, cloud computing and big data. It also noted, however, that significant digital divides remain between and within countries, including the gender digital divides as well as divides between different groups of the society. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the potential of ICTs to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge.

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

227. **Outputs:** During 2016, the priority for the secretariat concentrated in two main areas: to support the Commission in its mandate related to the follow-up of the

⁶ (A/RES/70/125)

implementation of WSIS outcomes; and to support the Commission on the implementation of the request made by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of the implementation of WSIS (General Assembly resolution 70/125). In this resolution the General Assembly also requested the Chair of the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, taking into consideration the work that has been done on this matter. The group will submit a report to CSTD at its twenty-first session in 2018.

228. As part of its activities to support the follow-up to the implementation of WSIS outcomes the secretariat invited inputs from United Nations entities and other stakeholders that act as facilitators of the implementation of the WSIS action lines, as well as from other relevant stakeholders. The secretariat received inputs from 28 United Nations entities and other international organizations and stakeholders. Based on this information and other relevant sources, the secretariat elaborated the report of the Secretary-General on “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels” (A/72/64-E/2017/12). The report highlights major activities undertaken by stakeholders in 2016 to implement WSIS outcomes. The secretariat also prepared a report (E/CN.16/2017/CRP.2) that includes further information on the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2016, which will integrate the documentation of the twentieth annual session of the CSTD.

229. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, the Chair of the CSTD established the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on 2 May 2016.⁷ The Economic and Social Council noted the proposal of the Chair of the CSTD on the structure and composition of the Working Group in its resolution E/RES/2016/22. In its role as the secretariat of the CSTD, the secretariat also provides substantive support to the Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 30 September 2016. During this meeting, the Working Group agreed on collecting inputs from its members and other stakeholders on issues related to enhanced cooperation. The secretariat organized the open consultation and prepared a compilation report that served as an input for the second meeting of the Working Group, which was held on 26-27 January 2017. The Working Group is expected to hold three meetings during 2017.

230. In addition, the trust fund has allowed the secretariat to support multi-stakeholder participation in the meetings of the CSTD, especially experts from developing countries. In 2016, during the 19th annual session of the Commission and the 2016-2017 intersessional panel meeting, the discussions on priority themes were enriched by the substantive contributions made by seven resource persons whose participation was financed through the trust fund. Multi-stakeholder participation has become a distinct hallmark of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, has greatly strengthened its work, and has raised appreciation for the work of the Commission.

231. **Results:** The General Assembly, at its 70th session, undertook a comprehensive review of the ten-year implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The outcome document of the review (resolution 70/125) reaffirmed the outcomes, assessed the progress to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future. It also called for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁷ For more information about the composition of the working group, please consult the document ‘Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation: Note on membership’ available at: http://unctad.org/Sections/un_cstd/docs/CSTD_2016_WorkingGroup_en.pdf

232. In the outcome document, the General Assembly recognized the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society conducted by the CSTD in May 2015 and the secretariat's publication entitled "Implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes: A 10-year review" as relevant inputs for its overall review. Further, the General Assembly called for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of outcomes of WSIS, through the CSTD, to the Economic and Social Council and requested the CSTD, within its mandate related to the follow-up to WSIS, to work with all stakeholders to regularly identify and promote specific, detailed actions to support the enabling environment for information and communications technologies and development and provide the demand-driven policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building, as appropriate, to realize them. In the outcome document, the General Assembly also requested the Chair of the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda.

233. The extension of the mandate given to the Commission by the Council in its resolution 2006/46 and the recent request made by the General Assembly to the CSTD in relation to internet governance issues reflect the recognition of the valuable work carried out by the CSTD. This work has invaluable been strengthened thanks to the support of the Trust Fund.

II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

234. Poor people or nations are more vulnerable to external shocks. Eradicating poverty and achieving SDGs would require joint and persistent efforts to tackle the specific challenges faced by weak and vulnerable economies. To build their economic resilience, structurally weak economies need to develop sound strategies to diversify economies and build productive capacity. To combat climate change, it is important to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure, conserve biodiversity, and identify best approaches to mitigate climate change while enhancing economic development prospects. UNCTAD technical assistance addresses the specific demand from least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict States to help them better tackle vulnerabilities and build resilience. Especially, UNCTAD improves the capacities of developing countries to effectively manage debt; supports commodity-dependent developing countries in their diversification efforts; promotes trade and investment in biodiversity resources; and assists LDCs in trade policymaking, market access and achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation.

235. In this section, 7 products under the theme of tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience are reported. The reports highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2016 and key results to date. For technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the theme of tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience, however, not linked with any of the existing 7 products under this thematic area, they are reported under B 99 Others.

B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status

Table B1

Support to graduation from least developed country status

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-333H (9AW)	Supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their efforts to build economic resilience	2016–	Development Account

236. **Development context:** The 2011 Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 set the ambitious goal of seeing at least half of all Least Developed Countries (LDCs) meet graduation criteria by the end of 2020. Some 15 LDCs are now expected either to meet the graduation rule by 2021 (second next review of the UN list of LDCs), or to have graduated by that date. There is therefore significant acceleration in the pace of progress, among LDCs, toward exit borders after only four countries graduated from LDC status since the possibility of country reclassification was established in 1991.

237. Achieving structural economic transformation through productive capacity-building is a challenging development objective for all LDCs. This is what ultimately underlies the quest for graduation from LDC status. Sound economic diversification is generally aimed at as the most desirable form of structural change, conducive to economic resilience and poverty reduction, ideally with stable employment opportunities. For two decades, UNCTAD has been actively supporting the efforts of LDCs to achieve structural economic progress toward graduation.

238. **Objectives:** UNCTAD aims to help the most advanced LDCs make the milestone of graduation from LDC status an opportunity to develop a long-term vision for structural economic transformation, a pathway which sometimes implies a need for continued special treatment by development partners after graduation. Relevant countries are assisted by UNCTAD at all stages of the graduation process. This involves supportive action before and after the United Nations General Assembly has decided that a given LDC will be reclassified.

239. **Outputs:** UNCTAD's work in this area benefited nine LDCs in 2016 (seven potential graduation cases, one graduating LDC, and one ex-LDC). All were served irrespective of their standing on the graduation pathway, be they only pre-eligible for graduation, or fully eligible and aiming at a smooth transition to post-LDC status. The following is a summary of country-specific activities and results.

240. In Bhutan, the paradox of prosperity with vulnerability was analysed by UNCTAD in 2016 through the preparation of a vulnerability profile and blueprint for resilience-building action. The Government of Bhutan was appreciative of this support, and asked UNCTAD to assist in making the future "smooth transition" strategy of the country consistent with the forthcoming 12th five-year development plan.

241. Kiribati, a country not recommended for graduation though meeting graduation criteria, continued to benefit from UNCTAD support in its plea for a special treatment of small island developing States (SIDS). A vulnerability profile of Kiribati, prepared by UNCTAD in 2016 in anticipation of the 2018 review of the list of LDCs, illustrated the symptomatic "island paradox" whereby a country can stand well above the graduation line in terms of per capita income and be one of the most vulnerable countries at the same time. The idea of reforming the graduation rule by giving the vulnerability criterion a superior weight was actively supported by UNCTAD in 2016 through the "Vulnerability first" reform proposal to the UN Committee for Development Policy, a move largely motivated by the potential graduation case of Kiribati.

242. A year after the severe double earthquake it had suffered, Nepal, in 2016, benefited from UNCTAD's assistance in developing a sound national approach to the question of graduation from LDC status. The country was the first LDC to be found pre-eligible for graduation on grounds other than income per capita: the pre-eligibility resulted from improved human assets and reduced economic vulnerability, a dividend of economic diversification. The post-disaster context and the quest for maintaining competitiveness on key export markets has made many Nepalese stakeholders voice concerns about the risk of a premature loss of preferential market access. This brought UNCTAD to undertake, in 2016, an analysis of the direct consequences of a graduation of Nepal for its open economy, and to cast light on the difficult question of the modalities of special treatment Nepal will continue to be in need of irrespective of country status.

243. UNCTAD, in 2016, began to help Sao Tome and Principe assess the extent to which its pre-eligibility for graduation from LDC status was synonymous with steady

structural economic progress. A vulnerability profile prepared by UNCTAD highlighted the economic benefits induced by tourism growth, aid and remittances as factors of income-related progress and improvement in human capital. UNCTAD, at the same time, helped the government develop a resilience-building strategy, notably through the “blue economy” as a diversification avenue.

244. In the Solomon Islands, UNCTAD was asked to guide resilience-building efforts while preparing a vulnerability profile in anticipation of the 2018 review of graduation cases. The need for intensified efforts to diversify the economy of the archipelago brought UNCTAD to make its assistance to the country in 2016 an opportunity to analyse the structural disadvantages the Solomon Islands should address (or continue to deal with) on a priority basis, and to identify desirable forms of continued special treatment by development partners accordingly.

245. Timor-Leste, in 2015, had been found pre-eligible for graduation as a result of its oil-related prosperity, by virtue of the “income only” graduation rule whereby an exceptionally high per capita income may be a sufficient reason for taking a country out of the list of LDCs. In 2016, UNCTAD foresaw the relapse of per capita income of Timor-Leste as a result of the fall in oil prices, a situation that now brings an end to the validity of “income only” graduation. UNCTAD shifted its analytical focus to the slow progress recorded in the human assets performance of the country, while the reclassification of Timor-Leste from LDC status is now seen as less likely to be recommended in 2018. The Government of Timor-Leste expressed gratitude to UNCTAD for making the vulnerability profile of the country a blueprint for monitoring the structural progress of the Timorese economy.

246. Two other LDCs already earmarked for graduation were also attended to by UNCTAD in 2016 (Tuvalu and Vanuatu), while an ex-LDC, Cabo Verde, received continued support in its efforts to bring to fruition the plea for SIDS treatment.

247. **Results:** All beneficiaries were provided with advisory services of direct relevance to the question of graduation, and expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for helping relevant national authorities better understand and manage the policy implications of the change of country status, in particular toward identifying the most desirable level of alternative special treatment after LDC treatment has been partly or totally lost.

248. UNCTAD’s culture of supporting and facilitating LDC graduation enriched the preparation of the Least Developed Countries Report 2016, the theme of which was of direct relevance to structural economic progress and graduation from LDC status. This growing field of UNCTAD technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing also brought the organization, in 2016, to increase the chances of systemic progress in the methodology for identifying cases of graduation. This was done through the “Vulnerability first” reform proposal (see UNCTAD action in Kiribati), a move to enable the United Nations, in its triennial process of reviewing the list of LDCs, to do justice to the economically most vulnerable States on that list by recognizing compelling grounds for not depriving such States prematurely, if at all, of the benefit of LDC status.

B2 DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

Table B2

DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/2AO	Strengthening the Debt Management Capacity of Developing Countries	2002–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/DBD	Support to DMF II activities organised by The World Bank	2014–	World Bank
INT/0T/FAH	Support to implementation of Debt	2016-	World Bank

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
	Management Facility phase II		
INT/0T/FBD	Strengthening the Debt Management capacity of developing countries	2016-	World Bank
ALB/0T/DBF	Capacity Building for Integrated Debt Management in Albania	2015-	Switzerland (SECO)
ANG/0T/EBG	Fortalecimiento de la Capacidad de Gestion de la Deuda Publica de la Republica de Angola	2015-	Angola
ARG/0T/DBJ	Strengthening Public Debt Management in the Province of La Rioja	2014-	Argentina
BGD/0T/BBY	Capacity Building for Integrated Debt Management in Bangladesh	2012-2016	World Bank
CAF/0T/FAE	Renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette publique de la Direction de la Dette et des Participations	2016-	African Development Bank
CHD/0T/DAU	Validation des données de la dette publique au Chad	2014-	World Bank
COS/0T/ECF	Fortalecimiento de la Capacidad de Gestión de la Deuda Pública de la República de Costa Rica	2016-	Costa Rica
CVI/0T/9AL	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2009-	One United Nations
CVI/0T/EBN	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2016-	One United Nations
ELS/0T/CAM ^a	Strengthening Public Debt Management	2013-	El Salvador
GAB/0T/9AT	Renforcement des capacités d'études et modernisation des outils informatiques de gestion de la dette	2012-	Gabon
HON/0T/BAU	Strengthening Public Debt Management	2012-	United Nations Development Programme
INS/0T/ABB	Strengthening Public Debt Management	2011-	Switzerland
INS/0T/EBB	Strengthening External Debt Reporting		
IRA/0T/DBK ^a	Implementation of DMFAS 6.0 in Islamic Republic of Iran	2014-	Islamic Republic of Iran
IVC/0T/BCF	Projet de modernisation des outils informatiques et de renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette SYGADE 6 en Côte d'Ivoire	2013-	Côte d'Ivoire
JOR/0T/DAM	Strengthening Debt Management in Jordan	2014-	Jordan
MAG/0T/BBH	Renforcement des capacités de gestion, d'analyse de la dette de Madagascar par la mise en place de la version 6 de SYGADE	2012-2016	Madagascar

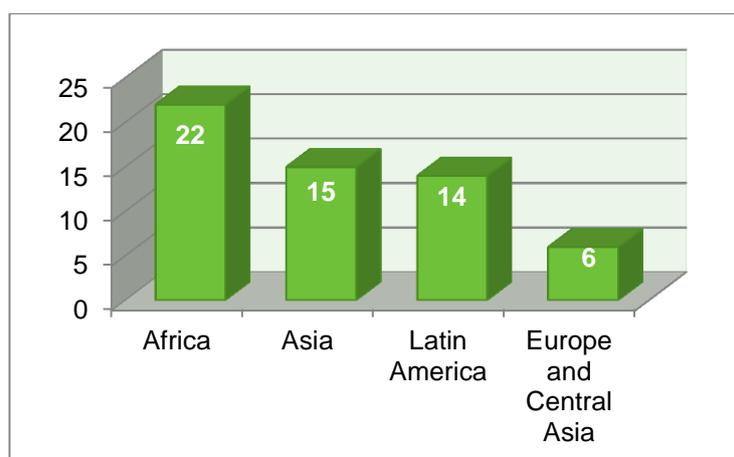
<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
MAU/0T/DAD	Renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette, en Republique Isamique de Mauritanie	2014–	European Commission
MOL/0T/EAF	Implementation of DMFAS 6 in Republic of Moldova	2016–	Republic of Moldova
PHI/0T/ABK	Strengthening debt Management in the Bureau of the Treasury	2011–	Philippines
SUD/0T/EAU	Technical Assistance Capacity Building for Debt Management in the Republic of Sudan	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/8AN	Renforcement des capacités de gestion et de production de statistiques de la dette a la Direction de la Dette Publique	2008–	African Development Bank
UZB/0T/DBS	Improving portfolio and debt management system in Uzbekistan	2014–	Asian Development Bank
VEN/0T/5AC	Proyecto para la implementación del SIGADE 5.3 y los enlaces con los sistemas de análisis integración financiera (SIGECOF II)	2005–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
ZAI/0T/BBB ^a	Renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette en Republique démocratique du Congo	2012–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ZAM/0T/BDA	Strengthening Integrated Public Debt Management	2012–	Zambia

^a Project that was “operationally but not financially completed” or “completed” in 2016.

249. **Development context:** Effective debt management is an intrinsic part of sound public financial management and overall good governance. More than ever, availability of reliable and timely debt data is essential for prudent risk analysis and the elaboration of government strategies aimed at ensuring sustainable debt levels. The critical role of debt and good debt management that was highlighted under the MDGs has again been underlined in the SDGs (UN 2015). SDG 17.4 recognizes the importance of assisting developing countries to attain long-term debt sustainability and reducing the risk of debt distress. While there has been a clear improvement in the debt ratios of many developing countries, as a result of debt relief and improved debt management, developing countries still face significant challenges.

250. **Objectives of Programme:** The DMFAS Programme is a leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management. It offers a set of proven solutions to improve their capacity to manage public debt, handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities, produce reliable debt data and perform basic debt analysis for policymaking purposes. The DMFAS Programme works directly with 57 countries and 86 user institutions.

Figure 1
Geographical distribution of active DMFAS users, 2016



251. **Outputs in 2016:** The DMFAS Programme implemented 87 field missions including capacity-building workshops, installations, technical and functional training, on-the-job training for debt management offices, national and regional workshops, study tours, needs assessments and project evaluations.

252. The DMFAS Programme provided effective support to user countries through its help desk, which responded to 462 requests during the reporting period. It supplied country technical assistance, namely delivering 87 capacity-building workshops and other activities during the reporting period. At the end of 2016, the Programme actively managed 20 technical assistance projects and signed two new projects and five addenda to existing projects.

253. The Programme also works in close cooperation with other international organisations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional institutions, to enhance coordination and avoid duplication.

254. **Results (analysis):** For the DMFAS client countries, concrete and sustainable results were achieved in 2016. These included improved external and domestic debt data recording, enhanced reporting and improved debt analysis capacities in line with the recording and reporting components of the Public Financial Management (PFM) value chain as defined under the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Programme.

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

256. Improved production of debt statistics: Thirty-five countries regularly produce statistical bulletins on debt.

257. Strengthened analytical skills: Twenty-four countries produce regularly a debt portfolio analysis.

258. Improved capacity for effective debt reporting: As a result of the Programme's assistance in helping countries in their reporting requirements, 98 per cent of DMFAS client countries with low or middle income level effectively reported to the World Bank through the Debtor Reporting System. In 2016, 89 per cent of DMFAS clients participating in the World Bank Quarterly External Debt Statistics database (QEDS) reported on a timely basis.

B3 Assistance to the Palestinian People

Table B3

Assistance to the Palestinian People

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
PAL/OT/BAL	Capacity Development for Facilitating Palestinian Trade	2011–	Canada
PAL/OT/FAS	Support for the Capacity of UNCTAD Assistance to the Palestinian People Program	2016–	Qatar Development Fund

259. **Development Context:** In 2016, the impact of the 2014 economic recession in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) still persisted, with an estimated real GDP growth rate of 3.3 per cent 2016. This was too weak to lift the stagnant per capita income which remains lower than the 2013 level, prior to the 2014 Israeli military operation in Gaza. The main reasons for the weak growth were the decline in foreign aid, the slow pace of reconstruction in Gaza due to continuing restrictions by Israel on critical imports and low levels of aid disbursement by donors for Gaza’s reconstruction. Growth was concentrated in the services sector and construction sector, and geared towards rebuilding residential structures destroyed during the 2014 Israeli military operation, while the agricultural and manufacturing sectors continued to perform poorly.

260. The Cairo Conference on Palestine – Reconstructing Gaza, was convened in October 2014 to address the devastation of the major Israeli military assault that took place in July-August 2014. However, of the \$3.5 billion in pledges made at the conference, only 46 per cent had been disbursed by September 2016.

261. In 2016 the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) narrowed the budget deficit to 10 percent of GDP, down from 27 per cent in 2006. However, the potentially positive effects of the fiscal reforms were offset by the decline in donor aid to \$700 million, down from \$800 million in 2015. The PNA was forced to bridge the ensuing \$600 million financing gap by accumulating arrears to the pensions fund and private suppliers. Following recent trends, the dwindling donor aid was mainly used for budget support, and consequently the PNA was unable to reverse the downward trend of public investment, which has recently been around 2 per cent of GDP. Meanwhile, private investment levels, averaging about 15 per cent of GDP, are among the lowest in the world, and have been concentrated in low productivity activities.

262. In 2016 the unemployment crisis persisted and food-insecurity expanded. The unemployment rates reached 27 percent despite a low labour force participation rate of about 46 per cent. This has deepened food-insecurity, with two-thirds of Palestinians affected by food insecurity, 33 per cent food-insecure, 21 per cent marginally secure and 13 per cent vulnerable to insecurity. In 2016, some 1.1 million people (21 per cent of the population) in the West Bank and 1.3 million people (73 per cent of the population) in Gaza needed some form of humanitarian assistance.

263. Even though the Palestinian economy remains highly open, with total trade accounting for 77 per cent of GDP, this openness is largely with Israel, which alone accounts for 55 per cent of total Palestinian trade. Obstacles to Palestinian trade and productive activities effectively render OPT a captive market for exports from Israel.

264. **Objectives/features:** UNCTAD’s programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continues to directly respond to paragraph 55 (dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which requests UNCTAD to “continue to assess the economic development prospects of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and examine obstacles to trade and development, as part of the international community’s commitment to building an independent Palestinian State, and with a view to alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people”. This programme is also guided by paragraph 31(m) of the Doha Mandate, paragraph (44) of the Accra Accord

and paragraph 35 of the Sao Paulo Consensus. UNCTAD's mandate was further expanded by the United Nations General Assembly (GA) resolutions A/RES/69/20 (25 November 2014), A/RES/70/12 (24 November 2015), and A/71/20 (18 November 2016), which request UNCTAD to report to the United Nations General Assembly on the economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people.

265. The programme aims to build and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Palestinian public and the private sectors required for building a robust economy to underpin the future independent Palestinian State.

266. In 2016, UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continued to respond to the evolving, multifaceted, complex needs of the Palestinian economy and sustained its efforts to build Palestinian public and private sectors' capacities required for the functioning of a viable, sovereign Palestinian State.

267. UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people addresses the Palestinian economy's constraints and emerging needs through the four clusters:

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

268. **Outputs:** For over three decades, UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people through relevant policy-oriented research studies, implementation of technical cooperation projects, the provision of advisory services and the promotion of international consensus on the needs of the Palestinian people. UNCTAD's main counterparts are the PNA, the Palestinian civil society, the private sector, and other international agencies and donors operating in the OPT.

269. In the area of research and policy analysis, in response to GA resolutions A/RES/69/20 and A/RES/70/12, which request UNCTAD to report on the economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people, UNCTAD prepared and submitted a report (A/71/174) on "Economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people". The report, which was presented to the General Assembly in November 2016, analyses the heavy economic cost imposed by occupation and the denial of the Palestinian people's human right to development, and recommends the establishment within the United Nations system a systematic, evidence-based, comprehensive and sustainable framework for estimating the economic costs of the occupation.

270. Furthermore, the findings of UNCTAD's reports to the UN Trade and Development Board have been echoed and confirmed by the historic UN Security Council resolution 2334, especially with regards to the deleterious impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian economic development and prospects for a two-state solution.

271. Moreover, in 2016 UNCTAD finalized a study entitled "The Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Twin-Deficits or a Resource Gap?" The study analysed the sources of macroeconomic instability in the OPT and demonstrated that the budget and trade deficits are both symptoms of problems rooted in the economic structure imposed by occupation, which has cultivated aid-dependence and constrained the capacity of the Palestinian private sector for job creation. UNCTAD also contributed to the Report of the UN Secretary-General on "the Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", and to the Note by the Secretary-General on "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".

272. UNCTAD continued to provide inputs and feedback to the United Nations Country Team in the OPT in areas of its competency as the UN focal point for Palestinian trade and development. As such, UNCTAD made contributions to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

273. In 2016 UNCTAD hosted and trained a Palestinian diplomat and introduced her to the United Nations system in Geneva. The training covered the scope of the work of UNCTAD, including the annual session of the Trade and Development Board, and the work of other United Nations agencies in Geneva.

274. Furthermore, in 2016 UNCTAD successfully wrapped up the project on “Capacity Development for Facilitating Palestinian Trade”. The project significantly strengthened Palestinian public and private sectors’ capacities for trade facilitation and enhanced the knowledge base of Palestinian Shippers (exporters and importers). In particular, the program identified the areas in trade facilitation that need further training and support through collaboration with the Palestinian Shippers’ Council and Birzeit University. Furthermore, a training programme was established with clear requirements leading to certification in the area of trade facilitation. Finally, UNCTAD took stock and drafted a summary of the results achieved under the completed project and submitted it to the donor - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD).

275. Moreover, building on a rich history of cooperation, UNCTAD provided advisory services to the newly established Palestinian International Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and explored areas for potential further cooperation.

276. **Results:** A recent achievement of the project is the accreditation by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education of a professional training programme on international trade management and logistics. The programme, entitled Supply Chain Management Diploma, was developed jointly by UNCTAD, the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, the Palestinian Shippers Council and Birzeit University. It will increase the knowledge of the Palestinian shipping community on international trade management and improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the private sector as a whole. The establishment of the Diploma programme caps major achievements under the project in previous years, including building the managerial capacity and organizational structure of the Palestinian Shippers Council and enhancing its overall capacity for servicing the shipper community and the private sector.

277. UNCTAD work has been acknowledged by the GA Resolution A/Res/71/20, which notes with appreciation UNCTAD report A/71/174 presented in November 2016 to the UN on “Economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people”, which was prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 69/20 (2014) and 70/12 (2015). General Assembly resolution 71/20 (November 2016) also calls for the provision of necessary resources to continue on the task and coordinate inputs by other UN agencies.

278. UNCTAD work has been acknowledged by Resolution S.R. 642 O.S of the Summit of the Leaders of Arab States, in July 2016. The resolution affirmed support of UNCTAD’s efforts to examine the economic cost of occupation for the Palestinian people and endorsed GA resolutions A/Res/69/20 and A/Res/70/12 and requested Arab States to secure political and financial support for UNCTAD to carry out the task.

279. UNCTAD reports and studies on the analysis and estimation of the leakage of Palestinian fiscal resources to Israel set the agenda and policy discourse and have been, in 2016, cited by the IMF, Office of the Quartet Representative, and the World Bank. These three agencies formed a task force to study this problem and facilitate a resolution. UNCTAD work also led to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority on this problem. An agreement was reached whereby Israel would transfer US\$128 million to cover some of the losses accumulated over the years. Furthermore, the Palestinian fiscal leakage was the theme topic of the April 2016 meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee.

280. UNCTAD analysis of the impact of the Israeli blockade on Gaza, and recurrent military strikes, elaborated in its 2015 Report on Assistance to the Palestinian people, were endorsed by the Head of Israel’s Military Intelligence Directorate who concurred with report’s main point that if current conditions persist, Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020.

281. UNCTAD analysis of the problems of development under occupation are cited in a book by Ben Ehrenreich “The Way to the Spring: Life and Death in Palestine”, which details living conditions in the occupied Palestine.

282. UNCTAD analysis of the socio economic and water crises in Gaza were acknowledged by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). On 18 December 2015 PAM held a session where it discussed the water crisis in Gaza and made reference to the 2015 UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people which elaborated on the socioeconomic conditions in Gaza, and emphasized the water crisis. The Secretary-General of PAM, in a letter dated 4 February 2016, conveyed to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD PAM’s concurrence with UNCTAD.

B4 Enhanced Integrated Framework

Table B4

Enhanced Integrated Framework

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BEN/OT/EAN	EIF - Renforcement des Capacites Productives et Commerciales du Benin (RCPC)	2015–	United Nations Office for Project Services
BKF/OT/FAB	EIF-Technical Assistance in the Elaboration of a Medium-term Plan (MTP) for Burkina Faso	2016–	United Nations Office for Project Services
DJI/OT/CBL	EIF-Project Update of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study for Djibouti	2013–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ETH/OT/DBO	EIF-Project Ethiopia DTIS Update	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
GAM/OT/ECB	EIF Mainstreaming the DTIS action matrix and building an Industrial Policy for the Gambia	2016–	United Nations Office for Project Services
MLI/OT/CBN	EIF-Project Mali Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update	2013–	United Nations Office for Project Services
NER/OT/DAI	EIF - Update of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study for Niger	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services

283. **Development Context:** The least developed countries (LDCs) represent the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 million people, about 12 per cent of world population. Yet they account for less than 2 per cent of world gross domestic product and about 1 per cent of global trade in goods. Against this backdrop, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, known as the Istanbul Programme of Action, recognized the critical importance of implementing “effective trade-related technical

assistance and capacity-building in least developed countries on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share of assistance to least developed countries for Aid for Trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework” (paragraph 66, section 3 (e)). The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for LDCs. It aims at enabling LDCs to mainstream trade into their national development plans, so that countries can mobilize the potential of trade to promote economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction at the domestic level and to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. In particular, the programme serves as a platform for LDCs to build productive capacities and start engaging in trade policymaking, among other activities, that can lead to creating employment and reducing poverty. As one of the six core EIF partner agencies, UNCTAD’s focus and support is on contributing towards strengthening the capacities of LDCs in trade policymaking and thus improve ownership of the EIF process. Specifically, UNCTAD supports LDCs under the EIF programme through the formulation of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and their updates, and by drafting technical cooperation projects for implementation of the action matrix of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies, particularly with regard to tier 2 projects funded by the EIF Trust Fund. The six core partner agencies that support the EIF programme are UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, United Nations Development Programme, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization, with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Tourism Organization as observers.

284. **Objectives/Features:** UNCTAD provides tailored assistance in response to specific requests from EIF participating countries. Such requests can result in the updating of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies. Assistance can also focus on mainstreaming trade policy issues that are identified in countries’ trade diagnostics and preparing tier 2 projects drawn from action matrices of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies. In providing such assistance, UNCTAD uses a mix of national and international expertise to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and maximize results – the approach also contributes to national capacity-building.

285. **Output:** UNCTAD as lead agency in collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework secretariat has concluded the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies update for Ethiopia after a number of advisory missions and the elaboration of a final report including an action matrix. The DTIS update of Ethiopia was concluded on January 2016 and a validation workshop was held on February 2016. The aim of this workshop was to introduce the Action Matrix included in the DTIS update and discuss proposed plans for trade integration.

286. UNCTAD long advocated the need for a regional dimension in the EIF that was finally introduced in the second phase of the EIF which “permits projects that have a regional dimension – i.e., involve implementation in more than one LDC”.

287. In this context, two regional initiatives have been undertaken. First, subsequent to Ethiopia’s DTIS update, follow-up activities have been conducted to support the joint implementation of the action matrix on Transit, Transport, and Trade facilitation with the corresponding action matrix of the Djiboutian DTIS update, also finalized by UNCTAD 2015. In particular, UNCTAD organized a Post DTIS workshop in Djibouti on 2-3 November 2016 with the participation of Djiboutian and Ethiopian officials aiming at identifying priorities in the respective Action matrices of joint action and coordination on transit, transport and trade facilitation, including through the creation of a permanent institutional framework of the Djibouti-Addis corridor. A second joint workshop, is planned to be held in May 2017 with the objective to provide an exhaustive and detailed assessment of the operation of the Djibouti-Addis corridor, including the railway, to establish a road map for the improvement of the functioning of the corridor and the elaboration of a regional EIF Tier II project proposal.

288. A similar initiative has been undertaken in West Africa. UNCTAD organized a subregional workshop on 11-12 May 2016, in Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Academy of Global Governance, European University Institute (EUI) and with the

participation of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat, on how to build coordination in the implementation of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies' (DTIS) Action Matrices on trade facilitation, transport and transit for West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger).

289. Following the workshop, a series of consultations have been undertaken by UNCTAD with the respective EIF focal points of these countries in collaboration with the Permanent representative of the Republic of Benin at the UN in Geneva, as the LDCs coordinator, to formulate a regional tier II project proposal to be submitted for funding to the EIF Secretariat.

290. Regarding implementation activities within the Tier 2 projects and trade mainstreaming support, UNCTAD in 2016 has continued its assistance to Benin in the formulation of its National Trade Development Policy (NTDP) and conducted capacity building activities. In particular:

(a) UNCTAD supported the establishment of the National Steering Committee of the NTDP (ministerial decree in May 2016);

(b) National Workshop on Market Access and Rules of Origin 7-8 June 2016 in Cotonou.

291. Throughout all the year, international and national experts worked under the supervision of UNCTAD for the elaboration of the NTDP whose validation is expected for the first part of 2017.

292. Progress has been made by UNCTAD in assisting LDCs to mainstream trade policies into their development plans under a number of projects developed under this stream of activities. Under the project "EIF Mainstreaming the DTIS Action Matrix and building and Industrial Policy for the Gambia" two advisory missions have been carried out to jointly define with the Government and different stakeholders to elaborate a National Trade Strategy and National Industry Policy on the basis of the existing Government strategies. A first draft of the annotated table of content of the above mentioned strategy has been delivered to the Government. Furthermore, upon request of the Government of Burkina Faso, UNCTAD has developed and delivered a Medium Term plan (MTP) to the Burkina Faso that has been validated in a workshop held in Ouagadougou on December 2016. The two main priority areas were included in the MTP, export diversification and trade facilitation. The assistance provided focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the DTIS in the two above-mentioned areas.

293. **Results:** Within the context of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), an increasing number of least developed countries have made progress in mainstreaming trade policies into their national development plans as well as identified trade-related priorities and implemented their Action Matrices. In addition, LDCs have been increasingly able to identify their main constraints in participating to international trade and develop initiative to foster productive capacities at sub-regional level.

B5 Rules of origin and market access for least developed countries

Table B5

Rules of origin and market access for least developed countries

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/AAK	Market access and trade laws for LDCs	2010–	Italy
INT/0T/4AY	Mainstreaming LDCs Countries in the Global Economy	2004–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/DBR	Rules of Origin	2015–	Netherlands

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

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

296. **Objectives/Features:** The principle of country ownership drives UNCTAD technical assistance on rules of origin, market access and geographical indications. For all schemes under the Generalized System of Preferences products exported from a country receiving such preferences must fulfil the rules of origin of the countries granting those preferences.

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

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

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

300. **Output:** UNCTAD and the Global Governance Programme (GGP) of the European University Institute carried out, as part of the research and training programme for LDCs, an Executive training on negotiating and drafting rules of origin. The workshop was organized to provide an introduction to the laws and economics of applied rule of origin regimes in major markets, discussed the evidence on the impacts of different types of rules, the political economy drivers of rules of origin, and the options and strategies that have been proposed by developing countries and analysts to make rules of origin less of a barrier to trade.

301. In addition, a second workshop was carried out to prepare the LDC delegations participating at WTO's Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) meetings ensuring an adequate follow up and implementation of the Nairobi Decision on rules of origin with the participation of the LDC delegates and the Ambassador of Benin as Coordinator of the LDC WTO Group.

302. During the period under review UNCTAD carried out continuous monitoring with the LDC WTO group of the notifications of utilization rates of DFQF according to the Nairobi WTO decision and assisted the WTO LDC group with the preparation of speeches, advisory memoranda and discussion with WTO on data sharing.

303. UNCTAD also started a research in collaboration with the Swedish Board of Trade on the role of the stringency of rules of origin (RoO) on the preference utilization rates. UNCTAD was invited at the European parliament in September 2016 to show the initial results of these research activity products and participated at a workshop with EU commission and EU member's states on implications of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) RoO on DCs and LDCs.

304. UNCTAD also carried out a number of field missions to Cambodia, including a specific workshop on the implications of the ASEAN–EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on Cambodia Market access. Specific advice was provided on rules of origin including a joint mission to the EU Trade commission in Brussels. An advisory mission was carried out to Hong Kong, China, to initiate research on the issues of consignment of LDC goods through major trading hubs. UNCTAD also participated at the Customs conference on rules of origin.

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

B6 Pan-African Cotton Road Map

Table B6

Pan-African Cotton Road Map

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

306. **Development context:** The Pan-African Cotton Road Map aims to align the various interventions in favour of African cotton at the national, regional and international level. At a high level, the Road Map groups these interventions into three broad thematic objectives, namely to improve marketing, productivity and value addition in the cotton sector. Under the theme of increasing value addition in the cotton sector, UNCTAD launched in 2016 a three-year technical cooperation project entitled “Promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa,” which aims to develop value addition to cotton by-products in Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

307. Cotton remains a strategic crop in Africa, especially for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA). It generates export revenues, as well as employment and incomes for families in rural areas. Although cotton is primarily used for lint, it can produce several by-products to add value to the sector and benefit all value-chain stakeholders, including farmers, processors and traders. Cotton by-products include cottonseed oil, used for human consumption and soap manufacturing; cake used for animal feed; and waste used for industrial settings such as polishing cloths and wipers. In addition, cotton stalks can be used in the production of particle board, paper, pulp and corrugated boxes.

308. Despite these potentially high economic benefits, cotton by-products industries are underdeveloped in Africa owing to several impediments. These include, for example, the lack of adequate downstream infrastructure; weak enabling policy and institutional

environment to support the development of cotton by-products industries; poor market information for cotton by-products; and, the lack of data to assess economic viability of, and opportunities for investments in cotton by-products industries.

309. **Objectives:** UNCTAD's project on Promoting Cotton By-Products in ESA aims to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiary countries to assess the economic viability of investments in value-added activities in cotton by-products, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development.

310. Overall, the project will contribute to creating an enabling environment for cotton by-products development in the beneficiary countries and identifying a menu of incentives to attract potential investors which in turn will help create opportunities of enhancing incomes for various stakeholders along the cotton value chain, including cotton farmers, processors and governments. UNCTAD is implementing the project in four ESA countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

311. **Outputs:** After launching the project in mid-2016, UNCTAD finalized background papers on the cotton by-products sector in three of the four beneficiary countries: Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project team also conducted inception missions to Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

312. The background paper served as a common point of reference for the project team and the stakeholders met during the inception missions. In Tanzania and Zimbabwe, the inception missions established the contacts necessary for undertaking the project's activities, as well as collecting feedback on stakeholders about the specific themes that should shape project activities in each country.

313. **Results:** The 3–5-year calendar of activities for this project began in the second half of 2016, so it is too early to identify concrete results. In the meantime, the background papers and inception missions undertaken in 2016 provided a strong basis for planning the substantive activities in the project countries.

B7 The BioTrade Initiative

Table B7

The BioTrade Initiative

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/EBF	BioTrade Facilitation Programme Phase III (BTFP III)	2015–	Switzerland

314. **Development context:** Biodiversity is the natural capital base for a sustainable economy. The conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services provide countries valuable opportunities for economic development and improvement of livelihoods. Furthermore, the market for sustainably sourced products such as natural cosmetics and personal care products has grown significantly over the years. Many developing countries rich in biological resources have the potential to capture the market and use such products as an engine for sustainable development – and, at the same time, counteract ongoing depletion of biodiversity due to overexploitation, land-use change and climate change. Accessing the market, however, is hindered by factors such as non-tariff measures, access to credit and lack of financial and management capacities. The consolidation and expansion of emerging biodiversity-based sectors also require financial and technical support from the international community. The Biotrade Initiative helps developing countries achieve the dual objectives of biodiversity conservation and improved economic and social welfare. The Initiative promotes the sustainable trade in biodiversity-based products and services in a way that meets the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. It responds to the limited capacity of developing countries to benefit from international markets for products whose production processes enable the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and contribute to improving local livelihoods. It also

supports the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, biotrade can contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns and Goal 15, which includes halting biodiversity loss.

315. **Objectives/features of the programme:** UNCTAD's Biotrade Initiative supports the harvesting/production, trade and investment in biological resources in line with the three objectives of the CBD and relevant internationally agreed development goals including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Trade in sustainably-derived biodiversity products and services in domestic and international markets is facilitated through partnerships and innovative collaborative arrangements with national, regional and international partners for BIOTRADE products and services, development and differentiation, value-added processing and market entry facilitation, among others. It also supports at the national and international levels, awareness building, dialogue, knowledge sharing, networking and advocacy for policies, regulations and incentives in support of the further development and strengthening of BioTrade.

316. **Output:** In 2016, UNCTAD through the Biotrade Initiative and the third phase of the Biotrade Facilitation Programme, with the support of SECO of Switzerland, continued to assist developing countries in strengthening the institutional capacity of national biotrade programmes to support biotrade and biodiversity-based initiatives. The Initiative provided technical assistance and advisory services to biotrade programmes and partners in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Viet Nam on issues such as the biotrade concept and methodologies, value chain development, market access opportunities, and access and benefit sharing issues.

317. In mainstreaming biotrade in sustainable development strategies and sustainable sourcing of biodiversity, UNCTAD organized the IV Biotrade Congress: Trade and Biodiversity Conservation on 3 December 2016, in Cancun, Mexico during the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the CBD. The Congress provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss how trade can be an engine to mainstream the importance of biodiversity into the global economy.

318. To celebrate the 20 years of biotrade, UNCTAD launched the publication on 20 years of biotrade e: connecting people, the planet and markets during COP13 and the UN Aichi Task Force meeting. This commemorative publication demonstrates the impact of biotrade on livelihoods, on conserving biodiversity and accessing markets through case studies from 49 experts from Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and Latin America working on a variety of sectors – personal care, food, phytopharma, pets, nature-based tourism and carbon sequestration, among others. The publication exemplifies that a number of countries, national and international stakeholders, and industries active in this area have made remarkable progress in embracing biotrade concepts and principles as integral parts of their strategies.

319. UNCTAD continued its close collaboration with the CITES secretariat in fostering sustainable and regulated trade of CITES-listed species under Appendix II that are endangered. UNCTAD prepared studies to assess traceability systems for non-timber forest plant species. The studies benefited from extensive consultations and peer review process.

320. On the occasion of UNCTAD XIV, a high-level dialogue From Trade to Sustainable and Creative Livelihoods: Biodiversity and Design was organized on 19 July 2016. Discussions focused on concrete actions on how biotrade supports the achievement of SDGs 12, 15 and 17. The event culminated with a fashion show on the originality of Kenyan creative designs, which demonstrated the creativity and entrepreneurship of Kenya, and how fashion and biodiversity linkages, including ethical and ecological chic fashion, are having an impact on people's lives.

321. In identifying barriers limiting the trade of biodiversity-based products in the personal care, food and phytopharma sectors exported from Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam to China, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America, UNCTAD conducted a mapping exercise of 57 Harmonized System Codes from selected sectors, and a survey of companies on non-tariff measures (NTMs). Three workshops were organized in Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam to present and validate the mapping and survey results. Factsheets on NTMs with the findings are being finalized for dissemination.

322. In ensuring the BioTrade-friendly implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of the CBD, UNCTAD prepared a technical scoping study on Facilitating Biotrade in a Challenging Access and Benefit Sharing Policy and Legal Environment: Options for Improved Action. A Handbook on Access and Benefit Sharing is also under way. UNCTAD also provided technical assistance to competent authorities in Peru and Viet Nam in adapting their national legislation to be more Kenya's -friendly.

323. A joint UNEP-UNCTAD online event on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum was conducted on 18 October 2016. The webinar focused on Clarifying BioTrade and ABS – What countries need to avoid while developing national ABS regimes.

324. UNCTAD organized various seminars, workshops, conferences as well as relevant discussions in international development processes in promoting biotrade:

(a) Workshop on the Interface between International Access and Benefit Sharing Rules under the Nagoya Protocol and Intellectual Property Rights, 8 to 9 February 2016, Lima, Peru;

(b) Workshop on the Interface between International Access and Benefit Sharing Rules under the Nagoya Protocol and Intellectual Property Rights, 11 February 2016, Cuzco, Peru;

(c) Workshop on the identification of barriers to the trade of biodiversity-based and BioTrade products from Viet Nam, 23 to 24 June 2016, Hanoi, Viet Nam;

(d) Workshop on Addressing the intersection between the Nagoya Protocol, ABS and BioTrade, 27 to 28 June 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam;

(e) High-level dialogue From Trade to Sustainable and Creative Livelihoods: Biodiversity and Design, 19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya;

(f) Fashion show on the originality of Kenyan creative designs, 19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya;

(g) Workshop on traceability systems for CITES Appendices II and III listed non-timber forest plant species (ornamental and medicinal plants), 22 September 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa;

(h) Identificación de barreras al comercio de productos colombianos de biocomercio y otros derivados de la biodiversidad, 22 to 23 August 2016, Bogotá, Colombia;

(i) IV Biotrade Congress, 3 December 2016, Cancun, Mexico.

325. UNCTAD prepared the following publications and reports on Kenya's:

(a) 20 years of BioTrade: Connecting People, the Planet and Markets (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2016/4);

(b) The applicability of traceability systems for CITES-listed non-timber forest plant species listed under Appendices I and II: Key findings of the preliminary assessment for medicinal and ornamental plant species (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2016/5);

(c) Report of the meeting – Briefing on Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Trade in biodiversity-based goods and services (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/3);

(d) Facilitating BioTrade in a Challenging Access and Benefit Sharing Environment (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/4);

(e) The applicability of traceability systems for CITES medicinal plants with a focus on the Greater Mekong countries – A Preliminary Assessment (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/7);

(f) The applicability of “track and trace” systems for CITES ornamental plants with a focus on the Andean and other Latin American countries (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/8);

(g) The interface between access and benefit-sharing rules and Kenya’s in Viet Nam (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/9).

326. **Results:** The inclusion of Kenya’s in the COP decisions of the CBD places UNCTAD in a strategic position to continue to assist developing countries and the private sector in engaging in Kenya’s activities. Kenya’s has evolved from a concept to reality for around 5 million producers, farmers, collectors, harvesters, hunters and workers in over 20 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The companies, associations and cooperatives that implement the framework of Kenya had a €4.3 billion turnover in 2015 – a significant increase from US\$40 million in 2003.

327. Biotope has a great potential in contributing to the efforts of developing countries in achieving sustainable development and enhancing livelihoods. However, Governments, companies and other stakeholders often lack the ability and capacity to overcome internal and external market barriers limiting the trade of biodiversity-based products. UNCTAD’s work NTMs has assisted exporters in the personal care, food and phytopharma sectors from Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam in identifying NTMs and regulatory gaps they may need to address and fulfil when exporting their products to China, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America.

328. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS, which entered into force on 12 October 2014, has expanded and clarified requirements for ABS of genetic resources and introduced several obligations for provider and recipient countries. Its implementation presents significant regulatory and implementation challenges. The lack of clarity in certain aspects of the Protocol related to Kenya’s activities may create tensions between Kenya’s producers of biodiversity-based ingredients and products and environmental authorities, create trade disruptions, and ultimately affect Kenya’s products in the marketplace. In addressing this, UNCTAD provided technical assistance and capacity building activities in Peru and Viet Nam on the regulatory and implementation challenges arising from the implementation of the Protocol. UNCTAD provided policy options and checklists for regulatory and institutional frameworks on areas needing clarification, and regulatory development in their ABS laws and other related laws as a consequence of the Protocol’s implementation. This consequently brought legal clarity and identified potential improvements and incentives for Kenya’s producers and buyers. In Viet Nam, the government’s efforts in integrating BioTrade provisions into a new Decree on ABS (Decree No. 65/2010/ND-CP) will incentivise both biological and genetic resource users and providers. In addition, the report entitled “The Interface between Access and Benefit Sharing rules and BioTrade in Viet Nam “(UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TED/2016/9) will assist public and private stakeholders in promoting a way of implementing the Nagoya Protocol that is suitable for Kenya. The report, which includes recommendations and proposals for consideration by policymakers and regulators, may also be used by other biodiversity-rich countries in the Mekong region as they share common challenges

and opportunities, biological and genetic resources, traditional practices and communities.

B99 OTHERS

Table B99

Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
ROA-2907 (N8)	Building National capacities for promoting foreign direct investment in green and other growth sectors	2013-2016	Development Account
INT/0T/7BS	Climate Change Programme	2007–	Multi-donor
ROA-1617 (I10)	Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security	2016-	Development Account
INT/0T/9AX	Global Commodity Forum	2009–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/ECE	Joint FAO-UNCTAD publication on commodities, economic growth and development	2016-	FAO
INT9X42Z	Collection and dissemination of iron ore statistics	1994–	Multi-donor
INT9X9C2	L'intelligence économique au service des plus demunis	2000–	France
ROA-2964 (9P)	Project P9: Strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African Member States to enhance domestic production linkages from the mineral resources sector	2015-	Development Account
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD/ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donor
ROA-2908 (8O)	Promoting sustainable business models for development: Investing in the poor, for the poor and with the poor	2014-2016	Development Account
INT/0T/8CF	Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing	2008–	Norway
ROA-2959 (9K)	Building capacity of developing countries' policymakers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance	2014-	Development Account

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-1617 (M10)	Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence based policymaking in landlocked developing countries	2016-	Development Account
INT/0T/DAC	Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries	2014–	Common Fund for Commodities
INT/0T/5BP	Follow-up to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020	2005–2016	Austria and Norway
INT/0T/ABI	Economic crises and commodity dependent LDCs: mapping the exposure to market volatility and building resilience to future crises	2010-	Common Fund For Commodities
INT9X77J	Trust fund for least developed countries: Core project	1997–	Multi-donor
ROA-2961 (9M)	Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports	2015-	Development Account
ROA-2906 (M8)	Strengthening the capacities of trade and planning ministries of selected LDCs to developing and implementing trade strategies that are conducive for poverty reduction	2013-	Development Account
GLO/0T/8CG	Support to Avian influenza and Food Crisis Coordination Office	2008–	United Nations Development Programme

1. Climate change

329. **Development context:** Global concerns over the impact of climate change, particularly its adverse effect on developing countries, and the related significant economic costs associated with inaction, have put climate change very high on the international agenda. The Paris Agreement, which went into effect on 4 November 2016, sets the framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the period ahead. UNCTAD's work on trade and climate change contributes to international climate change discourse on the effects of – and policy responses, including from the United Nations, to – global climate change with a focus on addressing the economic aspects of climate change, and its trade and development implications.

330. **Objectives/features:** Admitting that future economies will be carbon-constrained, UNCTAD contributes to preparing developing countries for the expected shifts in relative prices and in relative production costs stemming from the introduction of climate policies and measures. It assists countries in considering approaches to mitigating climate change while enhancing their economic growth and development prospects. UNCTAD addresses issues such as the trade competitiveness aspects of climate change policies; trade and development gains and investment opportunities arising as climate change measures are adopted, creating new markets for more efficient, innovative and less carbon-intensive products and processes; and facilitating a transition to more greener, cleaner and climate friendly and resilient development path through relevant trade policies.

331. **Output and results:** In 2016, UNCTAD organized an Ad hoc Expert Meeting on Oceans Economy and Trade: Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism on

10 to 12 May 2016 in Geneva. The meeting aimed at (a) increasing the understanding of the concept of the ocean economy and its close links with trade; (b) examining how international trade in goods and services, as mediated by internationally agreed rules, regulations and trade policy, can better support the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other related Goals; and (c) underscoring the strong intersectoral interdependencies of ocean-based sectors and related implications for strategically coordinated policies.

332. On the occasion of UNCTAD XIV, a Round Table on Fostering Green Economies through Trade, Investment and Innovation was organized on 21 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The green economy, a key approach for achieving ecologically sound sustainable development and poverty eradication, is about resource conservation, sustainable use, social inclusion, internalization of negative externalities and building of sound institutions. The event underlined large financial resources is needed to address the infrastructure gap and technological change for the transition toward a greener and climate-friendly economy.

333. UNCTAD supported the Ellen McArthur Foundation in developing a circular economy vision for India. The research has developed detailed circular economy opportunities in three focus areas: cities and construction; food and agriculture; and mobility and vehicle manufacturing. To present the results, UNCTAD organized the International Report Briefing – Circular Economy in India: Rethinking Growth for Long Term Prosperity on 12 December 2016 in Geneva.

334. UNCTAD also supported the development of the Virtual Institute Teaching Material on Trade, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Transition to a Low-carbon Economy. The material addresses the global environmental challenge, climate change, and the transformation of carbon-based economies into low-carbon economies.

335. UNCTAD continued to raise awareness of linkages between trade, climate change and sustainable development. Lectures-cum-training on trade, economic development and climate change were given to students including: (a) UNCTAD Virtual Institute study tour for the member universities of China from 10 to 14 October 2016 for 39 students and teachers. Presentation was on Economic development and climate change; and (b) presentation by videoconference on interrelations between the SDGs, trade and the Paris climate agreement to students and professors at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) on 6 June 2016 as part of USP's environment week.

336. UNCTAD participated in the following seminars, workshops and conferences:

(a) African Carbon Forum 2016, 28 to 30 June 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda. The event discussed progress and strategies to de-carbonize economies in Africa, though actions under Nationally Determined Contributions. The activity was carried out under UNCTAD's ongoing working cooperation with the UNFCCC and its commitments to the Nairobi Framework Partnership;

(b) Workshop on sharing views and experiences on "economic diversification and transformation" and "just transition of workforce and creation of decent work and quality jobs" in the context of sustainable development, which was organized by the UNFCCC from 2 to 4 October 2016 in Doha, Qatar;

(c) 16th Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) Annual Conference on Competitiveness: Opportunities and challenges facing the Arab States in the next decade, 27 to 28 November 2016 in Doha, Qatar. Presentation was entitled "Seizing new growth opportunities: How to identify competitive green exports and promote them";

(d) UNFCCC side event on Implementing the Paris Agreement: UN Agencies' Dialogue on Impacts of Mitigation Measures and Linkages with Trade on 12 November 2016 during the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco;

(e) UN-Energy Meeting on 12 November. The meeting stressed the critical importance of the future roles of UN-Energy in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the importance of all members of UN-Energy continuing to closely work together to strengthen collaboration and joint activities moving forward on SDG 7.

337. **Results:** The participation of UNCTAD in UNFCCC events such as the workshop on economic diversification and the COP 22 side event on mitigation measures and linkages with trade was an important development in the renewed cooperation between the two agencies. At the COP 22 side event, UNFCCC Parties acknowledged that trade is an important factor in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. UNCTAD, through its work on trade and sustainable development, was invited to contribute to the Parties' discussions in addressing the impact of the implementation of response measures under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). In one of the Subsidiary Body decisions (FCCC/SB/2016/L.6), UNCTAD was invited to nominate 2 experts to the ad hoc technical expert group tasked to advance the technical work on the impact of the implementation of response measures. This is an opportunity for UNCTAD to sensitize climate change negotiators of the potential role that trade could play in delivering Nationally Determined Contributions, which countries had submitted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and explore the complementary benefits of trade and climate policies, for example in lowering air pollution.

2. Trade and agricultural policies for small-scale farmers

2.1. *Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security*

338. **Development context:** Small and subsistence-oriented farmers constitute the backbone of agriculture in developing countries. In low- and middle-income countries, almost 75 per cent of farms are smaller than one hectare (FAO, 2015). Small farmers contribute strategically to food security, accounting for about 80 per cent of the food consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (HLPE, 2013). Further, they play an essential role in the in-situ preservation of biodiversity. Though they are very diverse, ranging from commercially oriented to subsistence, most are poor, trapped in a cycle of hunger, poverty and low productivity. Breaking this cycle requires actions in complementary domains. In particular, complementary trade and agriculture policies are needed to integrate small agricultural producers in supply chains in a sustainable manner. Yet, trade and agricultural policies often operate in silos, with limited sectoral coordination. For the ultimate objective of inclusive and sustainable development, it is critically important to seize interface issues between trade, rural livelihood, and food security, overcome coordination challenges in trade and agriculture, and strengthen policy coherence.

339. **Objectives/features:** This project aims to strengthen national capacities to design and implement complementary trade and agricultural policies supportive of small scale and subsistence-oriented farmers, including female farmers and vulnerable groups, and supportive of local food security. Its objective is twofold: 1) generate knowledge and build awareness and understanding of stakeholders on the social effects of trade-led structural transformation in agriculture; and 2) increase capacities of policy-makers and other stakeholders to integrate this knowledge and tools in trade policy planning and implementation, to harness trade for inclusive and sustainable development in rural areas. The intervention rationale is that trade integration should not only foster economic growth but should also address socioeconomic concerns such as poverty reduction, food security, gender equality and environmental sustainability. This will contribute to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives in a balanced and integrative manner, by making trade policy integral part of National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS). Beneficiary countries are Malawi, Guatemala and Vanuatu.

340. **Outputs:** During the period under review (project inception phase), the project delivered the following outputs:

341. *Institutional arrangements and roadmap validation* – National project teams were set up in the 3 beneficiary countries and informal inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms were established in 2 of the 3 countries. In Malawi the national team incorporates focal points from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture. The national team is in the process of identifying specific priority sub-sectors for project intervention. In Guatemala, linkages were established between the Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad (MINECO) (the official national counterpart) and the Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación (MAGA), to ensure policy coherence between trade and agriculture in project delivery. Two videoconferences were held with MINECO and MAGA and a clear nationally validated project framework was agreed upon. A mission was organized to Vanuatu to discuss and agree on specific project deliverables and to promote synergies between the Department of Industry (DoI) (national counterpart), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and other relevant stakeholders. The objective of these efforts is twofold: i) ensure full alignment of project activities with national policy objectives and priorities, at the early stages of the project; ii) favour information exchange and sectoral coordination between the ministries of trade and agriculture.

342. *Analytical activities.* Mobilizing and leveraging expertise from within UNCTAD/DITC, the UNCTAD project team prepared a first draft of the first policy-relevant report to be prepared under the project (Vanuatu study). The study was carried out to inform and direct efforts to expand, upgrade and diversify the coconut and cocoa chains in Vanuatu, building on the National Green Export Review (NGER) of Vanuatu. Though evidence-gathering and policy analysis, the study assesses the sustainability impacts of expanded and upgraded value chains in cocoa and coconut in Vanuatu. Specifically it benchmarks the economic, social and environmental effects of agricultural commercialisation and diversification strategies against the goals and policy objectives enshrined in Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan.

343. *Market Information Service (MIS) pilot scheme.* A MIS Concept Note was drafted and shared with the national counterpart; detailed functional specifications were drafted; a demo version of the MIS was prepared and showed during the Vanuatu mission. The first module of the MIS, a directory of players engaged in the cocoa and coconuts sectors, was finalised but needs to be populated. The directory is a fully modular and customisable database, suitable for duplication in other sectors at no cost.

344. **Results/impacts:** The project is still at its early implementation stage and its long-term impacts /results cannot be appreciated yet. Two preliminary results can be observed:

345. Efforts to engage institutional national counterparts at the early stage of the project have resulted in full national ownership of the project at the early stage of implementation. This will likely favour future policy uptake and sustainability of the project deliverables. Efforts to promote coordination linkages between the ministries of trade and agriculture contributed to raise awareness on the need to create horizontal policy coherence across ministries, and on possible venues for informal cooperation.

346. The Vanuatu study generates knowledge and builds awareness and understanding on the social and environmental effects of trade-led structural transformation in agriculture. The following project activities will aim at developing the capacities to integrate this knowledge in trade policy planning and implementation, to harness trade for inclusive and sustainable development in rural areas.

3. Commodities and development

3.1. *Global Commodities Forum*

347. **Development context:** The commodities sector remains an essential source of employment, income and government revenues for many developing countries. The sector is composed of a wide variety of actors. In many jurisdictions, and at many steps of the value chain, private companies are the predominant actors, in particular as

part of global value chains coordinated by large transnational corporations. Coherent governance has proven difficult in this decentralized political economy.

348. **Objectives:** The Global Commodities Forum responds to this governance gap, providing a neutral platform to debate solutions to the challenges associated with the production and trade of commodities. The Forum assembles major stakeholder groups, including high-level representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and the press, to share ideas and build consensus on how to improve governance and ensure equitable outcomes in the commodities sector.

349. **Outputs:** The Forum is a free, public conference, for which the outputs include: a two-day substantive programme of interactive sessions, associated networking activities and a published final report. In addition, the Forum sponsors the participation of experts from developing countries, which is the event's largest expenditure.

350. UNCTAD held the seventh Global Commodities Forum in Nairobi, Kenya on 15-16 July 2016, as part of UNCTAD XIV. The theme of the Forum was "Breaking the chains of commodity dependence" and the programme comprised: an opening ceremony, a keynote session, four expert panels and a ministerial round table. The programme featured approximately 40 panellists, including high-level delegates from several international organizations and companies, as well as 20 ministers and deputy ministers. The Forum sponsored the participation of seven of the panellists, of which five from developing countries. All but one of the panels included one or more women. The Forum drew approximately 250 participants, the majority of them from African countries, Kenya in particular.

351. **Results:** Across the Forum's sessions, five cross-cutting policy priorities emerged. First, participants urged governments to renew their commitment to smallholder-centred agriculture, with policies and investments to, for example, redress the many market failures that prevent smallholders from participating more fully in global value chains (GVCs). Second, developing country governments and their partners must expand power generation capacity with renewables and, where necessary, low-carbon bridging technologies. Third, governments must work with their neighbours to strengthen regional value chains, which represent an opportunity for CDDCs to expand their export markets and broaden the export baskets. Fourth, governments in developing countries must do more to engage the private sector in their planning, reflecting not only that the private sector is the predominant investor, operator and market-maker in most commodity sectors, but also that there are a growing number of foreign firms interested in a more collaborative relationship with host governments. Fifth, all stakeholders must tackle trade misinvoicing and capital flight in the commodities value chain, two practices that drain the resources that developing countries have to invest in growth, development and poverty reduction.

3.2. *Iron Ore Information*

352. **Development context:** In value terms, iron ore is the second-most traded commodity after crude oil and it is a key raw material in most industrial construction. Nevertheless, the market is dominated by a relatively small group of companies and countries on both the production and consumption side. As a result, despite the general importance of iron ore to the economies around the world, market information rests with a small group of actors. Producers and consumers alike require a reliable source of aggregated market information on iron ore to inform their strategic and operational decisions.

353. **Objectives:** UNCTAD launched its Trust Fund Project on Iron Ore Information in 1989 to continue the collection and dissemination of information on iron ore; a task that was previously carried out by the Association of Iron Ore Exporting Countries. The Trust Fund is financed by individual subscriptions and contributions from governments.

354. **Outputs:** The Trust Fund produces two unique products on iron ore: the annual *Iron Ore Market Report*, which provides comprehensive, up-to-date statistics and analysis on developments in the world market for iron ore; and the *Iron Ore Statistics*

Database, an online database, accessible through the UNCTADStat platform, that provides updated statistical data on prices, trade, production, production capacity and freight rates for iron ore.

355. The 2016 issue of the report covered developments in the iron ore and steel markets in 2015, an overview for 2015-2016, and as well as country, company and project information.

356. The Iron Ore Statistics Database contains data from 1970 until the most recent reporting month, covering 119 countries and more than 150 ready-to-use analytical country groupings.

357. **Results:** In 2016, the Trust Fund on Iron Ore Information remained a rare and vital source of detailed market information on iron ore, delivering its annual report to 16 subscribers and its online database to 8 subscribers.

3.3. *INFOCOMM*

358. **Development context:** Developing countries continue to face difficulties in accessing comprehensive, reliable market information about the commodities they export. They lack information about, for example: price, quality, production volumes and credit, among other variables. Established sources of this information are relatively dispersed, fee-based and can be difficult to use. Electronic sources, including social media, are more widely accessible, but tend to be scattered and inaccurate. It is thus costly and time-consuming to compile comprehensive, reliable market information for a specific commodity.

359. As a result, policymakers do not always have the proper analytical tools to assess rapid changes in commodity markets and adjust their policies accordingly. Similarly, the lack of information dissuades risk-averse producers from investing to increase their productivity, enter new markets or respond to business opportunities. Reducing information asymmetry and increasing access to market information on commodities are therefore necessary for governments and producers in developing countries to develop competitive production and trading strategies. The INFOCOMM project aims to help respond to these challenges.

360. Objectives:

(a) To promote market information and transparency, reduce the asymmetry in accessing strategic commodity-related information, improve the understanding of commodity structures and provide access to the analysis that is vital to the formulation of pertinent policies for commodity production, marketing, processing and financing;

(b) To design information and communications technology (ICT) tools in this field that will improve developing countries' access to key information and data at the national and international levels;

(c) To manage, organize and develop, in a practical and innovative manner, knowledge management and sharing instruments for assisting the decision-making process in both the public and private sectors.

361. **Outputs:** The programme publishes detailed profiles of selected agricultural commodities on the INFOCOMM website. Each commodity profile includes information and analysis on (a) sources, cultivation, harvesting, processing and transporting; (b) varieties, nutritional properties, pests and diseases, environmental and social impacts; (c) production, consumption, exports, imports, trade agreements and disputes; (d) factors affecting supply and demand, historical prices, and price outlook; (e) market structure, public and private standards, and niche markets; and (f) useful links on statistics, international organizations and associations, latest news and partners.

362. In 2016, UNCTAD updated the INFOCOMM webpage with profiles for 11 agricultural products: banana, cocoa, coconut, coffee, cotton, gum Arabic, mango, palm oil, pineapple, soy beans, and tea. The profiles are available in English, French and Spanish.

363. **Results:** In 2016, INFOCOMM continued to provide valuable information and analysis on selected agricultural commodities, freely accessible online to producers, researchers and analysts.

3.4. *Strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African Member States to enhance development linkages from the mineral resources sector*

364. **Development context:** Many developing economies remain greatly dependent on commodities. The Economic Community for Central African Member States (ECCAS) is endowed with large reserves of fuel and mineral resources. For example, ECCAS produces 51 per cent of world cobalt, 25 per cent of industrial diamonds and 30 per cent of African crude oil. Mining offers important economic opportunities for growth and development. Therefore there is a great need for ECCAS governments to enhance their countries' capacities to develop, manage, and regulate their mining industries in the interest of sustainable development.

365. **Objectives:** UNCTAD's project on Strengthening the Capacity of ECCAS to Enhance Development Linkages from the Mineral Resources Sector (UN Development Account Project 1415P) aims to meet the above need by providing guidelines for designing policies and frameworks for facilitating local private sectors to capture, in the medium term, market shares in the mineral value chain in such services as construction, processing, logistics, marketing, and business. This would consist of, inter alia, stimulating dialogue between political leaders, and local business organizations and professional associations, as well as foreign investors on ways and means to ensure investment in mineral activities that facilitate the creation of new activities, jobs, and sub-contracting opportunities between foreign companies and local enterprises. UNCTAD is implementing the project in three ECCAS countries: Chad, the Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

366. It is expected that each country, upon completion of the project, will design a strategy by identifying policies, including the legal and regulatory framework for facilitating local private sectors to capture, in the medium term, market share in such services as construction, processing, logistics, marketing, and business consulting.

367. **Outputs:** In 2016, UNCTAD completed regional and national needs assessment studies, which guided the organization of three capacity-building workshops: one national and one regional workshop in the Congo in September; and a national workshop in Chad in December. UNCTAD also organized a study tour on local content policies in Ecuador for project stakeholders from Chad and the Congo. Finally, UNCTAD finalized customized training materials on local content in Chad.

368. The Brazzaville workshops were attended by 140 participants, including representatives from civil society, academia, the public and private sectors. In addition, 10 resource persons from regional and international organizations participated in the workshops. The Chad workshop was attended by 70 participants, again from a cross-section of stakeholders. Four resource persons from international organizations and two experts from the Congo also participated in the workshop.

369. **Results:** The capacity-building workshops contributed to: (a) greater understanding about local content, development linkages and the social and environmental impact of mineral sector development; (b) best practices and practical considerations for local content regulations that promote local participation in the industry; (c) increased institutional capacity in the area of management of natural resources within civil society, academia, public and private sector; and (d) greater understanding the potential for job growth in mineral resources sector.

4. Sovereign Debt Governance

4.1. *Building Capacity of Developing Countries' Policy Makers to Address Regulatory and Institutional Gaps in the Field of Sovereign Debt Governance*

370. **Development context:** UNCTAD's work in the field of sovereign debt has revealed that some developing countries' policymakers require technical assistance for

improving their sovereign lending and borrowing regulatory and institutional settings. Governance issues stemming from a lack of transparency and unclear responsibilities in the debt contracting process are generally one of the key problems in this area.

371. At the end of 2009, UNCTAD launched an initiative to Promote Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing. In cooperation with an expert group composed of world renowned professionals and academics in the area of debt and development finance, UNCTAD has successfully formulated a set of Principles to guide responsible sovereign lending and borrowing practices. The Principles on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing are intended to establish clear responsibilities on both the borrower's and the lender's sides with the aim of reducing the prevalence of sovereign debt crises and promoting sustained economic growth. The Principles have been broadly welcomed by Member States and other stakeholders, including the Paris Club, multilateral financial institutions and civil society.

372. During the consultations with Member States leading up to the endorsement process, it became evident that certain countries will require assistance to design and/or adapt their regulatory (and institutional) frameworks so as to implement the responsible practices outlined in the principles. Some of the countries inquired as to whether UNCTAD would be able to provide additional assistance in this matter.

373. The Project's contents are differentiated from other technical assistance activities conducted in different organizations (such as the Bretton Woods Institutions) to monitor the effectiveness of debt management frameworks. The current Project does not deal with the management of debt offices, instead, it focuses on the larger scope of domestic regulations which affect decisions in sovereign debt governance at the policy making level.

374. **Objectives/features:** The Project's goal is to increase the capacity of policy makers at regulatory and policy implementation levels to design and implement policies that foster responsible practices in the field of sovereign debt governance through the adaptation of their regulatory and institutional frameworks. The project is focused on developing policy and regulatory guidance and it targets key policy makers and regulatory authorities.

375. **Outputs:** Following the completion of the first two workshops of the project, which respectively dealt with (i) the diagnostic of the countries' institutional and regulatory framework with respect to sovereign debt governance and (ii) providing capacity building to fill the gaps found in the diagnostic, the focus shifted towards drafting a gap report and the compilation of data related to the survey into a database, as well as organizing a study tour for policy makers from project countries to a host country with a more developed institutional framework in the area of sovereign debt management. Project countries (Haiti, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Nepal and Togo) are very eager to engage in this activity. A formal acceptance by the host country is expected in the first quarter of 2017, and the study tour should take place in the first half of 2017.

376. **Results, impacts:** During the workshops, participants acknowledged the existing gaps in their sovereign debt governance institutional and regulatory frameworks. Furthermore, they were presented with options consistent with the sound practices in sovereign debt governance according to the principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing. These options were discussed and some of them were selected as being the source of potential action in policy design.

377. The project has generated a lot of interest in the wider development community, and it is planned to hold a meeting with member states' representatives to brief them on the contribution of the project to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

5. Productive capacities in landlocked developing countries

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

378. **Development context:** The Second United Nations Conference on LLDCs was held in Vienna, Austria, in November 2014. The Conference adopted a 10-year programme of action: the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. One of the six priorities of the VPoA is “structural economic transformation in LLDCs”. Structural transformation is a multi-faceted process, but a large part of it entails ensuring that countries build sufficient productive capacities to enable them to move from specialization in low-value, low-technology industries to high-value and more complex production and export structures. The importance of productive capacities to achieving these ends is recognized multiple times in the text of the VPoA. Critically, one of the actions to be undertaken by LLDCs under the structural transformation priority of the VPoA is “to build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services”. Placing productive capacities so prominently in the VPoA reflects the degree and extent of development challenges facing LLDCs and the urgency to address their special development needs and priorities. It also shows the growing recognition of the fact that the key to sustained development and poverty reduction in LLDCs is to build their productive capacities and promote structural economic transformation. This requires, among other things, a paradigm shift in development policies in LLDCs and fundamental changes in the development partnership in support of their development.

379. However, placing productive capacities at the center of development policies and strategies (“mainstreaming”) is not easy or straightforward. For instance, although weak productive capacities and lack of structural transformation are recognized as causes and consequences of poor socio-economic performances and underdevelopment in LLDCs, to date, these have not been measured or benchmarked, nor have there been indicators for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities in LLDCs. Measuring productive capacities through statistically verifiable and quantifiable indicators is critically important for several reasons:

(a) It helps policy makers in LLDCs to assess where their respective countries stand now and where they need to be in addressing their limitations and domestic gaps in building requisite productive capacities;

(b) The monitoring and measuring assists in evaluating where past policy choices may have gone right or wrong and, consequently, point to policies, processes and actions that need to be remedied or embraced. In other words, measuring and benchmarking serves as a way to monitor the progress in the implementation of development policies and strategies, including the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations and post-Almaty Programme of Action for LLDCs;

(c) It helps in drawing and synthesizing practical policy lessons by recording concrete results, identifying successful and less successful experiences as well as documenting best practices; and

(d) It can provide useful policy insights that can be discerned from cross-country comparisons by facilitating information and knowledge sharing.

380. **Objectives:** The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop Productive Capacity Indices (PCIs) and use them to support evidence based policy making.

381. **Outputs:** The project is currently under implementation and it assisted to define the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators which will be used in the construction of PCIs. The process and outcome of this activity (that is, the indices themselves as well as background information) will be shared with Member States through the UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings (such as the Trade and Development Board). The findings

and conclusions of the work will also feed into the report of the Secretary-General to GA on implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs.

382. In 2016 data identification, compilation, selection and organization was completed for countries where relevant data exists; analysis and interpretation of data along selected indicators began (in progress or at advanced stage); country case study was launched in Botswana. A national consultant was identified, Terms of Reference (ToR) developed and preparations for launching the project in Botswana were completed. One workshop has already been held in Botswana to discuss the preliminary work around creation of PCIs. Botswana is currently at a critical time in its development process as it is currently redrafting its National Development Plan. Although Botswana has grown faster than most other African economies since its independence in 1966, throughout the 2000s and also since the global financial crisis of 2009 growth has been more difficult to sustain. In order to continue its transition away from commodity-dependence, that is, relying primary on the export of diamonds to generate export earnings, Botswana must put productive capacity building at the centre of its development policies. In order to achieve this, Botswana must establish a strong base of evidence, and correctly identify where its productive capacities are already strong as well as where they are weak.

383. The roadmap for constructing a composite index has been developed including the theoretical framework, identifying data sources and structures, testing and verifying data collected by using different statistical methods. As part of the implementation of the project, data for seven main categories (Structural transformation, Transport, Information and communication technology, Energy, Private sector development, Science, technology innovation, Finance and investing) have been almost completed. We are aiming to extend the scope and coverage of the indicator to include among other things productive resources (such as human capital and natural resources), impact of neighbour/transit countries situation and economic complexity.

384. Furthermore, we are in the process of developing collaborative relationship with relevant agencies to access and make use of their databases. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has already provided us its data on freight and passengers for developing countries and landlocked developing countries. This will help us understand if LLDCs despite the geographical challenges they face, they are also bypassed or challenged by air transport services, which will have implications for their trade cost and competitiveness. Similar exchange of views is going on with ITU on how best to make use of their disaggregated data on ICT related issues.

5.2. *Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries*

385. **Development context:** One specific problem facing many LLDCs is a high reliance on commodities. In fact, for 27 of the 32 LLDCs primary commodities accounted for more than half of total exports over the period 2011–14. Such commodity dependence can result in temporary benefits as countries reap windfalls in times of higher international commodity prices. However, it also comes with a set of challenges, including commodity price volatility, rent-seeking behaviour resulting from natural resources wealth, and exchange rate appreciation that can cause a country's manufacturing exports to become less competitive ("Dutch Disease"). The problem of commodity dependence is highlighted in the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA), particularly in the context of structural economic transformation, which stresses the importance for LLDCs of increasing value addition and economic diversification. Regional value chains (RVCs) and global value chains (GVCs) present commodity-dependent LLDCs with an opportunity to reduce their reliance on a few exported commodities, while furthering structural economic transformation and sustainable development. Whereas countries previously focused on promoting the establishment of vertically integrated industries, the fragmented nature of GVCs now makes it possible for LLDCs to target particular value chain segments that are suited to their comparative advantages. For commodity-dependent LLDCs, upgrading in regional and global value chains implies that they can move away from the necessity of exporting

low-value, high-volume goods towards goods that have a higher value-volume ratio. If done optimally, the prospect of GVCs can serve as a catalyst for LLDCs to develop their productive resources further and allow for a greater integration into the world economy.

386. **Objectives:** This project primarily aims to seek ways and means for facilitating integration of LLDCs into regional and global commodity value chains in sectors where these countries have comparative advantages. This includes proposing policies and strategies for LLDCs to enable them to hook into regional and global commodity value chains. Global value chains can provide opportunities for LLDCs to take advantage of their commodities sector and are a feature of today's international production networks. The project is also intended to identify the prospects for transforming the natural resources wealth of commodity-dependent landlocked countries into inclusive and sustainable development. In particular, it aims to provide an understanding of how the landlocked condition affects the capacity of a given country to develop its commodity sector in a sustainable way. This includes identifying and critically examining growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate the participation of LLDCs in regional and global commodity value chains.

387. **Outputs:** In its publication *Facilitating the Participation of Landlocked Developing Countries in Commodity Value Chains* (2015), UNCTAD explored why LLDCs need to increase their efforts to join regional and global commodity value chains and what policies and strategies they should pursue to take full advantage of GVCs. Improving trade facilitation and infrastructure clearly takes on particular significance in LLDCs, but the study underscores the importance of putting productive capacities and structural economic transformation centre stage to enable LLDCs to effectively participate in and benefit from regional and global value chains. The policy conclusions and findings of UNCTAD's publication were also discussed at a workshop held in Botswana in February 2017. Botswana (as well as Mongolia, Paraguay, Uzbekistan and Zambia) was one of the countries on which case studies were conducted in the course of research for this publication.

388. In addition to the publication, the research behind this project provided valuable inputs for discussions at several events in the UN system and related international meetings. Such meetings included:

(a) The Follow-Up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Livingstone, Zambia, from 2-4 June 2015, at which UNCTAD held a side event on "Productive Capacities, Commodities and the post-2015 Development Agenda";

(b) The National Workshop on Mainstreaming of the Vienna Programme of Action, held in Ulaan Bataar in April 2016, where UNCTAD was a key participant and discussant;

(c) The High-level Seminar: Accelerating Sustainable Energy for All in Landlocked Developing Countries through Innovative Partnerships, held in Vienna in October 2016, at which UNCTAD held a side event titled "The role of energy in boosting productive capacities, commodity diversification and fostering structural economic transformation in LLDCs";

(d) At the event "National Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators for Measuring and Benchmarking Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation in Botswana", the case study on the diamond industry of Botswana, produced via this project, provided valuable background documentation.

6. Trade mainstreaming in LDCs

6.1. *Economic crises and commodity dependent LDCs: mapping the exposure to market volatility and building resilience to future crises*

389. **Development context:** Despite the crucial role of commodities in LDC economies and some efforts to mainstream commodity issues into development

strategies, there is a lack of clearly articulated commodity policies at the country level. A more holistic approach that incorporates a development perspective and that takes into account the function of commodities in economic growth and poverty reduction is required.

390. The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (IPoA) is a global framework to support socio-economic progress in the least developed countries and their eventual graduation from the UN category of the least developed countries. Since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action in May 2011, LDCs managed to grow at 5.0 per cent annually between 2011 and 2014 despite the challenging global economic environment. Although the economic growth rates achieved since 2011 is lower than the growth rate of 7 per cent agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, the overall growth rate has been a major factor behind an encouraging trend in meeting the graduation criteria for several LDCs in recent years.

391. The pattern of growth observed in LDCs has, however, failed to translate into higher employment, poverty reduction and structural transformation of their economies. In fact, their growth has mainly been driven by the export of primary commodities. The commodity dependence of most LDCs brings with it its own set of challenges, in particular exposure to commodity price volatility and steep price falls (as seen recently). Thus, the continual (or even increasing) commodity dependence underscores the importance of fostering structural economic progress through diversification and the development of productive capacities as well as defining long-term visions that link the commodity sector to national development strategies.

392. **Objectives:** The project's aim is to assist least developed countries in their diversification. Diversification is a key component of the ongoing structural transformation of these economies, and will not be achieved without sufficient attention to build their productive capacities.

393. By building the productive capacities of the LDCs, and ensuring the translation of these productive capacities into robust, diversified economic output, vulnerability to volatility in global commodity markets can be reduced. After sustaining a period of growth based on diverse industries, the LDCs are more likely to attain the goal of graduation from the LDC category.

394. **Outputs:** As part of the project and with the aim of sharing successful and less successful experiences as well as best practices among LDCs and their development partners, a Special Event on Commodity Dependence and the Impact of Multiple Global and Economic Crises on LDCs was held during the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), which took place in Istanbul (Turkey) in May 2011. The project also assisted in the organization of the meeting of LDC experts and trade negotiators in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 27 February to 1 March 2012. The project also comprised a study, intended to serve as background documentation for the Fifty-ninth Session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and other relevant forums, dealing with issues related to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs. In 2016, a high-level special event was organized in Antalya, Turkey, during the Mid-term Review of the Istanbul Programme for LDCs. The event was entitled "Fostering structural economic progress toward graduation from LDC status." The project allowed UNCTAD to make substantive and technical contributions to the Mid-term Review and its outcome document.

6.2. *Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries*

395. **Development Context:** Contributions to the multi-donor LDC Trust Fund are aimed at strengthening national policymaking capacity and assisting countries in the preparation and implementation of projects and programmes of action. One important tool in this process is the production of the Least Developed Countries Report (LDCR). Although the Report is largely produced through regular budget resources, wider dissemination in beneficiary countries of the findings and policy recommendations of the reports is essential. Increasingly, the LDCR is focusing on the articulation of concrete policies and measures on key issues identified in the Istanbul Programme of Action for

LDCs for the period 2011-2020. The objective is to provide LDCs with alternative and more relevant policy options and assist them to develop their capacities to implement policies.

396. **Objectives:** Resources available through the LDC trust funds have helped to finance dissemination activities linked with the 2016 Least Developed Countries Report, including the organization of national and regional workshops, as well as report launches. The LDC Trust Fund was also used to sponsor the mandated participation of one representative per least developed country to participate in the XIV session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which took place in Nairobi on 17-22 July 2016.

397. **Outputs:**

(a) Each year, the Least Developed Countries Report examines a topic that is of particular relevance to LDCs and presents concrete policy proposals. The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: the Path to Graduation and Beyond: Making the most of the process was launched in December 2016. A wide launch campaign was rolled out to maximize the impact of the Report and the dissemination of UNCTAD's research work and policy recommendations. Press launches and presentations took place in 16 locations in least developed countries, other developing countries and developed countries of Africa, Asia, Americas and Europe. A rich press kit was prepared and launch documents were sent to the press and to external launchers worldwide. This material was made available in the UN official languages, as well as Portuguese. 346 press articles on the LDC Report 2016 have been published in the print and digital media. In most cases, efforts were made to combine press launches with workshops to enable in-depth discussions between policymakers, the private sector, civil society representatives and UNCTAD staff. Furthermore, e-publications of the overview of the LDC Report 2016 in English, French and Spanish were created and made available on the website. These publications can now be accessed from any android and apple devices (cell phones, tablets) to facilitate the dissemination of policy recommendations.

(b) The comprehensive high-level Mid-term review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020 took place in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2016. The LDC Trust Fund sponsored the participation of two staff to this event. The Division prepared and submitted a report consisting of an assessment of progress in implementing the IPOA, the challenges faced and the opportunities and prospects for as many LDCs as possible to meet the graduation objectives of the IPOA. The report was an important contribution to the negotiations in New York and the deliberations in Antalya. Two events were organized at the Conference: (i) jointly with the Common Fund for Commodities, a high-level event on Fostering Structural Economic Progress toward Graduation from LDCs' category, where broad consensus was reached that building productive capacities and fostering structural transformation are key to achieving graduation from LDC status; and ii) jointly with IFAD and FAO, an event on Growth, Employment and Decent Work in LDCs, which highlighted the importance of enhancing partnerships and creating synergies between different actors to finance poverty-oriented structural transformation in rural areas. The staff also held bilateral meetings with various LDC delegations on possible technical cooperation work UNCTAD could undertake to support national development in their countries.

(c) In accordance with the SG's Bulletin ST/SGB/107/Rev.6, which calls for the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to representatives from LDC countries, the LDC Trust Fund was used to sponsor the participation of 48 Geneva-based representatives of least developed countries (one per country) in the XIV session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 17-22 July 2016. As the first UN Ministerial conference of the post-2015 era, UNCTAD XIV represented a starting point to translate ambitions, as encapsulated in the SDGs, into concrete plans of action. The Conference brought together Heads of State and Government, ministers and other prominent players from the business world, civil society and academia to tackle global trade and economic development issues. The Conference included ministerial debates, high-level round tables, thematic events, a

World Investment Forum and a Civil Society Forum. The LDC representatives participated in various political and socio-economic fora, including in Least Developed Countries Ministerial Meeting, several High-Level events and roundtables.

398. Results:

(a) Thanks to the dissemination campaign, co-financed through the Trust Fund, the LDC Report 2016 was launched in 19 countries. An active dissemination campaign, which in this case elicited 354 press articles, is of paramount importance to effectively spread the Report's messages to the widest audience possible, with clear benefits to LDCs' policymakers.

(b) The LDC Trust Fund enabled the participation of two UNCTAD staff to the mid-term review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action adding a pro-LDC voice to the discussions on how to foster structural economic progress toward LDC graduation and on the need for decent work in LDCs.

(c) Thanks to the LDC Trust Fund, LDC representatives were able to participate in the discussions and negotiations leading to the outcome document of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, i.e. the Nairobi Maafikiano. It is of vital importance that representatives from LDC countries are duly represented during these types of negotiations where their interests are at stake.

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

399. **Development context:** Fisheries constitute a sector that holds considerable potential for the diversification and development of LDC economies including the five beneficiary countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Comoros, Sierra Leone and Uganda). UNCTAD has identified fish and fishery products as being among the most important dynamic commodity products for LDCs where several LDCs have comparative advantages. In addition, the fishing industry has strong linkages to the rest of the economy and it generates employment opportunities. The fishery sector is also important for improving food security and interacts with environmental sustainability. Notwithstanding the importance of the sector – in 14 out of 49 LDCs, fish exports are ranked in the top five merchandise exports – it is often underdeveloped and unexploited. While traditional supply side problems persist in countries covered by the project, international standards are among the key demand side constraints undermining the fish sector of several LDCs. International standards - mandatory and voluntary, private (industry) or public - are mushrooming, posing considerable challenges for LDCs to unlock their export potential. In principle, countries resort to impose mandatory standards to ensure that imported products conform to standards that are deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of their people or for the preservation of the environment. Countries also require the compliance of imported agricultural and fishery products with their national sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations, with the primary aim of protecting human, animal or plant life or health from diseases that may be brought in by imported agricultural products.

400. **Objectives:** The project intends to upgrade the technical knowledge and expertise in beneficiary countries to overcome challenges posed by international standards on fish exports. It will investigate how international standards, regulations and measures in the areas of fish and fishery products affect LDCs' exports and their international competitiveness. The project will also assist in examining successful experiences and best practices from other countries in taking advantages of the Fairtrade movement in developed countries and the premium prices offered by organic market especially in Europe. Finally, the project will recommend policies and strategies for implementation with a view to improving capacity to comply with international standards and enhancing LDCs' capacities to develop and diversify their exports by tapping their fishery potential. This is particularly important as stringent requirements in importing countries continue to undermine exports of fish and fish products, which, in turn, limit the export baskets of several LDCs to a few primary commodities.

401. **Outputs:** Training and capacity building workshops, both at the technical and policy levels, were successfully held in Moroni, the Comoros (28-30 July 2015), Entebbe, Uganda (27 to 29 October 2015), Matola, Mozambique (26-30 November 2015), Phnom Penh, Cambodia (1-3 March 2016) Yangon and Nay Pi Taw, Myanmar (9-11 August 2016) and again in Entebbe, Uganda (14-16 December 2016). At all workshops, the activities were:

(a) Upgrading the technical knowledge and expertise of national experts, practitioners and policy makers as well as other stakeholders to overcome challenges posed by international standards on fish exports;

(b) Investigating how international standards, regulations and measures in the areas of fish and fishery products affect each country's exports and its international competitiveness in the fishery sector;

(c) Sharing experiences and best practices in meeting international food safety standards; and

(d) Recommending policy and strategies for implementation at the national and international levels to improve the technical capacities of beneficiary countries to comply with international standards and diversify their respective exports.

402. With the cooperation of China, a programme of intensive training and a study tour for three beneficiary countries (Cambodia, Mozambique and Myanmar) was held at the Freshwater Fishery Research Centre in Wuxi, China from 23 August to 12 September 2016.

403. An interregional workshop was held in Albion, Mauritius, from 4 to 7 April 2017. This workshop was one of the final events of the project, and brought the lessons learned throughout the implementation of the project to representatives of the five beneficiary countries, namely, Cambodia, the Comoros, Mozambique, Myanmar and Uganda.

404. The inter-regional training and capacity building workshop:

(a) Enabled exchange of successful experiences and best practices between countries covered by UNCTAD's project on tapping the development potential of the fishery sector;

(b) Provided hands-on training and draw practical and policy-oriented lessons from Mauritius in upgrading and diversifying fish exports;

(c) Allowed beneficiary countries to benefit from the institutional and technical expertise of Mauritius in overcoming challenges posed by international standards on fish exports;

(d) Resulted in recommendations for policies and strategies, both at the national and international levels, with a view to improving capacity to comply with international standards and enabling beneficiary countries to diversify their exports by tapping their fishery potential.

405. An UNCTAD manual, directed at national policymakers, for upgrading and diversifying fish exports was translated into French for the Comoros, Khmer for Cambodia and Burmese for Myanmar at the request of the respective Governments.

406. **Results/impacts:** Encouraging results have been achieved through project activities. These include:

(a) Overall, 285 people received technical and policy level training in the five project countries of which 87 (31 per cent) are women;

(b) Technical and policy level workshops assisted in the identification of priority areas for action by the governments concerned, development partners and other stakeholders. The focus of the actions was on ways and means of addressing binding constraints facing the fish sector in project countries to unlocking the development potential of the sector;

(c) The workshops and bilateral consultations also assisted in enriching and validating the UNCTAD manual on upgrading and diversifying fishery exports;

(d) Important trading partner of beneficiary countries, China, showed great interest in the project and offered intensive training programmer and study tour opportunities for 27 participants from three project countries (16 from Cambodia, 9 from Mozambique and 2 from Myanmar);

(e) The project also benefited from an ongoing UNCTAD-CFC project on commodity diversification in landlocked countries and their participation in regional and global commodity (fish) value chain. Uganda was the beneficiary of this support following an official request from the Government for an additional training workshop for fishermen and women along the fish value chain; and

(f) The participation of women, including in terms of awareness and practical knowledge about the issues discussed in all the beneficiary countries (in both the technical and policy level workshops) has been remarkable.

407. The project has received very positive feedback from beneficiary countries. The Deputy Minister of Mozambique in an official letter addressed to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, affirmed that the workshops and the Manual provided national stakeholders ample opportunities to build technical knowledge and awareness about international food safety and quality standards as well as the challenges facing the fishery sector and the development potential the sector holds for countries such as “Mozambique”. Similarly the Ugandan Commissioner for Fishery Administration “expressed gratitude to UNCTAD for undertaking extensive activities in support of the fishery sector which is timely given Uganda’s ongoing process in reforming the relevant rules and regulations related to fishery production and export”. A similar letter of recognition of the importance of the project was received from Comoros and Ministers in Cambodia and Myanmar also expressed gratitude and appreciation in their respective opening and closing statements of national policy level workshops.

6.4. *Promoting Trade of High-Value Added Products “made in LDCs”*

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

409. Unilateral trade preferences, if properly utilized, provides LDCs with a comparative advantage by lowering import tariffs. They are nevertheless not a panacea and competition from alike products is fierce. Adopting a regional branding strategy based on geographical indications (GIs) could be a viable complementary poverty reduction and environmentally sound policy to commercial and subsistence farming in LDCs. Associated origin conveys a certain reputation of a good and spurs trust resulting from a certain type of collective action. This holds especially true in today’s globalized world in which consumers would like to know where the products come from and local producers need therefore to differentiate their products from generic competition. LDCs face considerable challenges at the time when they consider GIs as institutionalisation schemes are still precarious: the LDC Governments have limited knowledge on GIs, the GI frameworks might not exist or if available, they are incomplete. Moreover, sustainable models of regional branding of agriculture relying on “terroir” might simply be absent or mixed with other models of development farming like organic farming or “fair trade” initiatives. These latter initiatives are not directed at promoting the uniqueness nature of products and its cultural aspects.

410. **Objectives/Features:** Development aid for LDCs has therefore to support regional branding as a protection and marketing tool through GIs initiatives in a systemic

manner. UNCTAD assists rural communities and LDC Governments in enhancing the value of traditional products by exploiting trading opportunities such as geographical indications and facilitating compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Among others, the experience of UNCTAD in supporting producers of Kampot pepper in Cambodia and Harena Coffee in Ethiopia shows that rural communities can gain significantly from the introduction of GIs for branding their products.

411. In response to requests from the African countries and LDCs, UNCTAD provides technical assistance that can take various forms depending on the nature of needs of beneficiary countries: advisory services, national and regional workshops, elaboration of policy documents, and research studies.

412. **Output:** In 2016, UNCTAD participated in workshops and conferences on GIs to disseminate UNCTAD work in Beijing and the Lao People's Democratic Republic organized by FAO.

413. As part of this dissemination exercise, UNCTAD launched the publication "Why Geographical Indications in Least Developed Countries?" at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The book launch was organized in cooperation with H.E. the Ambassador of Benin as Coordinator of the LDC WTO group and the Delegation of Italy to the UN Organizations in Geneva that co-funded this initiative. Given the link of the traditional products to their territory, the launch has been accompanied by the presentation of the catalogue of the Artist Maurizio Cancelli - Village Earth - that has represented UNCTAD at the UN 70th Anniversary and artist Koffi Gahou, from Benin witnessing the commitment of these artists to represent through their work the attachment to their territory as a cultural value for the human development.

414. As part of the EIF Tier II for Benin, several activities have been conducted to support the implementation of Geographical Indications (GIs) for selected traditional products. In particular, UNCTAD took part in the launch of Continental Strategy for GI in Africa (FAO/U), organized in Cotonou in June 2016, and organized a GI training for producers of pineapples "pain de sucre" and "Gari Shohui" in Benin.

415. Finally, in 2016, partnerships have been built with WIPO and professors from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH).

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

III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

417. Efficient market and effective and development-focused States are indispensable for the successful implementation of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Market can play a useful role in the allocation of resources. However, without proper regulatory mechanisms, there are risks of market failures including abuses of monopoly power, negative externalities and inequality. It is the role of the States to correct market failures, create an enabling legal, regulatory and institutional framework and provide right incentives for market players to contribute more effectively towards sustainable development. UNCTAD technical cooperation supports developing countries in fostering economic efficiency and improving governance. In particular, it helps to establish pro-competitive regulations, promote responsible business practices, reduce administrative burdens, and strengthen statistical capacity to formulate sound economic policies.

418. In this section, 6 products that have expenditures in 2016 under the theme of *Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance* are reported. The reports

highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2016 and key results to date. For technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the theme of *Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance*, however, not linked with any of the existing 6 products under this thematic area, they are reported under C99 Others.

C1 Voluntary Peer Reviews on Competition Law and Policy

Table C1

Voluntary Peer Reviews on Competition Law and Policy

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ALB/OT/EAR	Delivering as One, Albania project.	DRT-F. 2016-	One United Nations
ETH/OT/DCC	Strengthening Competition and Consumer Protection Enforcement Capacities in Ethiopia	2015-	Luxembourg
ZIM/OT/DAS	Strengthening Technical Capacities for Policy Formulation and Review of Competition Law in Zimbabwe	2014-	European Commission

419. **Development context:** Competition can foster economic efficiency, increased productivity, innovation and economic growth; and bring about a greater choice of products and service at lower prices and better quality as well as improved access to markets by new firms. Competition policy aims to make markets work for consumers and contribute to economic growth through competition law enforcement and advocacy. Competition law enforcement deals with anticompetitive practices arising from cartels or abuse of market power by firms that result in consumer harm in the forms of higher prices, lower quality, limited choices and lack of innovation. Enforcement provides remedies to avoid situations that will lead to decreased competition in markets, such as in the case of prospective anticompetitive mergers. Effective enforcement is important not only to sanction anticompetitive conduct but also to deter future anti-competitive practices. Competition policy is an essential complement to trade policy and aims to ensure that anti-competitive practices do not negate the benefits, which can arise from trade and investment openness. Therefore, it is important for countries to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of their competition policy enforcement frameworks.

420. **Objectives/features:** The purpose of a voluntary peer review is: (i) to assess the effectiveness of competition law enforcement in a country; (ii) to identify the challenges to be addressed and areas to be improved in the legal and institutional framework thereby contributing to enhancing the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of competition law enforcement in the countries reviewed; (iii) to formulate and recommend appropriate measures designed in consideration of the economic and developmental particularities of each country to address these challenges; and (iv) to assist countries in implementing these recommendations by developing a capacity-building project in consultation with the country concerned.

421. **Outputs:** UNCTAD's work in this area in 2016 is highlighted below:

422. In **Ethiopia**, UNCTAD helps to strengthen competition and consumer protection enforcement capacities. In 2016 UNCTAD carried out a series of activities aimed at enhancing enforcement capacities of Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (TCCPA) and the judiciary in order to improve the understanding and application of competition proclamation in line with best practices and regional integration. The following activities were carried out in 2016:

- (a) A report on the status of competition policy in Ethiopia (January 2016);
- (b) Abuse of Dominance Guidelines (February 2016);
- (c) Merger Guidelines (February 2016);

- (d) Training materials and course on merger control and abuse of dominance (December 2015);
- (e) Guidelines on market analysis and definition of a relevant market (July 2016);
- (f) Consumer Protection Guidelines (September 2016);
- (g) TCCPA staff participation in UNCTAD XIV (July 2016) and IGE on competition and Consumer Protection (October 2016);
- (h) Training materials/course on market analysis and definition of a relevant market (October 2016);
- (i) TCCPA staff study tour to the European Commission (EC), European Court of Justice, Luxembourg Competition Council and Ministry of Economy (October 2016);
- (j) Training materials and course on consumer protection (October 2016);
- (k) Training materials and course on unfair commercial practices (October 2016);
- (l) Regulation on Unfair Commercial Practices (November 2016);
- (m) Handbook for Judges on Competition law drafted in December 2016, finalized in February 2017.

423. In view of the challenges faced by the economy in Zimbabwe, the Trade and Private Sector Development Programme (TPSDP), funded by the EU stepped in with interventions that seek to support the Zimbabwean government economic policies. UNCTAD was responsible to implement the Core Intervention 3.2 of the TPSDP on review and development of a new Competition Law for Zimbabwe. In 2016, UNCTAD carried out a series of activities aimed at implementing the recommendations of the Peer Review for Zimbabwe, which took place in 2012. The following activities were carried out in 2016:

- (a) Report on competition assessment in the ICT sector;
- (b) Training of Judges (August 2016);
- (c) Draft Competition law for Zimbabwe (September 2016);
- (d) LLM training course for University of Zimbabwe (April 2016).

424. In **Albania**, UNCTAD works to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities to manage and enforce competition law and policy. In the period of 2016-17, UNCTAD has carried out a series of activities aimed at increasing the capacities of the authority, the judiciary and the private sector in order to improve the functioning of the system of competition in line with the recommendations of the peer review and with the requirements of the EU. In particular, the following activities were implemented:

- (a) Training for Albanian Competition Authority staff on competition law and policy;
- (b) Training of ACA staff on calculation of fines and remedies;
- (c) Advanced Training with the judges on The Role of Economics in Competition Cases, Multiple Criteria in Competition Cases, and Standards of Proof in Competition Cases;
- (d) Seminar with the private sector in order to enhance the competition culture of economic operators in Albania;
- (e) Seminar with the Academia on Competition in digital markets;
- (f) Judicial Seminar for the Judges of Tirana Courts that deal with competition issues, on the topic “standard of proof in competition cases” which aims to include Judges and members of the Albanian Competition Authority;

(g) Establishment of a library within the Albanian competition authority.

425. **Results:** In Ethiopia, the training workshops enhanced the knowledge and capacities of TCCPA officials and members of the judiciary on competition and consumer protection law enforcement. Training workshops also served to validate the Guidelines produced in the Project. They provided an opportunity to TCCPA staff members to discuss, reflect on the existing legislation and its application, and express their views, and contributed to the finalization of the Guidelines presented. Training workshops were found to be useful by the participants. Ninety per cent of the participants graded the presentations and content of the workshops as very good/excellent.

426. The soft law tools will enhance better implementation of the competition law of Ethiopia. The Guidelines facilitated the ongoing review of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Proclamation (TCCPP). The review is based on the enforcement experience and government policy change. The Government decided to reassign the enforcement of the criminal aspects of the TCCPP to the Prosecutor General's Office. To respond to this change and to reflect the recommendations made in the process of drafting of the Guidelines and Regulations, TCCPA is currently working on revising the Proclamation.

427. During the study tour to the European Commission (EC), TCCPA staff benefited from the presentations and fruitful discussions with experts from the EC on EU competition and consumer protection policies and law enforcement.

428. The discussions enhanced the understanding of TCCPA officials on enforcement, application of competition concepts and adjudication of cases, namely near the European Court of Justice. The study visit to the Competition Council and Ministry of Economy of Luxembourg allowed TCCPA officials to interact with experts from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the implementation of consumer policy; and the missions and procedures of the Competition Council in handling anti-competitive practices and its relationship with economic actors and the civil society. The discussions on alternative ways to address consumer redress in the implementation of consumer policy; and the relevance of merger policy for small economies. The participation of TCCPA staff in international meetings provided them with the opportunity to network and exchange knowledge and experiences with their peers from other countries. It also allowed them to showcase the Ethiopia capacity building project.

429. In **Zimbabwe**, the report on competition assessment in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector was preceded by a competition assessment tool kit. The toolkit was used to assess competition in the ICT sector. These tools could be used by policy makers to assess competition in various sectors of the economy of Zimbabwe. This is a unique tool for government to adopt and apply in policy making decisions in various sectors.

430. The training of judges raised awareness on competition cases adjudication and led them to request for additional training. The awareness was witnessed by the participation of judges in the stakeholder consultations on the draft law. The draft law once adopted will enable the Competition and Tariff Commission to effectively deal with competition cases. All the gaps identified by the Peer Review report were addressed in the revised law. The LLM course raised awareness of young legal practitioners and students on competition issues. This is another area where more training was requested.

431. In **Albania**, the results obtained have been very satisfactory for the competition authority and the judiciary to improve the knowledge of the competition law and the best practices on enforcement especially in the European Union.

432. As a consequence of the positive results obtained in the implementation of the programme, the Albanian authority has recently requested to continue training and technical assistance activities (in the period 2017–2021) in order to further improve its knowledge and sensitize all sectors involved in the application of law and competition policy.

C2 eRegulations and eRegistrations Systems

Table C2
eRegulations and eRegistrations Systems

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ALB/0T/EAR	Delivering as One, Albania project. DRT-F.	2016-	One United Nations
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015-	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2016-	Netherlands
CMR/0T/DBY	Business facilitation - eRegistration Cameroon	2014-	European Commission
CVI/0T/9AL	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2009-	“One United Nations”
CVI/0T/EBN	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2016-	One United Nations
ELS/0T/CBQ	Business Facilitation El Salvador	2014-	El Salvador
ELS/0T/FAF	Simplification of business procedures	2016-	United States of America
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015-	Netherlands
MCD/0T/EBI	Business Facilitation - eRegulations Gostivar	2015-	Switzerland
MLI/0T/EBL	Business Facilitation - eRegulations Mali	2015-	Germany
MNE/0T/FAO	Delivering as One, DRT-F Montenegro	2016-	United Nations Development Programme
MOR/0T/EAP	Business Facilitation - eRegulations Morocco	2015-	Germany
RWA/0T/DBQ	Delivering as One, Rwanda project, Inclusive Economic Transformation, Youth and Women Employment	2014-	“One United Nations”
UR/T/0T/BBM	Delivering as One, Tanzania project	2011-	“One United Nations”
UR/T/0T/DAK	UN Inter-Agency Cluster DaO Joint Programme on Market Value Chains Tanzania	2014-	United Nations Office for Project Services
UR/T/0T/EBC	Business Facilitation-eRegistrations Tanzania	2015-	Tanzania Investment Centre
VIE/0T/FAN	Delivering as One, DRT-F Viet Nam	2016-	United Nations Development Programme
INT/0T/6AT	Business Facilitation Multi-donor Fund	2006-	Multi-donor

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAF/OT/FAA	Transparent Trade Processes in the ECOWAS Region	2016-	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
RAF/OT/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016-	TMEA
ROA-333I (9AX)	Support developing country policy makers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015-	Development Account

433. **Development context:** The business facilitation programme has developed a series of web-based e-government systems to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their investment and business climates through transparency, simplification and the automation of rules and procedures related to enterprise creation and operations. The eRegulations system is a turnkey e-government software allowing administrations to publish their procedures online (online information portals for businesses and investors). Once procedures have been clarified through the eRegulations system, a set of 10 principles of simplification of administrative procedures helps countries cut bureaucratic procedures and reduce the duration, cost and complexity of business-related procedures without changing related laws. Simplified procedures can then be automated through another e-government system called eRegistrations, which builds online single windows for businesses and investors.

434. **Objectives and features:** All tools and services developed by the business facilitation programme aim at the following: improving the business and investment climate and legal frameworks; lowering administrative barriers to business development, in particular for small businesses; increasing domestic and foreign investment and promoting good governance and reducing corruption.

435. **Outputs:** In 2016, the scope of the eRegulations and eRegistrations systems have been extended (at the national or subnational levels) in Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mali, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kenya and Rwanda, presenting and automating procedures related to, among others, foreign and local company creation, import and export, immigration services, construction permits, property title transfers and tax payments. Capacity-building sessions to train civil servants in best practices in administrative efficiency were organized in all above mentioned countries. Finally, since 2016, a product-extension of eRegulations, the Trade Portal (a new facilitation tool specializing on trade procedures modelled on the same principles and systems as eRegulations) is being piloted in the East African Community.

436. All eRegulations and eRegistrations systems are included in the Global Enterprise Registration website (GER.co), a portal that lists business registration websites worldwide. The portal is divided between countries that offer online single windows (for example the eRegistrations system), that is, involving online simultaneous registration with two or more ministries as part of the business registration process, and countries that provide only information portals describing the business registration process (for example an eRegulations system). The portal, which was launched during the World Investment Forum in 2014, aims to promote best practices in administrative simplification, transparency and the improvement of business registration services worldwide. In 2016, awards were given to the CEO of Information Technology Authority of Oman and, during the World Investment Forum in Nairobi to Ministers of Bhutan and Cameroon, for achieving top ratings on GER.co. Algeria with an information portal and Saudi Arabia and Macedonia, with single windows have also joined the GER.co portal.

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

438. *Transparency.* Procedures documented in an eRegulations system are completely transparent and widely accessible in all countries where the system is operational. A total of 4,053 procedures are documented in national eRegulations systems, with 15'938 steps (interactions between a user and an administration), 44,646 forms, 4,349 norms and laws accessible online and 5,208 civil servants with contact data. Over 2,360,000 people visited national and provincial eRegulations websites worldwide in 2016.

439. *Simplification and harmonization.* As an illustration, simplifications of procedures have been proposed in Mali (transit and import of goods). Several processes have been simplified in El Salvador (in average, reduction of 50% of the steps and of the requirements).

440. *Automation of procedures.* The eRegistrations system is an e-government system, designed to set up electronic single windows and computerize simple or complex administrative procedures. It was successfully implemented in three regions in Cameroon (Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé) and officially launched in 2016. In the United Republic of Tanzania, a single window for registering investment projects and obtaining investment certificate was developed. New services were added to the El Salvador and Guatemala eRegistrations systems; in addition to business registration, users can now also modify data related to their companies or close a business online.

441. *Exchange of good practice and South–South cooperation.* National experts in Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Macedonia, Mali, Rwanda and Viet Nam have trained civil servants of their countries or provinces on the use of the eRegulations system and on UNCTAD principles for the simplification of procedures. Experts from El Salvador, Guatemala and Viet Nam presented their country experience with eRegulations and eRegistrations systems in Cuba, Bhutan and Ecuador.

442. *Good governance and public participation.* The programme encourages public–private dialogue on improving the regulatory framework and its application by national administrations. Citizens and foreign and local investors have extensively used the eRegulations integrated customer relationship management system for sending simplification ideas or signalling the improper application of procedures.

443. *Collaboration with other international and regional organizations.* UNCTAD findings on best practices in business registration and experience in the simplification of administrative procedures have been referred to and presented at several specialized meetings and discussion groups, as follows: United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (January and April 2016); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (January 2016); Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (March 2016). The International Trade Centre is jointly developing with UNCTAD trade portals on the basis of the eRegulations system.

C3 Trade Facilitation Programme

Table C3
Trade Facilitation Programme

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/4CO	Capacity Building in Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries to support their effective participation in the WTO Negotiations Process on Trade Facilitation	2004–2016	Multi-donor
INT/0T/EAX	HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Capacity Building Programme	2015–	United Kingdom
INT9X31Y	Introduction of multimodal transport and micro-computer software programmes	1993–	Multi-donor

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAF/0T/DCG	GIZ-Trade Policy and Trade Promotion Fund	2014–	Germany
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016-	TMEA
RAF/0T/FAA	Transparent Trade Processes in the ECOWAS Region	2016-	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
CVI/0T/EBN	Delivering as one, Cape Verde	2016–	One United Nations

444. **Development context:** Facilitating trade is ever more important in view of the demands of global value chains on efficient trade logistics services. At the same time, many developing countries and LDCs lack the institutional and human capacity to implement trade facilitation reforms. This is where UNCTAD's trade facilitation programme enters the scene: it strengthens the capacity of the public and private sector stakeholders to be able to implement and modernize efficient cross-border operations; a crucial element in advancing socio-economic development and achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

445. Building on its previous work, assisting more than 50 developing and least developed countries in the lead up to adoption of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), UNCTAD in 2016 launched the *Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees*. As per Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA, which entered into force in February 2017, all WTO members are obliged to have in place a functioning National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC). UNCTAD not only helps countries to be in compliance with this obligation, but also to obtain the maximum benefits from a functioning and sustainable NTFC that successfully improves inter-agency cooperation and coordination, enhances the involvement of the private sector, and prepares the political ground for ambitious trade facilitation reforms. The programme provides a sustained focus on stakeholder engagement and good governance.

446. In addition, many trade facilitation challenges and solutions have a regional dimension. Accordingly, UNCTAD support often includes a regional dimension and activities, collaborating with national authorities and regional organizations.

447. **Objectives/features of the programme:** The *Empowerment Programme* is an intensive professional programme that targets both, the Secretariat and the members of National Trade Facilitation Committees, i.e. both relevant public and private stakeholders. The schedule for the implementation of the programme per country ranges between one to two years. The *Empowerment Programme* is delivered in cooperation with partner agencies, notably the ITC, the UNECE and the WCO. The programme is developed in a series of tailor-made modules, with accompanying advisory services and, if appropriate, a regional dimension to ensure the alignment of national programmes with regional and multilateral trade facilitation commitments.

448. The main objective of the programme is to help countries implement trade facilitation reforms, including the obligations set out in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), in a coordinated and efficient manner. To achieve this objective, activities focus both on the training of individual members of the NTFC, and on advisory services in the institutional setting. Concrete outcomes of the programme are:

- (a) Establishing an NTFCs;

- (b) Capacity building and technical assistance in the understanding and implementation of the WTO TFA;
- (c) Improving teamwork dynamics within an NTFC;
- (d) Launching a national road map for mainstreaming trade facilitation in development policy;
- (e) Ensuring impact sustainability by transferring knowledge with a training-of-trainers approach and preparation of a knowledge transfer strategy;
- (f) Providing a sign of quality for donors and international agencies.

449. Other features of the programme are:

- (a) Courses developed by international experts in collaboration with other United Nations and international organizations (in particular, the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe);
- (b) Tailor made content to country-specific needs;
- (c) Face-to-face training but also online follow up of participants between modules;
- (d) Interactive methodology: “learning by doing”;
- (e) Technical visits in the field and training-of-trainers module included.

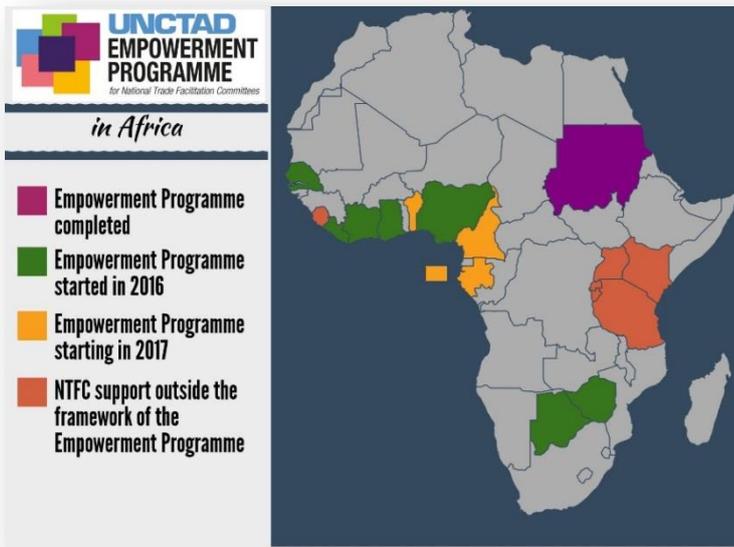
450. **Outputs:** In 2016, UNCTAD concluded its first delivery of the full Empowerment Programme in Sudan and initiated planning or delivery in eleven African countries. So far, funding received for the delivery of the programme in 2016 and 2017 has come from the European Union, GIZ (Germany), HMRC (United Kingdom), Trade Mark East Africa, and USAID (United States):

- (a) More than 30 workshops organized;
- (b) More than 500 persons trained (approx. 40% women);
- (c) Of the Empowerment Programme workshops approximately 85% of the participants received certification;
- (d) Ghana has ratified the WTO TFA.

451. UNCTAD supported countries in the draft of:

- (a) Legislation proposal for NTFCs setting up;
- (b) Terms of Reference for NTFCs;
- (c) More than 20 TF project proposals;
- (d) National TF roadmap concluded;
- (e) Knowledge transfer strategy;
- (f) NTFCs work plans;
- (g) Categorisation and notification exercises on the WTO TFA;
- (h) Country case uploaded at the UNCTAD Repository of NTFCs.

452. **Results and impact:** The below two illustrations depict the results and impact of the Empowerment Programme.



UNCTAD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME
for National Trade Facilitation Committees

SUDAN: A SUCCESS STORY

Sudan is the first country to complete UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees. It is an intensive professional programme for the Secretaries and the members of National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC). The main objective is to help them implement, in a coordinated manner, trade facilitation reforms, including the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

01 TIMELINE

- Kick-off December 2015
- International Standards and Recommendations March 2016
- Measuring and implementing trade facilitation May 2016
- Stakeholder engagement and Drafting a Trade Facilitation Roadmap August 2016
- Training of Trainers December 2016

02 QUALITATIVE RESULTS

- Categorisation exercise on different measures of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Drafting and publication of Sudan Trade Facilitation Roadmap for 2017-2021
- Drafting and adoption of a Knowledge Transfer Strategy to support the sustainability of Sudan's National Working Group on Trade Facilitation

03 QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

42 stakeholders trained (67% women)

- 5 training events
- 200 hours of lectures, group exercises, discussions, online presentation of documents, written examinations
- 25 topics included in the training
- 13 different international experts delivered the training

04 TESTIMONIES OF BENEFICIARIES

Mohammed Ibrahim Adam, Rapporteur of Sudan Working Group on Trade Facilitation

"I have learned so much with this programme. Now, I think about trade facilitation in a different way. I understand better all the things that Sudan can do and how important it is to mainstream trade facilitation in Sudan's development policy."

Nabawia Mohamed Mahgoub, Member of Sudan Working Group on Trade Facilitation

"It is incredible to see how participants are improving their presentation and training skills in just one day."

Mohamed El-Mustafa Fadul, beneficiary of the Programme

"When I started this Programme in 2016, I was only concerned by the topics related to Customs Laboratories; now, I am convinced that we can have better possibilities to improve trade facilitation if we join efforts with other border agencies."

The support of UNCTAD to Sudan takes place in cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and it is financed by Her Majesty Revenue and Customs (HMRC) under the framework of the HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Capacity Building programme.

C4 ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

Table C4
ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT9X89S	Support for ASYCUDA implementation activities	1998–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/FAK	Support to the Centre of Excellence Gibraltar	2016–	National Governments
INT/0T/FAW	ASYCUDA Transit Module	2016–	World Bank
RAB/0T/7BP	ASYCUDAWorld Regional Centre for Arab States	2008–	Syrian Arab Republic
RAF/0T/7AW	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for Africa (Ouagadougou)	2007–	Multi-donors
RAF/0T/DBP	Renforcement des capacités et opérationnalisation de l'interconnexion des administrations douanières en Afrique Centrale	2014–	European Commission
RAS/0T/1DA	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific (ASMP)	2002–	Japan
RLA/0T/3AD	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas and Africa	2003–	National Governments
AFG/0T/BBD	Implementation of ASYCUDA in the Afghan Customs Department (Phase 2: Rollout and Enhancement)	2011–	Afghanistan
AFG/0T/FAM	Afghanistan Second Customs Reform and Trade facilitation	2016–	Afghanistan
ALB/0T/EAR	Delivering as One, Albania project. DRT-F.	2015–	One United Nations
ANG/0T/CBO	ASYCUDAWorld Implementation in Angola	2013–	Angola
ANT/0T/DBC	ASYCUDAWorld Antigua and Barbuda	2014–	European Commission
ANT/0T/EBK	ASYCUDAWorld Antigua and Barbuda	2015–	Antigua and Barbuda
BAR/0T/CAA	ASYCUDAWorld Implementation in Barbados	2013–	Barbados
BEN/0T/CAP	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World	2013–	Benin
BES/0T/EAB	ASYCUDA Regional Centre for the Americas - Tax Administration of the Caribbean Netherlands - ASYCUDA World support	2015–	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba
BGD/0T/BCD	ASYCUDA-Migration to ASYCUDA World - Bangladesh	2012–	Bangladesh
BGD/0T/FAC	ASYCUDA World - ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2016–	Bangladesh

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BIH/0T/CAX	Improvement of the Indirect Taxation Authority's operational capacity through the full implementation of ASYCUDAWorld	2013–	European Commission
BZE/0T/EAA	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas - Customs and Excise Department of Belize - ASYCUDA World Support	2015–	Belize
CMB/0T/DAV	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2014–	World Bank
CUR/0T/FAY	Strengthening Customs Management capacity of Curacao	2016–	Curacao
CVI/0T/9AL	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2009–	“One United Nations”
CVI/0T/DAN	Installation de SYDONIA World au Cap-Vert	2014–	European Commission
CVI/0T/EBN	Delivering as one, Cabo Verde	2016–	One United Nations
DJI/0T/AAS	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2011–	Djibouti
DRC/0T/9AN	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Democratic Republic of the Congo	2009–	European Commission
DRC/0T/DBZ	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Democratic Republic of the Congo	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRC/0T/DCB	Renforcement de la mise en place de SYDONIA	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ELS/0T/BCE ^a	SYDONIA, Sorporte El Salvador	2012–	El Salvador
EQG/0T/EAM	Mise en place du SYDONI World a la Direction Generale des Douanes (DGD)	2016–	Equatorial Guinea
EUR/0T/AAZ	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Kosovo customs	2011–	Kosovo ^b customs
FIJ/0T/CBF	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2013–	Fiji
GIB/0T/9AM	Implementation of ASYCUDAWorld	2009–	Gibraltar
GUI/0T/BCX	Implementation de SYDONIAWorld	2013–	Guinea
HAI/0T/DAO	Consolidation of ASYCUDAWorld and Simplification of Customs Procedures and Operations in Haiti	2014–	Haiti
IVC/0T/4BV	Mise en place de SYDONIAWORLD a la Direction Generale des Douanes	2005–2016	Côte d'Ivoire
JAM/0T/CBJ	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Jamaica	2014–	Jamaica
JOR/0T/BCS	Strengthening the Implementation of E-Customs	2013–	Jordan

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
KAZ/0T/EBH	Modernisation of the Customs Procedures and Implementation of the Integrated Customs Component of the Automated System of Customs and Tax Administration (ASTANA-1)	2016-	Kazakhstan
LAO/0T/EAH	Implementation of ASYCUDA World	2015-	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LEB/0T/5BK	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Lebanon	2005-	Lebanon
LES/0T/BDC	Customs Management System	2012-	Lesotho
LIR/0T/8CD	ASYCUDA World Project in Liberia	2008-	Liberia
MAU/0T/CAD	Projet de Modernisation des Douanes de la Republique Islamique de Mauritanie	2013-	Mauritania
MDV/0T/DAJ	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data	2014-	Maldives
MLI/0T/9BF	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2009-2016	Mali
MLW/0T/DBB	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Malawi	2014-	Malawi
NAM/0T/BAN	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Namibia	2012-	Namibia
NEP/0T/EAD	Implementation of ASYCUDA World	2015-	Asian Development Bank
NER/0T/EAL	Migration SYDONIA World	2015-	Niger
PNG/0T/DAX	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014-	Papua New Guinea
PRC/0T/AAG	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2011-	Congo
PUE/0T/FAG	ASYCUDA World Puerto Rico	2016-	Puerto Rico
RWA/0T/BBE	Customs Management and Electronic Single Window System	2011-	Rwanda
SEY/0T/BBO	ASYCUDA Project in Seychelles	2012-	COMESA
SOI/0T/BCO	ASYCUDA-Modernisation and Automation of Customs Procedures and Data	2013-	Solomon Islands
SPM/0T/DAF	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Saint Pierre et Miquelon	2014-	Saint Pierre et Miquelon
SRL/0T/DBT	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2014-	Sri Lanka
STK/0T/CAT	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis	2013-	Saint Kitts and Nevis
SUR/0T/BAE	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Republic of Suriname	2012-	Suriname
SWA/0T/DAB	Implementation of ASYCUDA World	2014-	Swaziland

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
SYR/0T/4BP	Implementation of ASYCUDA WORLD in the Syrian Customs Directorate	2005–	Syrian Arab Republic
TIM/0T/DAP	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014–	Timor-Leste
TOG/0T/BCN	Migration a SYDONIA World	2014–	Togo
TOG/0T/EAS	Migration vers SYDONIA World et formation	2016–	African Development Bank
TRI/0T/BDD	Strengthening customs management capacity (ASYCUDA World consolidation)	2012–	Trinidad and Tobago
UGA/0T/DAZ	Uganda National Electronic Single Window System	2014–	TMEA
VAN/0T/EBZ	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Dada and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2016–	Vanuatu
ZAM/0T/BDE	Customs Management System	2013–	Zambia
ZAM/0T/EAZ	Mineral Output Statistical Evaluation System (MOSES)	2015–	Zambia
ZIM/0T/7AC	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Zimbabwe	2007–	Zimbabwe

^a Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2016.

^b United Nations Administrative Region, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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

454. The ASYCUDA programme is committed to providing sustained support for development, both in-country and remotely. Over a period of more than 35 years, it has supported the changing and evolving needs, and challenges of the customs administrations of 114 countries and territories, and the facilitation of their international trade. Having originated as a means to help countries build and utilize the data collected at customs ports of entry through databases, the programme's scope has gradually widened to helping countries manage their economic and financial analysis and planning, as well as assisting the private sector in doing business. It has also expanded in terms of the customs management functions that it supports, from the initial data capture (now uploaded via the Internet) to assisting countries and territories in monitoring trade crossing inwards and outwards of their borders, making available trade statistics, measuring institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, and producing data critical to risk management analysis and enhancing the operational performance of customs and its integrity as an institution.

455. As an outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV), the mandate of the ASYCUDA programme is reflected in paragraph 38 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, similarly as it was in the Accra Accord (in paragraph 167). It states that UNCTAD should "continue to provide

assistance to developing countries to design and implement policies and actions aimed at improving the efficiency of trade transactions as well as the management of transport operations. It should also continue to cooperate with member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)". The General Assembly Fifth Committee, in document A/C.5/64/L.23, also refers to the programme when it encourages the UNCTAD Secretary-General "in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration in Africa by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure" (paragraph 82). In the Doha Mandate, specific reference is made to the programme's work, reaffirming, inter alia, the importance and role of the ASYCUDA programme in supporting developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and in continuing its trade facilitation work. The Mandate states that UNCTAD should "assist developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries, and some countries with economies in transition, to address challenges affecting their participation in trade from geographical constraints, with a view to improving transport systems and connections, designing and implementing resilient and sustainable transport systems, and enhancing transit infrastructure and trade facilitation solutions", "continue its work in the field of trade facilitation, including the Automated System for Customs Data programme" and "advise small island developing States on the design and implementation of policies addressing their specific trade and trade logistics challenges linked to their remoteness and geographical isolation" (paragraphs 56(h), (i) and (j)). The General Assembly resolution 70/1 recognizes "that baseline data for several targets remains unavailable," and calls "for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity-building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist." (paragraph 57), makes also reference to the need to "support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data." (paragraph 76). In relation to A/RES/70/1 it is worthy to note the UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data Software Suite is implemented in 43 African countries and territories, 40 least developed countries, 20 small island developing States and 24 landlocked developing countries, which makes it an unique possibility as a base repository for the extraction of trade and customs related data to strengthen statistical capacity and to support trade policymakers.

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

457. **Outputs:** In 2016, the ASYCUDA programme continued to allow for increased revenue collection by customs in LDCs and other user countries and territories, as well as reduced clearing times and costs. In particular, the Director General of Mauritania Customs reported that, even though a financial crisis existed in the country, revenue collection increased by 15% in 2016 compared to 2015. Automation of customs procedures is an integral part of the Agreement for Trade Facilitation adopted at the WTO (World Trade Organization) meeting in Bali in December 2014. Among the criteria identified by WTO in this agreement is the publication of available information, transparency, accurate and timely publication of duties and taxes for import and export, electronic payment for the reduction of clearance times and cooperation between entities at the border. The ASYCUDA Programme, during 2016, gave special emphasis to this aspect of the Agreement for Trade Facilitation by implementing a Web Portal in each

country with an active project. In 2016, Zambia became the second country to request assistance to adopt a new ASYCUDA module focusing on performance measurement within Customs administrations and of their stakeholders. It is worthy to note that the project Liberia, which had been the pilot country for this performance measurement development, was re-activated after the Ebola Outbreak. This module leverages customs data (operational and transactional) present in the ASYCUDA system to study operational trends and to enable decision-making. Performance measurement within Customs is more than a tool to fight corruption, and enhance effectiveness and efficiency: it is a methodology to inspire its senior management to carry out reform at different levels. It is worth mentioning that the implementation of ASYCUDA projects is always accompanied by various reforms and modernization programmes, and a project often acts as a catalyst for improving the work environment and the building of requisite infrastructure, such as telecommunications networks.

458. The technical and functional training of national experts is a major component of the technical assistance projects employed as a tool to provide the transfer of know-how. In 2016, it is noteworthy to recognize the role being played by the Zambia Revenue Authority in hosting and facilitating training sessions of other countries using UNCTAD's worldwide experts. The Customs courses covered mainly selectivity and risk-management, valuation and implementation of transit, and performance measurement. These courses assist national experts to establish a sense of ownership of technical self-sufficiency and to further enhance the operation of the system. Overall, around 235 training sessions were conducted, both technical and functional, for an audience of more than 2,200 participants, in the field.

459. Over 320 advisory missions were undertaken by staff or consultants in beneficiary countries and territories. The programme's mission statement clearly stresses the importance of providing technical assistance with an emphasis on the special needs of LDCs. In 2016, 40 LDCs, 24 landlocked developing countries and 20 small island developing States benefited from the ASYCUDA programme's support.

460. **Results:** The impacts and results of ASYCUDA projects can be assessed by various institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, including increased revenue, improved trade facilitation, shorter clearance times and the availability of reliable trade statistics data. The automatic calculation of duties and taxes results in increased State budget revenue, while reliable and timely trade and fiscal statistics assist governments in planning their economic policy. The 2030 Agenda indicates that data collection is a key activity to develop baselines for the measurement of progress against goals and targets, consequently ASYCUDA exists as a source of data within user countries however further efforts are required to leverage its use. ASYCUDA has had a major impact on e-business and e-government transactions, making international trade simpler and cheaper, while making international markets more accessible to enterprises from developing countries. In a growing number of countries, ASYCUDA constitutes the core system for building the single window for international trade.

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

462. In addition, ASYCUDA contributes in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular Goal 9.1 (by improving regional and transborder infrastructure), and Goal 17.1 (by improving domestic resource mobilization and tax capacity), thus assisting user countries in the economic planning of their governments' finances through revenue collection, trade statistics and the reduction of corruption (minimizing diversion of country resources). The automation of customs taxes and duties calculation and collection (SDG 17) contributes directly to economic growth

(SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).

463. The ASYCUDA programme has always aimed at developing sustainable partnerships and cooperation with beneficiary countries and international and regional organizations. In 2016 progress was made: with IATA in completing the development of the ASYCUDA module for promotion and usage of IATA's Cargo-XML messages; and with World Customs Organisation (WCO) by participating in WCO Data Model Project Team's work sessions geared to establishing the interoperability of ICT systems. In 2016, memorandums of understanding (MoU) were signed and exchanged with the following customs administrations: the H.M. Customs Department of Gibraltar for the establishment and development of a Centre of Excellence in Gibraltar to strengthen the trade facilitation and m-government (mobile-government) initiatives among other things; the Republic of Moldova customs to work on the implementation of EU transit. In addition, in 2016, discussions for partnerships continued with WIPO and WCO on safeguarding intellectual property rights, and new discussions were initiated with WCO to extend the existing MoU to include collaboration on Time Release Study. Such framework instruments are important for the ASYCUDA programme to ensure the prompt delivery of technical assistance and long-term sustainability of cooperation, as well as for observing intellectual property rights for ASYCUDA software.

464. In November 2016 the WCO sponsored a Regional Seminar on the "Future of ASYCUDA" in Lomé, Togo, attended by customs administration delegations from 20 countries of the West and Central African Region.

C5 The UNCTAD Statistics Programme

Table C5

The UNCTAD Statistics Programme

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAF/0T/BCR	Projet UEMOA-CNUCED pour la mise en place des statistiques du commerce international des services	2014–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on Statistics and Data	2016–	Development Account
UR/T/0T/BBM	Delivering as One, Tanzania project	2011–	“One United Nations”

465. **Development context:** There is an increasing focus on evidence based or evidence informed policy - both for policy formulation and assessment. This focus has heightened with the new Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework. With this in mind, the secretariat has placed greater emphasis on improving statistical capacity in the area of trade and development, to support both Agenda 2030 and national development agendas. In supporting countries in the collection and compilation of statistics, UNCTAD provides technical expertise and develops partnerships to meet technical cooperation demands.

466. **Objectives/features:** The UNCTAD Statistics programme not only makes a wide variety of data and metadata available free of charge, but also provides a variety of statistical supports and capacity building services, including training and bespoke technical assistance. An important project in this programme is the development of harmonised statistics on international trade in services (“Projet pour la mise en place des statistiques de commerce international des services”) for the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union. This specific project aims to improve the statistical capacity of the member countries by putting in place a harmonized mechanism of data collection, treatment and dissemination of imports and exports of services. The time line of this project runs until the end of 2019.

467. **Outputs:** As outlined above, the output of this project will be a harmonized IT system for the collection, compilation and dissemination of international trade-in-services statistics. As this project is ongoing, there are no final outputs yet. However a number of important intermediate milestones have been achieved. Most importantly, a set of harmonized questionnaires have been designed, which will be tested between May and July 2017 in all eight UEMOA countries. A complementary e-learning training tool has also been developed in cooperation with UNCTAD Train-for-Trade and the World Trade Organization.

468. In 2016 UNCTAD and UEMOA statistical Commission jointly hosted workshops in Dakar, Senegal and in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to discuss and prepare draft questionnaires for the 1st pilot to be conducted in 2017. This included visiting local enterprises to get feedback and practical information, such as, whether they would prefer electronic or paper questionnaires. Based on feedback from these sessions, revised and improved questionnaires have been developed, which are to be tested in all eight UEMOA countries in 2017. A high level specification for the IT system was also discussed and approved. On this basis IT consultants will be contracted during 2017.

469. UNCTAD has, in close cooperation with the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade-in-Services and has been involved in several statistics-linked activities aimed at improving the availability of data on statistics of trade-in-services in many parts of the world. In line with the agreed division of labour of the Task Force, UNCTAD Statistics in cooperation with UNCTAD Train-for-Trade and WTO has successfully developed and rolled-out an e-learning tool designed for those involved in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics of international trade in services (in English). The main objectives of this course are to raise awareness of Trade-in-Services' Statistics and its concepts, enhance statisticians' ability to do their work, and to help them better understand the manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services. UNCTAD and WTO have started preparing for translation into French and developing comparable e-learning training modules on merchandise trade statistics. A comprehensive curriculum has already been developed that will present the main concepts of such statistics, classifications and manuals on use and production.

470. **Results:** The joint UNCTAD-UEMOA project on international trade in services is still underway and hence no final results are available. However the intermediate workshops outlined above have been successful and achieved their key objectives of designing and testing preliminary questionnaires. A further workshop, tentatively planned for September/October 2017 will review the pilot phase - feedback from this workshop will form critical for the IT build.

471. The e-learning training modules went line in 2016 and were used as a distance learning course on Statistics on International Trade-in-Services (in English). This course counted 157 participants (66 per cent women) from 31 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. All the participants evaluated the course positively and encouraged UNCTAD to continue with the delivery of distance learning courses.

C7 Corporate Accounting and Reporting

Table C7

Corporate Accounting and Reporting

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/BCP	Accounting and Corporate Governance Trust Fund	2012–	Multi donor
ROA-333I (9AX)	Support developing country policy makers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015–	Development Account
UR/T/0T/BBM	Delivering as One, Tanzania project	2011–	“One United Nations”

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

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

474. **Output of activities in 2016:** The Accounting Development Tool (ADT) enables beneficiary countries to voluntarily assess their accounting infrastructure, including their national institutions, regulations, human resources and processes, against international requirements for high-quality corporate reporting. The Tool promotes an open and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders involved, which is required for conducting successful accounting reforms. It provides a quantitative benchmark of a country's position as a particular point in time and, when implemented more than once, allows countries to assess their progress towards achieving international best practice. The results of the Accounting Development Tool support the elaboration of national action plans and the identification of priority areas where further action is required in order to improve their corporate reporting environment.

475. The thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, held in Geneva from 4 to 6 October 2016, brought together more than 200 participants from 74 member States. High-level government officials, policymakers and leading international experts deliberated on two main agenda items: The first was how to operationalize the monitoring of compliance and enforcement of accounting and audit requirements for high-quality reporting; second, the Experts discussed ongoing work on the selection of core reporting indicators aligned with the SDGs monitoring framework.

476. In conjunction with the thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, UNCTAD organized a technical workshop on the implementation of a selection of International Financial Reporting Standards, in Geneva. The workshop dealt with trends in financial and corporate reporting, and in particular International Financial Reporting Standards, Revenue from contracts with customers, and Leases.

477. A meeting was also organized in conjunction with the thirty-third session to discuss agenda-setting and the overall orientation of UNCTAD's products. This stakeholder-inclusive process was strengthened by a survey of priorities for the Group's agenda in coming years. The survey indicates that the five top priorities for delegates were corporate disclosure and the SDGs; risk disclosure; integration of non-financial reporting into companies' reports; financial and non-financial by extractive

industries; and the role of information technology for a high-quality corporate reporting environment.

478. The implementation of the ADT in Ukraine and Kazakhstan was finalized in 2016, while implementation commenced in Colombia. Requests for implementation were also received from Cameroon and in the Russian Federation. The ADT internet-based platform, currently available in English, French, Russian and Spanish,⁸ was updated in 2016 to improve access to the tool.

479. UNCTAD also commenced a Development Account project to Support developing country policy makers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of Entrepreneurship Policy Frameworks. This project seeks to build capacity on accounting standards to support the financial inclusion of MSMEs. In this context a workshop was held in Medellín, Colombia in November for intended project beneficiary countries – Dominican Republic, Ecuador and El Salvador. Representatives from other Latin American countries were also in attendance. UNCTAD disseminated its Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidelines for SMEs - Level 3 (SMEGA Level 3), as well as other relevant training materials for financial inclusion.⁹

480. During the year, UNCTAD contributed to committee and board meetings and webinars of international stakeholders in the area of corporate reporting, including events organized by the International Federation of Accountants, Global Reporting Initiative, the International Integrated Reporting Council, Accounting for Sustainability, the Group of Friends of Paragraph 47, and the Mediterranean Federation of Accountants. Such participation is instrumental for UNCTAD's networking and consensus-building efforts among stakeholders in the corporate reporting community, which increase public awareness of the role of high-quality reporting in sustainable development.

481. **Impact:** For more than 33 years, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts has been providing member States with guidance and toolkits on a number of corporate reporting topics. These products have had a positive impact, assisting member States in implementing, the International Financial Reporting Standards, non-financial reporting, and other internationally-recognized practices, such as corporate governance disclosure and environmental and corporate social responsibility reporting.

482. The thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts was attended by more than 200 participants from 74 member States, who reach consensus and agreed conclusions on all topics discussed.

483. The Group is the largest expert meeting of UNCTAD and one of the longest standing groups of experts in the United Nations. High attendance underscores the sustained relevance of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts' work in shaping the international agenda in accounting and reporting, and its role in bringing the views of developing countries in the standard-setting process. A survey shows that just under 90% of participants found the session to be useful or very useful. Similarly, over 95% of technical workshop participants rated the workshop as useful or very useful. It was agreed that the thirty-fourth session of the Experts Group would continue to discuss reporting on the SDGs, while a new agenda topic was included – on the role of disclosure in risk assessment and enhancing the usefulness of corporate reporting in decision-making.

484. Implementation of the ADT has provided Ukraine and Kazakhstan with assessments about the steps to achieve a high-quality corporate reporting environment, and supports the elaboration of a national action plans for accounting reform. The value of the ADT has been acknowledged by further requests for its implementation from Cameroon and the Russian Federation.

485. A survey of participants in the Latin America Regional Workshop on financial inclusion, found that all respondents found the workshop to be useful or very useful.

⁸ Available at <http://adt.unctad.org>.

⁹ UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2009/2.

There were also requests for UNCTAD to widen the dissemination of the ADT, the SMEGA Level 3 Guidance, and related training materials and products, with a view to supporting accounting for MSMEs.

486. The Accounting Development Tool's methodology and approach were considered by the World Bank in its revisions of its Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) project, with regard to the use of quantified measurement indicators, stakeholder involvement, and scope.

487. Increased public awareness of role of high-quality reporting and the importance of building capacity, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda has raised the Group of Experts' profile in international forums on corporate reporting. In particular, UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation of Accountants, renewed its MoU with the International Integrated Reporting Council, and strengthened its partnership with UNEP in the area of sustainability reporting.

488. UNCTAD work in the area of sustainability reporting, including the Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative, has led to a number of stock exchanges implementing new sustainability reporting requirements or introducing new voluntary sustainability reporting initiatives.

C99 OTHERS

Table C99

Other

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
CVI/0T/9AL	Delivering as one, Cape Verde	2009–	One United Nations
CVI/0T/EBN	Delivering as one, Cape Verde	2016–	One United Nations
BHU/0T/DCH	Delivering as One, DRT-F Bhutan project	2014–	One United Nations
RLA/0T/EAG	COMPAL III	2015–	Switzerland
INT/0T/DBG	COMPAL MENA	2015–	Sweden
INT/ ⁸ X/603	Training programmes on restrictive business practices	1986–	France, Norway, Sweden
RAF/0T/BAH	Implementation of the competition framework in the UEMOA region and to support the work of the Commission	2011–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
RAS/0T/DBM	Strengthening Technical Competency for Consumer Protection in ASEAN	2014–	ASEAN
GLO/0T/ABG	Technical assistance in developing countries in creating prospects for the domestic private sector in implementing the TRIPS agreement	2010–	Germany

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/CAO	UNIDO-UNCTAD Collaboration on a Global Project to Strengthen Pharmaceutical Production in Developing countries and LDCs	2013–	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
INT/0T/DBW	Access to high quality and affordable medicines in Africa and South East Asia	2014–	Germany
INT/0T/DCA	Promoting Access to Knowledge and Education in Developing Countries	2014–	Germany
INT/0T/FAP	Wuhan Globalization Seminars	2016–	China
INT/0T/FAR	Developing Countries Vulnerabilities in the Current Global Economy	2016–	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
ROA-2963 (9O)	Project O9: Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: 11enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States (SIDS)	2015–	Development Account
ROA-2965 (9Q)	Building Capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport	2015–	Development Account
INT/0T/0BU	Support to UNCTAD’s Technical Cooperation	2000–	Belgium
INT/0T/4BS	Strengthening results-based Management of UNCTAD Programme	2004–	Norway

1. Competition and consumer protection

1.1 *Cabo Verde Delivering Results Together Fund initiative*

489. **Development context:** Cabo Verde is one of the eight original One UN Pilot Countries in the ambit of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The Cabo Verde Delivering Results Together Fund initiative (DTRT-F) rightly allowed the UN agencies to consult together and to come with key policy recommendations which will be of use in the context of the next UNDAF to best respond to the Government priorities. The case of Cabo Verde is the perfect example one of the final remarks of the “Independent evaluation of Delivering as One” (A/66/859) of 26 June 2012, which states that the One UN Fund is an innovative mechanism for effective resource mobilization. UNDAF 2012/2016 for Cabo Verde has as its main goals to strengthen national policy frameworks since it is the basic tool to promote economic development by strengthening employment in key sectors of the economy within the frame of decent work. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Cabo Verde started due to a government query in 2001 which process involved the Government of Cabo Verde, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, as well as the United Nations.

490. The Government’s strategic vision for the country’s economy is focused on competitiveness, to be attained through a dynamic, innovative and inclusive economy. In this context, competition policy plays a key role in the larger effort of economic diversification and transformation of the country into an international platform for high-value added services, while consumer protection law and policy can contribute decisively to improve the market’s competitiveness in general and will improve the quality of the services provided in key economic sectors, such as tourism and related services’ activities.

491. **Objectives/features:** To promote and integrate Cabo Verde into the international trade system and promote its compliance with the commitments of the WTO and the international and regional agreements that the country has signed, by strengthening national capacities in the areas of competition and investment promotion. To deliver assistance from UNCTAD with the aim to foster economic growth and employment through a) improved competition and consumer protection law and policy frameworks; (b) improved investment, public finances as integral part of macroeconomic management and c) enhanced trade facilitation measure, especially on maritime economy, with efficient customs operations.

492. **Output of activities:** UNCTAD carried out a mission to Praia, Cabo Verde and held meetings with various public entities entrusted with powers in the fields of competition law and policy, sectoral regulation and consumer protection law and policy as well as with consumer organizations and business associations (chambers of commerce). The mission gathered information to feed into a comprehensive assessment of the legal and institutional framework of competition and consumer protection laws and policies together with sector-specific regulation related to Cabo Verde competitiveness.

493. With a view to supporting the Government of Cabo Verde in improving its national policy framework, UNCTAD prepared in 2017 (31st. March) a series of policy recommendations on economic development with an inter-sectorial approach focusing on an improved competition and consumer protection law and policy frameworks (apart from debt management and trade facilitation, the other two areas of UNCTAD work), with particular reference to the Sustainable Development Goal 8.

494. **Results/impact:** Since the project was very recently closed, the discussion of UNCTAD's assessment and policy recommendations with the Cabo Verde authorities has yet to take place. Afterwards the implementation of the policy recommendations needs to be assessed by the end of 2017/2018.

1.2. *COMPAL III - Programme on Strengthening Institutions and Capacities in the Areas of Competition and Consumer Protection Policies in Latin America*

495. **Development context:** In 2003, delegates in the WTO Cancun Conference decided to set aside the so-called Singapore issues, thus leaving competition law and policy outside the scope of multilateral negotiations. This decision coincided with the conviction among many Latin American countries that the success of their trade regimes could only be guaranteed through the instauration of solid competition and consumer protection policies at a national level. At that time, Switzerland, through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), seized the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of such policies by establishing a partnership with UNCTAD to launch the COMPAL Programme.

496. The COMPAL Programme (beneficiaries: Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) has benefited from a particularly favourable economic and political context since it was launched, and has performed a key role in developing competition and consumer protection law and policies in Latin America. Nowadays, considering the regional context in Latin America, COMPAL addresses initiatives aimed at fostering the exchange of experiences and expertise, and promoting cooperation at the regional level.

497. **Objectives/features:** Since 2003, COMPAL is a technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the field of competition and consumer protection with the support of the State Secretariat for Economy Affairs of Switzerland. Its third phase started on 2015 and has a focus on deepening regional cooperation and enhancing the capacities of the private sector. COMPAL benefits from its experience of over 15 years in the region, which has allowed that all COMPAL beneficiary countries currently have a competition law and enforcement agency (except Guatemala, which is debating a competition bill). COMPAL member agencies are very motivated and nourish strong cross-border bonds. This has allowed COMPAL to implement 80 per cent of the

activities it had planned for 2016. COMPAL's activities aim at improving capacities of stakeholders in the promotion and defence of competition. First and foremost, COMPAL provides training, exchange of best practices and policy tools to governmental competition agencies. These make up 75 per cent of activities in 2016.

498. COMPAL's activities in the field of competition have identified synergies with other international organizations and avoided duplicities. For example, the OECD hosts the annual Latin American Competition Forum. COMPAL has thus specialized in areas not addressed at the OECD meeting, such as the relation between competition and consumer protection, the interface between competition and trade, and trainings and internships. COMPAL has also successfully built partnerships with the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) and with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System Secretariat, which has reduced operational costs and enhanced impact and coherency.

499. COMPAL's activities have identified synergies with other international organizations and networks and have avoided duplicities. For example, it has coupled with the Iberoamerican Forum of Governmental Agencies of Consumer Protection (FIAGC in Spanish) to host meetings back-to-back and to coordinate agendas. COMPAL has also specialized in issues that are not addressed by any other regional organization, such as the relation between competition and consumer protection, the relation between trade and competition, and regional trainings and internships on competition and consumer protection. COMPAL has acknowledged the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) in consumer safety and has avoided duplicities. COMPAL has also successfully built partnerships with the AECID, which has reduced operational costs and enhanced impact and coherency.

500. **Output of activities:** In 2016, all activities related to exchange of good practices, consensus building and trainings have been implemented as planned while only two activities are pending completion: the production of guidelines for the private sector on competition compliance and leniency programmes and a regional study on the impact of competition on public and private entities and economic growth. Eighty-five per cent of activities implemented against expected accomplishments (according to Annual Activity Plan agreed with the donor and beneficiaries in 11 March 2016, and in line with log-frame of Trust Fund Agreement of 17 February 2015).

501. As requested by beneficiary competition agencies, COMPAL has also reached out to other stakeholders in 2016, namely judges and businesses. The former has received an intensive regional training workshop on competition while the latter will receive a set of guidelines on competition compliance and leniency programmes to better integrate competition culture in their daily business.

502. More specifically, the following activities were organized in 2016:

(a) *Workshop on Competition and Consumer Protection on Regulated Sectors, Antigua, Guatemala, 30–31 May 2016:* UNCTAD gathered high-ranking officials of member agencies and those of advanced agencies in each field to discuss the competition and consumer protection issues in the regulated sectors of medicines, telecommunications and energy. The event aims at providing a platform for competition and consumer protection agencies to discuss areas of common interests, identify synergies and to exchange best practices. This event was co-organized by the Ministry of Economy (MINECO), the Consumer Protection Agency of Guatemala and the AECID. The conclusions of the workshops were shared in plenary sessions. The workshops were followed by two roundtables to discuss the competition and consumer protection issues of best institutional design for regulated sectors and the impact of regional regulated sectors for competition and consumer protection. Participating countries were Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Switzerland and the United States.

(a) *VI International Consumer Protection Forum, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, 11–11 September 2016:* the aim of the activity is to allow consumer protection officials and professionals to exchange experiences and discuss public policy at the regional level. In its Sixth edition, the forum centred its discussions on digital markets.

Participating countries were Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, República Dominicana, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay and the OAS.

(b) *INDECOPI-COMPAL School on Consumer Protection, Lima, Peru 15 to 19 June 2016*: UNCTAD organized a high-level intensive course on the protection of financial consumers for operative staff of consumer protection agencies in cooperation with the Peruvian INDECOPI School. A total of 30 officials in charge of financial services in their respective agencies were trained in this one-week face-to-face course. The course also included a training of trainers so that participating officials would better replicate it in their home agencies. Participating countries included Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, the United States and Uruguay. Several countries undertook new initiatives following the course, namely the new bill of El Salvador on financial consumer protection, the new price observatory of Costa Rica on the issue.

(c) *INDECOPI-COMPAL School on Competition Lima, Peru 23–27 November 2016*: UNCTAD organized a high-level intensive course on competition advocacy for operative staff of competition agencies in cooperation with the Peruvian INDECOPI School. A total of 30 officials in charge of advocacy in their respective agencies were trained in this one-week face-to-face course. The course also included a training of trainers so that participating officials would better replicate it in their home agencies. Participating countries were Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru.

(d) *Annual Meeting of Working Group on Trade and Competition, Roatan, Honduras, 9–11 November 2016*: UNCTAD and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System gathered 40 participants from competition and trade authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean. The discussions delved on two issues of great importance to the region, namely: the regulation of competition in regional integration agreements and the treatment of dumping by competition and trade regimes. Eighty-seven per cent of participants considered discussions “very useful” for their daily work. Participating countries included Barbados, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Switzerland; as well as representatives of Andean Community (CAN), CARICOM, ECLAC, CEPAL and the WTO.

(e) *Knowledge management tool and update of COMPAL website*: One of the most ambitious activities of COMPAL in 2016 has been the design and implementation of an interactive knowledge management tool, where all products of COMPAL I, II and III (over 200 documents on manuals, guidelines, studies, reports, etc.) are available online in a user-friendly and interactive interphase. This has been a key activity to ensure the sustainability and relevance of the programme as it ensures more visibility and better interaction among members, between members and the COMPAL team in Geneva, and between COMPAL and external stakeholders. The tool is available at: unctadcompal.org.

(f) *Exchange among agencies*: one of the activities with best return for investment was the direct exchange between COMPAL member agencies, which aimed at enhancing the exchange of experiences, deepening South–South cooperation and ensuring a multiplier effect. One of the three winning internships was on competition, proposed by the Costa Rican and Peruvian agencies, whereby the newly appointed Head of Investigations of the former visit the latter for one week to better design her team and internal procedures. The other two winning internships were on consumer protection, proposed by Chile and Uruguayan agencies to visit the Mexican agency for one week to learn and later implement two of its most successful initiatives: the online dispute resolution mechanisms CONCILIANET and the testing laboratory.

(g) *Exchange with the Swiss Competition Commission*: In 2016, COMPAL facilitated 2 internships of officials of the Superintendencia de Competencia of El Salvador to the Swiss Competition Commission, each for a duration of three months.

503. **Impact:** All activities were successful and well received by the beneficiaries. The VI International Consumer Protection Forum was the highest valued activity of COMPAL in 2016, being rated as “very relevant to daily life of the institution” by 95.7 per cent of participating agencies. National replications of the Indecopi COMPAL school course on consumer protection were completed in August 2016, yielding a total of 460 people trained on financial consumer protection. Replications for the Indecopi COMPAL course on competition were completed in March 2017, with a total of 555 people trained in advocacy initiatives. Participants increased their competencies in financial services by 50 per cent and in advocacy by 30 per cent in average. The academic exchanges promoted by the Working Group on Trade and Competition (WGTC) allowed to consolidate the relationship between national authorities of trade and competition. And the exchanges of staff, rated highly relevant by the beneficiary agencies, facilitated mutual understanding and knowledge.

1.3. *UNCTAD MENA Programme for regional economic integration through the adoption of competition and consumer protection policies, gender equality, anti-corruption and good governance in the Middle East and North African region*

504. **Development context:** With the support from the Government of Sweden, UNCTAD developed this regional capacity building programme which was launched in 2015 and will be completed in 2020. The beneficiary countries are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine. It is necessary to have the overall picture of this group of countries in order to understand the development constraints faced by beneficiary countries (related to the capacity of the country to formulate specific policy frameworks in some cases or to the development of policy implementation plans and the institutional implementation capacity). At the national level, the problems were related to the countries’ capacity to comply with rules and/or benefit from favourable policy frameworks, due to constraints in the supply capacity, poor information, lack of institutional support, lack of skills, etc. An Inception phase report was produced in order to develop a tailor-made planning and ensure a successful implementation.

505. **Objectives/features:** The programme aims at contributing to regional economic integration, anti-corruption, good governance, gender equality by strengthening markets through improved competition and consumer protection policies in the Middle East and North African region. The programme also seeks to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme is designed to ensure the achievement of the following five outcomes:

(a) Competition Policies are effective, sustainable and recognized as tools for regional economic integration in the MENA region;

(b) Consumer Rights are respected at national and regional level and Consumer Protection policies are effective, sustainable and recognized as tools for regional economic integration in the MENA region;

(c) Private sector support increased, and compliance programmes adopted on competition and consumer protection laws and policies. Gender equality and the economic empowerment of women increased at the regional level;

(d) Competition Neutrality principles applied. SOEs and government departments increased their understanding and awareness of the importance of competition neutrality;

(e) Regional Cooperation on Competition and Consumer Protection improved and strengthened. The final number of countries from the MENA region participating in the project increased. Stakeholders’ capacities, awareness and commitment at the regional and national level enhanced.

506. **Outputs:** The programme kicked off its implementation phase on 1 March 2016. With only 9 months of implementation, the UNCTAD MENA Programme completed more than 100 per cent of the activities and the publications planned for 2016. During 2016, UNCTAD participated in/and organized the following activities:

(a) Study visits to the Austrian Competition Authority (March 2016), the United Kingdom Consumer Protection Institutions in London (July 2016) and French Competition Authority, France (October 2016). The first visit focused on addressing the following topics: agency structure, cooperation/information sharing, economic analysis in practice in general, economic analysis in abuse of dominance cases, leniency programmes and dawn raids. The second focused on the overview of the United Kingdom Consumer Protection System, investigation tools, E-commerce, complaints handling, misleading advertising. The third, for senior case handlers of competition authorities, addressed agency structure, cooperation/information sharing, economic analysis, abuse of dominance cases, leniency programmes, dawn raids and advocacy;

(b) National awareness raising seminars on Competition Law in Palestine (September 2016) and Beirut (October 2016), gathering a wide range of participants (members of Government and Parliament, judges, academics, private sector, representatives of competition directorate, representatives of consumer organizations and media). They discussed the importance of having competition law and policy in the context of globalization and deregulation; and reviewed in depth the existing draft competition law in the light of best practices in other countries of the world;

(c) IT analysis, fact finding missions to the Consumer Protection Directorate in Palestine (September 2016) and Lebanon (October 2016) to do the analysis of the current IT systems and processes in place for the development of an ITC Web Platform (3 languages) that will encompass four technical databases (Regional Complaint Handling system, Regional Rapid alert System, Best Practices sharing, Competition cases sharing) as well as it will provide support to a virtual institute, country profiles, Web conference system and Event Management System.

(d) E-commerce and Complaint Handling Workshop in Beirut (October 2016) was attended by more than 80 participants that learnt about the opportunities and the challenges that e-commerce brings to consumers and businesses. The concept of Regional Complaint Handling was discussed as an opportunity to deliver a world leading consumer protection system and greater cross-border trade.

(e) Launch of the UNCTAD MENA Programme Regional Training Centre in Tunis (November 2016): together with the ITC Platform, the Regional Training Centre will support national and regional policy making, capacity building for technical staff, creating partnerships and developing a pool of experts in the region through training (Arabic and French courses).

(f) First regional training workshop on Investigation Tools in Tunisia (November 2016), with the following topics: Cartel enforcement (discovery techniques, leniency programmes, search for evidence, decisions and sanctions); Abuse of dominant position (defining the relevant market, determination of dominance, deciding on abuse of dominance, determining the appropriate sanctions); Merger control (notifications, defining the relevant market of merging companies, determination of potential dominance and harm to competition, determining appropriate sanction) and Dawn Raids. The workshop was attended by 45 participants representing Competition Authorities and Judges from all UNCTAD MENA beneficiary countries.

(g) MENA countries' participation in the First Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, Geneva (October 2016), a standing body established under the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP) to monitor the application and implementation of the guidelines, provide a forum for consultations, produce research and studies, provide technical assistance, undertake voluntary peer reviews, and periodically update the guidelines. Representatives from MENA countries also participated in the Fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, Geneva, (October 2016), another standing body established under the 1980 United Nations Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices to monitor the application and implementation of the Set. In between the participants also attended UNCTAD's Research Partnership Platform meeting, which

gathers research and analysis undertaken on competition and consumer protection by a worldwide network of scholars' agencies.

(h) MENA countries' participation in the League of Arab States Meeting of experts and specialists in the field of competition law and policy and in the field of consumer protection in the Arab countries (May 2016). UNCTAD provided technical expertise to the topics discussed, the review of competition law in member States and international cooperation supporting the MENA beneficiaries, and discussed the importance of establishing a task force devoted to consumer protection in the Arab countries.

507. The following publications were produced and published in Arabic, English and French: Competition Guidelines on Leniency Programmes (for countries which envisage the adoption or improvement of leniency programmes on competition, to help them achieve a substantive degree of convergence in this field); Competition Glossary (in order to provide uniform definitions and specialized terminology); Good Governance Guidelines on Independence and Transparency (taking into consideration existing competition laws).

508. **Results:** The programme had only 9 months of activities in 2016, but has been very well received. It has led to a deep commitment from the participating competition and consumer protection authorities and also raised strong interest from several other stakeholders from the public and private sector. One of the major outcomes of the MENA programme is that since the beginning of the project, all stakeholders involved in competition, consumer protection, gender, anti-corruption and good governance issues within the beneficiary countries have been actively engaged in the project. Thus, experts and countries are better connected at a national and regional level.

509. Also, as a result of the programme, the Lebanese and Palestinian draft laws and the Algerian law were reviewed in depth in the light of best practices in other countries of the world, and more specifically of the UNCTAD MENA region. And a pool of experts from the region in gender, competition and consumer protection (including international experts) has been created. More than 250 Participants were funded by the project to attend capacity building activities. Furthermore, within the region, twinning arrangements between the Egyptian Competition Authority and Tunisia Minister of Industry and Trade and Competition Council were established to foster regional cooperation and integration in competition issues. Finally, the programme established cooperation with regional organizations and international partners, such as the Arab League, United Kingdom Citizens Advice, United Kingdom Trading Standards, the Austrian Competition Authority, the French Competition Authority, Consumers International, United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority, United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority, United Kingdom Financial Ombudsman and the consumer organization.

1.4. *Strengthening Technical Competency for Consumer Protection in ASEAN*

510. **Development context:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand and later joined by Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Cambodia, aims, among others "to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region", "to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic ...fields;", "To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres" and "To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves."

511. The ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (2007) has focused on strengthening the legislation in the countries (nine ASEAN Member States have adopted competition law), building competition-related policy capabilities and best practices in cooperation with development partners, to also strengthen competition agencies and to build

enforcement competencies. Fostering a culture of competition through advocacy, enhancing regional ties through a network of authorities responsible for competition policy.

512. The project is connected to the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 whose blueprint until 2025 is based on the following five goals: (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) A Global ASEAN.

513. **Objectives/features:** Under these goal, the ASEAN secretariat approached UNCTAD for providing technical assistance towards improved technical competencies and institutional capacity of consumer protection agencies in ASEAN countries as well as to build a critical mass of consumer protection trainers to contribute to improved compliance with consumer protection laws and regulations.

514. The project with the ASEAN Secretariat was developed under the Project Australia-ASEAN Development Cooperation Project Phase II (AADCP II) from November 2014 to January 2016 (first phase) with funding of 250.000 USD from the ASEAN Secretariat.

515. The capacity-building needs of consumer protection and other government officials included the delivery of training programs and technical materials identified in the “Road-mapping Capacity building needs in Consumer Protection in ASEAN ” around six areas - product safety and labelling; phone and internet services and e-commerce; consumer credit and banking; environment; healthcare services and professional services. It also included the development of “soft skills” to facilitate consumers redress.

516. **Outputs:** The preparation of the six training modules and the following validation by ASEAN member States took place in 2015, as well as the regional workshops organized. The publication online of the training modules at the ASEAN website and the official registry of the modules in UNCTAD took place in 2016. Even though the dissemination of the modules at the national level in some interested countries (e.g. Indonesia for healthcare and financial services), scheduled for 2016, didn't yet occur, several discussions took place between UNCTAD and the ASEAN Secretariat on further cooperation opportunities with the ASEAN member States on the margins of the 6th. ASEAN Competition Conference “Combating Cartels in ASEAN-Getting it right” (Bangkok, Thailand), namely with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam and concerning the topics of e-commerce and consumer protection and the voluntary peer reviews in consumer protection law and policy.

517. **Results:** The modules were very useful in supporting specialized training to the participants and provided them relevant, new and enhanced skills and knowledge, although the challenge is to replicate the training of a relatively small number of participants to other staff, in particular at the national level and thereby disseminate the enhancement of capacities as widely as possible. The diversity between ASEAN member States' agencies and the national specificities regarding the agencies' mandates in consumer protection (not always comprehensive and implying coordination and joint work with other public bodies and sectoral regulators) highlighted the need for further inter-agency and international cooperation. The training modules are expected to be further disseminated and detailed for future training.

1.5. *Cooperation with the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) and Japanese Development Cooperation for the ASEAN Region: Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund - Indonesia*

518. **Development context:** JFTC has engaged in technical cooperation activities in the area of competition law and policy based on its experience of around 70 years. As one of such activities, JFTC has carried out group training course since 1994 in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency almost every year. In the meantime, JFTC has decided to support ASEAN member States' competition authorities

to enhance their capacities. In cooperation with UNCTAD, which has been promoting cooperation among governments, competition agencies and other institutions dealing with competition issues, with the aim of improving the domestic policy environment for markets to function effectively and reaping the full benefits of economic reforms and privatization, it was possible to identify the needs and interest of technical cooperation from the Indonesian Competition Authority (KPPU) in the area of market studies.

519. Indonesia is one of the countries with a large population in the world, in 2015, more than 250 million people. One of the many issues faced by densely populated country is food security. In most food commodities, Indonesia has been experiencing excessive pricing. While the import price or producer level price are competitive, consumers are paying excessive prices for selected food commodities. In some cases, KPPU, Indonesia's competition authority, exposed the anticompetitive behaviour in the distribution of meat, garlic, and poultry but the price levels did not get better after the verdict. On the other side, the condition is rampant to many food commodities, which have significant impact on consumers' welfare in Indonesia.

520. **Objectives/features:** Based on Indonesian Presidential Regulation, KPPU would like to conduct a market study in the agriculture sector, focused on (a) rice, (b) beef, (c) sugar, (d) salt, (e) chili and (vi) shallot, in order to have a better understanding of the market in these commodities. Based on the outcome of the market study, KPPU expects to provide policy advice to the relevant government institutions concerning the examined food sectors and will aim to streamline competition principles in those sectors. Hence, UNCTAD, in cooperation with JFTC, is carrying out technical assistance, capacity building and advisory services to the Indonesia Competition Commission in the specific area of market studies in the agriculture sector, building on work previously done for agriculture markets (Mexico study), focusing on the key products mentioned. This cooperation is funded and administered by JFTC and other Japanese agencies.

521. **Outputs:** UNCTAD met with KPPU officials and JFTC officials to discuss and brainstorm on the way and the modalities in which a sector study should be conducted. UNCTAD spoke about the topic of "Competition policy in agriculture", based mainly on a 2011 UNCTAD report "Mexico's agricultural developments: perspectives and outlook" as well as on the data provided by the Commodities Branch. UNCTAD also contributed to the discussion of the draft Terms of Reference for the study, sharing the experience previously acquired in the development of competition sector studies, particularly in the case of COMPAL programme (Latin America). The method of gathering data and information was discussed as well as the timeframe, the procedure applicable and the coordination by UNCTAD and JFTC, in cooperation with KPPU. The follow-up of the study, due to be prepared in the summer of 2017, will include a workshop to present the findings at the domestic and the regional levels and the discussion of the study at the East Asia Top Level Official's meeting to be held in September 2017 with the support of the ASEAN Development Bank Institute.

522. **Results/impact:** the selection of the consultants is still underway and the study is only expected to be concluded later in 2017, which is why it is yet too early to assess its impact. But the interaction, the assistance and the discussions with KPPU by UNCTAD and JFTC have been fruitful and provided KPPU with knowledge and experience in conducting market studies.

2. Intellectual property

523. **Development context:** There is increasing recognition that intellectual property (IP) regimes should be tailored reflect a country's level of development. Developing countries seek assistance in ensuring that their IP regimes are supportive of specific development objectives, such as public health, the transfer of technology, access to knowledge, investment in certain sectors and innovation.

524. **Objectives and features:** The work programme on the development dimensions of IP rights is designed to respond to the mandate received from UNCTAD XIV in July 2016, the Nairobi Maafikiano, which in paragraph 55 (s) notes: "Acknowledging

that the World Intellectual Property Organization has the lead in intellectual property rights issues in the United Nations system, UNCTAD will continue its work on intellectual property rights as it relates to trade and development". UNCTAD conducts research and policy analysis on trade and development aspects of IP, facilitates consensus-building and responds to requests for technical cooperation and advises on policy options for successfully integrating developing countries into the world economy.

525. The overall objectives of the programme include deepening the understanding in developing countries of the complex relationship between IP and development; identifying ways and means of using flexibility in the international intellectual property architecture to promote the technological capabilities and other public policy objectives of developing countries; examining the implications of regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements for developing countries' intellectual property policies; and providing a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices in the formulation of intellectual property policies oriented towards development.

526. **Outputs:** In 2016, the main outputs in this area of support were delivered in the context of the following work programmes.

Research and policy analysis

527. The IP Unit in 2016 continued to add content to the database on IP and health-related jurisprudence from various jurisdictions. The database contains summaries of court decisions related to pharmaceutical patent law. The objective of the database is to provide examples of how judges can contribute to a public health-oriented interpretation and application of national patent law, using flexibilities as authorized under the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

528. UNCTAD prepared a Tool Box for Policy Coherence on Access to Medicines and Local Pharmaceutical Production. The Tool Box is intended to serve as a quick reference tool for developing country policy makers to understand the range of policies that will affect local production and promote access to medicines. The Tool Box benefited from a peer review process that involved diverse groups of international experts, including from the International Centre on Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), WTO and WHO, and experts from developing countries, as well as GIZ.

529. Under a project done in collaboration with the UNIDO, UNCTAD in 2016 published a research paper on "TRIPS Flexibilities and Anti-Counterfeit Legislation in Kenya and the East African Community: Implications for Generic Producers". The paper provides a number of policy recommendations for the Kenyan Government regarding the current revision of the Kenyan Anti-Counterfeit Act.

Workshops and training

530. Intellectual property rights, local pharmaceutical production and supply capacity of essential medicines: UNCTAD was requested by the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (2005) to assess ways in which developing countries can develop their domestic productive capability in the supply of essential drugs in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies. In the pursuit of this mandate, UNCTAD implements a work programme on local pharmaceutical production, with a view to assisting developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) in particular, to utilise IP rights as tools that facilitate increased access to affordable medicines, and, where feasible, to promote domestic and foreign investment to create local or regional pharmaceutical production and supply capacities. The programme is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. UNCTAD in 2016 conducted the following activities:

(a) In cooperation with the Department of Intellectual Property of Cambodia and the UNCTAD Competition Branch, a workshop was organized from 17 to 19 February 2016 on the interface of IP law and competition law for 40 participants from five Cambodian ministries.

(b) In cooperation with WHO and the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry, UNCTAD on 3–4 May 2016 implemented a workshop on the use by Ethiopia of the 2033 WTO TRIPS waiver for LDCs on pharmaceutical products. For that purpose UNCTAD provided recommendations on legislative amendments to the Ethiopian patent law, in the context of a broader, WHO-driven project to assist in the implementation of the Ethiopian National Strategy and Plan of Action for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (2015-2025).

(c) On 17 August 2016, Legal Officers from the IP Unit and DITC's Competition Branch delivered lectures at the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Tokyo seminar on competition law and policy. The intervention by the IP Unit focused on using competition law as a check on the abuse of IP rights in pharmaceutical industry cases. The seminar was attended by 15 representatives of developing country competition authorities, including China, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Philippines, Samoa, Serbia, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Ukraine.

(d) In cooperation with South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry (dti) and UNDP, UNCTAD on 28-30 September 2016 organized public stakeholder consultations on the dti draft Consultative Framework for IP in South Africa. The purpose of the event was to collect feedback on the Consultative Framework that will feed into a national policy on IP. As a follow-up, UNCTAD in November 2016 provided comments on stakeholder feedback and concrete policy recommendations on an amended draft of the IP Consultative Framework provided by the dti after the September workshop.

(e) In cooperation with the Mexican National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (ANAFAM), UNCTAD conducted a series of seminars on IP and local pharmaceutical production on 23-25 November 2016 in Mexico City, Mexico.

531. *Policy coherence for local pharmaceutical production:* Funded by German International Cooperation (GIZ), UNCTAD's work programme assists developing countries' efforts to promote coherence of policies in respect of health, trade and industrial development and ensure that local pharmaceutical production increases access to medicines. UNCTAD and GIZ pursue this activity on a regional basis in South-East Asia and the East African Community (EAC). In 2016, the following activities were delivered.

(a) UNCTAD participated in the *International Trade and Health Conference 2016*, organized by the International Health Policy Program (IHPP) of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, held on 8-10 August 2016, in Bangkok, with a view to contributing to the discussion on potential impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement on the Thai health system.

(b) As a follow-up to the recommendations emanating from a September 2015 workshop on policy coherence in the East African Community (EAC), UNCTAD prepared an advisory report and a concept note that outline key intervention areas to promote regional and national policy coherence in EAC region. UNCTAD's recommendations identified a number of measures targeting regional policies for further market integration and to enhance coherence among domestic policies of EAC Partner States, collaboration for investment promotion and for skills development and research and development.

(i) UNCTAD participated in the *First International high level multi-stakeholders workshop on promoting pharmaceutical sector investment in the EAC region*, Nairobi, Kenya, 2–4 November 2016. The final resolution of the Conference adopted several of UNCTAD's recommendations;

(ii) The EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health and the EAC Sectoral Committee of Industry, which endorsed the recommendations to pursue policy coherence for pharmaceutical sector development and access to medicines.

(c) UNCTAD organized a capacity-building workshop for Viet Nam on IP provisions in preferential trade and investment agreements and patent examination guidelines for pharmaceutical products, on 1–3 November 2016, in cooperation with

UNDP and the Vietnamese National Office of Intellectual Property (NOIP). Participants discussed the implications of the TPP Agreement on the examination of pharmaceutical patents and the Vietnamese examination guidelines for pharmaceutical patents. The meeting was attended by 81 participants.

532. *Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Transfer and Trade Facilitation:* Supported by the Government of Germany, this programme focuses on the use of IP regimes for the promotion of technological absorption capacities and discusses the use of IP rights such as trademarks for trade facilitation. The following activities were implemented:

(a) UNCTAD organised a workshop on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Policy for Public Agricultural Research Organisations in Ethiopia on 3-4 May 2016 in Addis Ababa. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the South Centre and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. The objectives of the workshop were to improve the understanding by participants and facilitate the exchange of views on IP and technology transfer policies; assess the priority needs of research centres; and support EIAR in the development of a national IP and technology transfer policy and guidelines for public agricultural research organisations.

(b) Workshop on Intellectual Property, Transfer of Technology and Access to Generic Medicines in the LDCs: the Case of Benin. This workshop, held from 24 to 25 May 2016 in cooperation with Benin's IP Office, aimed to develop new strategies for Benin to promote technology transfer and quality production in pharmaceuticals. It served as a forum to share experiences and best practices in transferring technology in the pharmaceutical industry, thereby enhancing the capacity of the local enterprises to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of medicines.

533. *Intellectual property rights and biodiversity:* Originally supported by the Government of Germany, this programme focuses on the building of local capacities in developing countries to design and enforce domestic trade, customs and intellectual property laws in line with access and benefit sharing rules under the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Nagoya Protocol and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

534. The following activities on the interface between biodiversity protection and the IP system were undertaken throughout the first semester of 2016.

(a) Between November 2015 and February 2016, UNCTAD organized and facilitated a distance learning course with GIZ and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA) on the interface between intellectual property policies and international access and benefit sharing rules under the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The training was attended by 35 participants from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

(b) On 8-9 February 2016, UNCTAD organized a workshop on "The Interface between International Access and Benefit Sharing Rules under the Nagoya Protocol and Intellectual Property Rights" in Lima, Peru, in cooperation with the Peruvian Competition and Patent Office (Indecopi). A similar event was carried out jointly with Indecopi in Cusco, Peru, on 11 February 2016, with indigenous communities. The objective of these events was to raise awareness among Indecopi officials, national focal points for access and benefit sharing (ABS) and indigenous communities about available IP mechanisms to promote and ensure ABS.

(c) On 24-25 May 2016, UNCTAD and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPPL) conducted a workshop in Manila on the interface of IP rights, biodiversity and traditional knowledge, including the role of geographical indications and collective trademarks. The event was attended by 46 participants including representatives of the IP office, various ministries, academia and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

535. *Development dimensions of intellectual property reports:* UNCTAD produces, upon request by a developing country or LDC, advisory reports on the development dimensions of intellectual property (DDIP). The objective of such a report is to provide well-researched and reasoned advice on policy and the legal and institutional frameworks of developing countries and LDCs for intellectual property rights, particularly in relation to important development objectives such as innovation, technology, investment, competition, education and health. Developing countries specify the key development objectives they wish to examine. In addition, a DDIP report takes into consideration the bilateral, regional and international commitments the beneficiary countries have entered into and the flexibilities available to them. A DDIP report will take into consideration the socio-economic situation of the requesting country, the bilateral, regional and international commitments the target countries have entered into and the flexibilities available to them. Based on this analysis, the reports incorporate medium to long-term recommendations on how governments and other stakeholders could make these frameworks more coherent and transparent, with a view to making IP rights contribute to a country's sustainable economic and human development goals, and respond to emerging global opportunities. In this context, UNCTAD in 2016 provided the following DDIP advisory services to beneficiary developing countries:

(a) Advisory report on Intellectual Property Policy for Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

(b) Advisory report on the Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property in Nepal: Transfer of Technology, Access to Medicines, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge.¹⁰

Building consensus

536. Consensus-building among stakeholders on issues of IP is an important element of the programme's work. UNCTAD's substantive contributions on the analysis of issues related to development and IP have enabled it to become an important forum, through its intergovernmental machinery, where governments, academia, civil society and the private sector can meet to exchange ideas. In particular:

(a) UNCTAD participated as member of the Expert Advisory Group tasked to review and provide inputs into the technical documents supporting the work of the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Medicines. The final report of the High Level Panel was released in September 2016.

(b) UNCTAD, in collaboration with UNAIDS, the African Union and GIZ, organized a roundtable discussion on "Supporting Access to Medicines and Industrial Development in Africa: Investing in Domestic Pharmaceutical Manufacturing," on 21 July 2016 in Nairobi in the context of the World Investment Forum. The roundtable culminated in the signing of the Nairobi Statement on Access to Medicines, an important collaborative initiative between UNCTAD, UNAIDS and the African Union, which signals a commitment from countries on the continent to facilitate investment in local pharmaceutical production in Africa, particularly for the manufacture of antiretroviral medicines.

537. **Impact and Results:** *IP and local pharmaceutical production.* UNCTAD's policy recommendations in the area of local pharmaceutical production and access to medicines are increasingly reflected in the policies and laws of countries working to strengthen their local production capacity of medicines. For instance:

(a) In July 2016, Indonesia enacted amendments to the national patent law, which took on board a number of recommendations made by UNCTAD in its 2011 Report on Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property in Indonesia: Access to Medicines, Transfer of Technology and Competition. These included:

(i) An extension of the regulatory review ("Bolar") exception for generic producers;

¹⁰ Available at <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1619>

- (ii) The exclusion from patentability of new medical uses of known products;
- (iii) The facilitation of exports of drugs made under compulsory licenses to countries lacking domestic manufacturing capacities; and
- (iv) A requirement to disclose the origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in patent applications in line with the national access and benefit sharing regulations.

(b) The final report of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines in its recommendations on TRIPS flexibilities proposes a role for UNCTAD in the design and use of patentability criteria for pharmaceuticals in developing countries. It calls on UNCTAD, UNDP, WHO, WIPO and WTO to cooperate in supporting governments with the application of public health-sensitive patentability criteria and to strengthen the capacity of patent examiners to apply rigorous public health-sensitive standards of patentability.¹¹

(c) UNCTAD's training / seminar activities as outlined above generated a number of follow-on requests and activities.

(d) At the high-level dinner on 4 May 2016 in Addis Ababa, UNCTAD and the Ethiopian State Minister for Industry agreed that UNCTAD would continue being involved in the process of implementing the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing from the IP angle.

(e) The high-level lunch event on access to medicines at the Nairobi UNCTAD World Investment Forum on 21 July resulted in the signing of the "Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines". The Nairobi Statement emphasises the signatories' commitment to facilitate investment for the promotion of local pharmaceutical production, in support of SDG 3 (which targets providing access to essential medicines for all), SDG 9 (to advance innovation and domestic technology development) and SDG 17 (to foster international cooperation and policy coherence). UNCTAD regularly refers to the Statement in its technical cooperation activities with the East African Community and its Partner States.

(f) Following its engagement in South Africa in the fall of 2016, the dti requested UNCTAD to be a long-term partner for the development of the national IP policy. UNCTAD has been requested to play a key advisory role in public stakeholder consultations on the dti draft IP policy document scheduled for the first semester of 2017.

(g) Exit evaluation questionnaires show that UNCTAD seminars and training courses by and large were received very positively. For instance:

(i) Eighty-five per cent of participants in the February workshop in Cambodia on the IP / competition interface indicated that they would apply the skills and knowledge from this workshop in their daily work. All participants said they would recommend the course to others.

(ii) All participants in the May public health workshop in Ethiopia stated that participation in the workshop would be useful or mostly useful for their work.

Policy coherence for local pharmaceutical production

538. An important result of the November 2016 workshop in Viet Nam was a review of the current substantive patent examination guidelines, in order to align the IP policy with the efforts to improve the policy environment for local pharmaceutical production and access to medicines. According to the evaluation questionnaire completed by the participants at the end of the workshop all participants felt that they were well or sufficiently prepared to address the topics covered during the workshop.

539. The First International High Level Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Promoting Pharmaceutical Sector Investments in the East African Community Region, held in

¹¹ See page 27 of the report, Recommendation 2.6.1.

Nairobi, Kenya, from 2-4 November 2016, adopted a Resolution that included many of UNCTAD's recommendations on policy coherence, including:

- (a) Proposed measures for further integration of the regional market;
- (b) Regional policies with potential to address national level policy coherence;
- (c) Strategic intervention for investment;
- (d) Expanding the capacity for upstream activities; and
- (e) Effective government procurement.

540. The Resolution also welcomes and calls upon EAC Partner States to endorse the Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines (see above).

541. The value of this project is also demonstrated by the fact that the work (which was carried out in cooperation with the WHO and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) prompted a group of independent experts to conduct research on the impact of local pharmaceutical production on access to medicines in Ethiopia and Tanzania. The study found that local production had partly improved access to medicines in these countries.

IP and biodiversity

542. In October 2016, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples finalized and signed a Joint Administrative Order pertaining to rules and regulations on intellectual property and traditional knowledge. UNCTAD had provided technical advice on the drafting of the regulations in May 2014. The May 2016 workshop reported above was designed to facilitate greater understanding of the scope of the Administrative Order before its promulgation.

543. 96 per cent of participants in the May IPOP HL workshop said they could apply the skills and knowledge acquired in the workshop in their daily work.

3. Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization

3.1. Wuhan Globalization Seminars

544. **Objectives/features:** The Wuhan Seminar is a training program jointly sponsored by the UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce, China since 2006. The program is focused on the area of globalization and the development experience of China.

545. The first objective of the project is to support Chinese policymakers in their efforts to further understand the opportunities and challenges of economic globalization, in particular in the context of the deepening of economic integration of the Chinese economy with the world economy, and to enhance sensitivity to policy options at the national level and their resultant economic consequences. The second objective of the project is to examine the impact of economic development in China on other countries and the possibility of emulating some aspects of the Chinese experience by other developing countries.

546. **Outputs:** Entrusted by Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, the China-Europe Vocational Training Centre and UNCTAD have successfully held and organized more than twenty international seminars, such as the Seminar on Economic Globalization, the Seminar on Capacity Building in International Trade for Developing Countries, the Seminar on Economic Globalization and International Industry Transfer and the Seminar on Economic Globalization and China's Manufacturing Industrial Development.

547. In 2016 UNCTAD contributed to two seminars that were held on the topics of "South-South Cooperation in Africa" and on "Economic Globalization and Industrial Transfer for Developing Countries". The seminars were delivered to around 50 government representatives from developing and emerging market countries.

548. **Results:** Since the beginning of the project, nearly 700 governmental officials from 89 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Oceania participated in the program. They were all very satisfied with these seminars and gave very positive feedback on this project. The serial seminars have made far-reaching impact, and are welcomed by the participants from those countries.

3.2. *Developing Countries Vulnerabilities in the Current Global Economy*

549. **Development Context:** Policymakers across developing countries are currently faced with a difficult and uncertain global economic environment that exposes them to a range of macroeconomic and financial vulnerabilities while providing little multilateral or international support for appropriate domestic policy design to fend against negative shocks to their economies.

550. **Objectives/Features:** The project provides in-depth policy analyses of two core areas of such macroeconomic and financial vulnerabilities: The wider macroeconomic impacts of negative commodity price shocks and of slow recovery in advanced economies after the global financial crisis resulting in increased systemic macroeconomic and financial instabilities. The objective is to facilitate developing country policy-makers understanding of these impacts and provide policy options to address these.

551. **Output:** The output consists of two working papers, one on The Global Financial Crisis, Policy Responses and Impact on Emerging and Developing Countries) and one on The Impact of Commodity Price Shocks on Development Strategies: Productive policy responses for macroeconomic stabilization under adverse global economic conditions.

552. The first working paper has been completed. It reviews the recovery process in developed economies and analyses the impact channels of slow recovery on developing economies through financial and commodity markets, as well as a range of policies to achieve a faster and sustainable recovery. The second paper is nearing completion providing in-depth analysis of secular trends in commodity prices, the impacts of commodity price shocks on economic structure, external financing needs, exchange rate regimes and fiscal accounts, in general and at country level, as well as detailed policy recommendations.

553. A workshop for the presentation of the papers and related discussions with developing country representatives is planned for July 2017, depending on confirmation by interested parties and the donor country mission.

4. Sustainable and resilient transport

4.1. *Climate Change impacts on Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean – Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of SIDS*

554. **Development context:** Small island developing States (SIDS) share a number of socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities that challenge their growth and development aspirations. Their climate, geographical, and topographical features as well as their critical reliance on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, exacerbate these vulnerabilities, including their susceptibility to climate change factors, such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Furthermore, in many SIDS, international tourism, which is highly reliant on secure international transport connections, is a major economic activity and a key purveyor of revenues, jobs and foreign exchange earnings.

555. At the same time, however, SIDS capacity to adapt and build the resilience of their coastal transport infrastructure is constrained. SIDS have limited capacity to conduct targeted vulnerability studies, carry out cost assessments, and identify and prioritize requisite adaptation options. Two issues are pervasive: (a) the lack of information and data at a downscaled local level leading to partial understanding of the magnitude of the problem; and (b) the insufficient cooperation and coordination of actions at all levels.

556. **Objectives/features:** Against the above background, a technical assistance project on “Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of SIDS” was developed and is being implemented over the period 2014–2017 (9th tranche of Development Account). This project aims to strengthen the capacity of policy makers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in SIDS to (a) understand climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, and (b) take appropriate adaptation response measures. A case-study focusing on two vulnerable SIDS in the Caribbean (Jamaica and Saint Lucia) is being carried out to enhance the knowledge and understanding at the national level and to develop a methodology for assessing climate-related impacts and adaptation options in other SIDS.

557. **Outputs:** The project made considerable progress in 2016 towards its objectives of building capacity of SIDS to better assess the impact of climate change and identify adaptation measures for their coastal transport infrastructure. The following activities were carried out in 2016:

(a) Site visits to Saint Lucia and Jamaica, which provided an opportunity to meet with key national stakeholders at facilities and in relevant administrations and enlist their support for the project, collect relevant data and information, as well as carry out on-site visits at key facilities (2 seaports and 2 airports in each country).

(b) Draft national case studies for Saint Lucia and Jamaica as well as a draft methodology for assessing climate-related impacts and adaptation options were prepared and considered at a Technical Expert Meeting on “Climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS”, held in Geneva. The meeting brought together leading experts from international and regional agencies, academics, researchers, and private sector representatives to discuss and refine the draft case-study reports and draft methodology. Among other outcomes of the meeting, the experts identified a new approach to assessing the potential impact of future climate on transport facilities, which is being tested as part of the case studies and methodology developed under the project.

(c) A webpage has been created for the project. This will be gradually improved and updated as the project is implemented and the knowledge base for climate change adaptation for maritime transport infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS is developed.

558. In 2016, UNCTAD also continued to provide advice and policy guidance in response to requests received from various governmental and intergovernmental entities as well as NGOs. This included advice and information on international law issues arising from the deployment of scientific instruments for climate observations, including under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Maritime Organization Conventions, as well as comments on a draft Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) dispute resolution mechanism. Substantive areas of focus include the legal framework regarding international shipping/maritime law, particularly commercial maritime transport law, as well as issues related to ship-source pollution and related environmental challenges, ship and port security and safety, sustainable transport and the implications of climate change for maritime transport, including in particular the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and associated adaptation requirements.

559. **Results and impacts:** Advice provided as part of stakeholder consultations during a site visit to Saint Lucia was welcomed by officials at one of the country’s two airports and would be reflected in requirements for a new air traffic control tower. Furthermore, feedback received from participants in the Expert Meeting, including inputs for the methodology being developed by the project, will help bring additional perspectives to the national case studies. Synergies developed with experts during the expert meeting should also lead to cooperation in preparing analytical inputs for the project. Excellent informal collaboration has been established with the European Commission Joint Research Centre (ECJRC) in respect of flood and inundation modelling, and it is expected that this will result in genuine added value to the project and its outcomes on the ground.

560. In support of the project, UNCTAD participated in the first *UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference*, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in November 2016; UNCTAD co-led and participated in a high-level thematic panel on “*Sustainable Transport Solutions to the Climate Crisis*”, highlighting key challenges in respect of climate change adaptation and resilience building for transport infrastructure. UNCTAD also made a presentation with a focus on “*Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Infrastructure in SIDS*” at a side event on “*Aviation partnerships for sustainable development*”, jointly organized by International Civil Aviation Organization and UN-OHRLLS. The Ashgabat Statement, issued at the end of the Conference, highlights the importance of effective climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for critical coastal transport infrastructure, in particular in SIDS, as well as the related urgent need for capacity-building and financing; greater recognition and awareness of these issues is important for progress on the overall aims of the project. Moreover, as part of UNCTAD’s collaboration with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, UNCTAD also participated in a meeting of the *PIANC Working Group 178 on climate change adaptation for maritime and inland port and navigation infrastructure*, which is developing relevant industry guidance; as well as in the work of the *UNECE-led Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks and Nodes*. It is expected that collaboration will allow for cross-fertilization of efforts, resulting in better and more inclusive outcomes for this project.

4.2. *Building Capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport*

561. **Development context:** In an increasingly globalized and interdependent world, the importance of freight transport as a trade enabler and engine of growth cannot be over emphasized. With global freight transport activity expected to grow in tandem with the world economy, population and related energy requirements and consumption needs, adhering to and implementing sustainability principles in the freight transportation sector is crucial. The sustainability imperative which requires balancing the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) is increasingly ranking high on the global, national and industry policy agendas, plans and priorities.

562. UNCTAD has long recognized the three dimensions of sustainability in freight transport. Adhering to the sustainability principles in freight transport entails, the ability of the sector to achieve economic efficiency and effectiveness, to improve connectivity, quality of service, to ensure social inclusiveness and progress while, at the same time, reducing its negative externalities, including, energy and resource depletion, environmental degradation and climate change. Over recent years and in particular since UNCTAD XIII, UNCTAD has carried out work to help developing countries achieve greater sustainability in transport sector development.

563. **Objectives/features:** In the above context, UNCTAD continued implementing its UN Development Account project on sustainable freight transport (SFT) development and finance which was initiated in 2014. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers (in transport, infrastructure and finance), transport operators (in rail, road, internal waterways and ports), and key financial institutions, in developing countries, to promote and finance sustainable freight transport systems through sound transport policy measures and adequate financing actions and mechanisms. Phase I of the project focuses on East Africa’s two main transit transport corridors, namely the Northern and Central Corridors which bring together countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Phase 2 considers the perspective of select developing island countries in the Caribbean region.

564. Recognizing the fundamental role of sustainable freight transport in achieving a sustainable development path and bearing in mind the need to positively contribute to the effective delivery and implementation of broader UN-wide and global decisions and outcomes on sustainable development and climate change, UNCTAD carried out a broad range of activities in 2016 to promote the importance of the sustainable freight transport that balances out economic, social and environmental objectives.

565. UNCTAD also continued to provide advice and policy guidance in response to requests received from various governmental and intergovernmental entities, as well as NGOs and academia, on issues related to transport, including maritime transport, seaborne trade, transport costs and freight rates, ports development, and sustainable freight transport.

566. **Outputs:** Under the framework of the UN Development Account project on sustainable freight transport development and finance, activities carried out in 2016 includes:

(a) A training and capacity-building workshop organized in cooperation with the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency in Nairobi, Kenya. The training benefited over 80 participants from the Northern and Central transit and transport corridors member countries, namely, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. A number of relevant organizations, including UNEP and UNECA as well as regional economic communities, namely COMESA and EAC were also represented. The workshop also helped in identifying relevant needs and challenges (e.g. with respect to the regulatory and institutional framework, technical capacity, financial requirements, and technological gaps), articulate priority action areas to ensure effective design, articulation and implementation of a sustainable freight transport strategy across the two East African Corridors.

(b) A web platform/SFT Portal which had been created in 2015 has been further developed and updated with substantive content and relevant information on Sustainable Freight Transport including information on organizations involved in Sustainable Freight transport and finance. Many organizations provided information on their activities and programmes on SFT namely International Civil Aviation Organization, International Road Union, International Association of Ports and Harbours, World Ports Climate Initiative, Smart freight centre, University of South Pacific, and GIZ.

567. Capacity-building, advisory and awareness raising activities undertaken in 2016 include the following:

(a) Under the framework of the UNCTAD XIV, UNCTAD, in collaboration with the SLoCaT (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport), organized a ministerial round table on “Sustainable Transportation for Agenda 2030: Boosting the Arteries of Global Trade”. UNCTAD had also contributed actively to transport-related activities carried out under the framework of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in November 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

(b) UNCTAD participated and organized a thematic session on “Multimodal sustainable transport and transit solutions: connecting rail, maritime, road and air” in the Global Sustainable Transport conference organized in November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, which anchored sustainable transport into the United Nations global sustainable development agenda.

(c) UNCTAD participated in the High-Level Meeting on Sustainable Transport of LLDCs jointly organized by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UN-OHRLLS and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

(d) UNCTAD, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Oceans Institute jointly organized an International Seminar on Oceans Economy and Trade: Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism on 12 May 2016, in Palais des Nations, Geneva.

(e) UNCTAD participated in events organized by non-governmental organisations, including, for example, the International Maritime Organisation World Maritime Day Forum 2016 and the training programme organized by International

Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations for the Association des Freight Forwarders du Maroc.

(f) UNCTAD provided advisory services to the Panama Canal Authority in developing the maritime trade scenarios as adjusted for the Panama Canal with a view to analysing the future demand for the Canals' services.

(g) UNCTAD contributed in a European shipowners and European Parliament seminar on "Africa and shipping" aimed to raise the political attention with the European Union policy makers about transport challenges and opportunities facing European shipowners operating in Africa.

568. **Results and impacts:** UNCTAD activities carried out in the context of UN-wide and global events on sustainable development and climate change reinforced UNCTAD key role in helping advance the work of sustainable freight transport with the ultimate objective of supporting the 2030 Agenda for sustainable transport and climate change agreement.

569. An important follow-up action that emerged directly as an outcome of the training workshop under the UNDA project was the commitment by the NCTTCA to articulate a Green Freight Programme. Since the training workshop, the NCTTCA developed its Green Freight Programme in cooperation with UNEP and UNCTAD. The Green Freight programme will feed into the NCTTCA's long term Sustainable Freight Transport Strategy that is being developed under this project. UNCTAD, under the framework of the project, continues to support the NCTTCA and is currently assisting the NCTTCA in carrying out this important work and build synergies and collaboration with relevant organizations. In addition, the concept of sustainable freight transport is relatively new and not fully understood including by many countries and stakeholders involved in the project in East Africa. Consequently, expressions of interests were received by many stakeholders in the project to receive further support at both the national and regional level.

570. All activities received positive feedback. In particular, the feedback received from Panama Canal Authority confirmed the role of UNCTAD as a strategic and expert partner that can support developing countries to develop a proper framework for a competitive maritime transport sector.

IV. Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future

571. The transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It aims to end poverty in all its forms and improve human well-being. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of SDGs would require, on one hand, sound strategies and policies made by Governments; on the other hand, the active participation of all people from different sectors of society, including local authorities, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, women and farmers. To support policymaking and the effective participation of people in this new development process, it is essential to strengthen their skills and update their knowledge base through capacity building activities. UNCTAD has developed well-targeted technical assistance programmes (including training) to build capacity for various stakeholders including policy makers, academic institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and port operators in developing countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD supports developing country policymakers in mainstreaming gender in trade policy and empowering women in trade.

572. In this section, 6 products under the theme of *Empowering people, investing in their future* are reported. The reports highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2016 and key results to date. For technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the theme of *Empowering people, investing in their future*, however, not linked with any of the existing 6 products under this thematic area, they are reported under D99 Others.

D1 Trade, Gender and Development Programme

Table D1
Trade, Gender and Development Programme

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/CAI	Capacity Building in Trade and Gender	2013–	Multi-donor
RAF/OT/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2014–	Germany
ROA-1617 (J10)	Informal cross border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in the Great Lakes region	2016–	Development Account

573. **Development context:** Women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses or on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees or by doing unpaid work at home. Yet they remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation, and often have insecure, low-wage jobs and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. Gender discrimination curtails women’s access to economic assets such as land and loans, and limits participation in shaping economic and social policies. In addition, as women perform the bulk of household work, they often have little time left to engage in paid activities or upgrade their skills. Providing economic opportunities for women is not only right from a human rights perspective, it is also a promising path for sustainable economic growth. Trade liberalization may be a strong force for providing new opportunities for women but may inadvertently further entrench or exacerbate existing gender biases and discrimination. An in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is therefore necessary to make trade a tool for inclusive growth and the economic empowerment of women.

574. **Objectives/features of the programme:** Through its work programme on Trade, Gender and Development, UNCTAD supports member countries to design and implement trade policies that are conducive to inclusive development. More specifically, it supports the membership to (a) assess the gender ramifications of trade policy, (b) identify gender-based constraints that hinder women’s beneficial participation in international trade, and (c) devise strategies to overcome such constraints and make trade a tool for inclusive development.

575. **Outputs:** During the period under review, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme assisted beneficiary countries in assessing the gender effects of trade policies, and in devising strategies and policy measures to overcome gender-based constraints that hinder inclusive development. Activities carried out include:

Training

576. *Second UNCTAD online course on trade and gender* (4 January-21 February 2016). The course was part of a capacity-building project funded by the Government of Finland and the Government of Sweden, and was based on volume I of UNCTAD’s teaching manual on trade and gender. The objective of this distance-learning initiative was to equip government officials, academics and civil society representatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with analytical tools to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and to produce gender-aware policy recommendations. In its second iteration, the course was taken by 103 participants and graduated 77 participants, including 47 women, from 44 countries.

577. *Localization of multimedia resources on trade and gender for the COMESA region.* Building on the standard online course on trade and gender, UNCTAD developed multimedia teaching resources targeting stakeholders from the COMESA member States and the COMESA secretariat. The region-specific multimedia resources draw on the regional module “Trade and gender linkages: an analysis of COMESA” and complement

the standard online course on trade and gender. The resulting 8-week online course will be delivered in May-July 2017 and will be addressed to stakeholders from the COMESA regional grouping.

578. *Satellite module of “I know gender”*. In partnership with UN Women, an abridged version of the online course on trade and gender was tailored to a broader and non-specialized audience as part of UN Women online course “I know gender”. The satellite module “Trade and gender equality” went live in November 2016 and is available on the e-learning campus of the UN Women Training Centre.

Analytical activities

579. *Localization of teaching manual on trade and gender for the COMESA region*. Drawing on Vol. 1 of the teaching manual, UNCTAD developed a regional module (Module 4, “Trade and gender linkages: an analysis of COMESA”) analysing and presenting region-specific content focusing on the COMESA regional group (UNCTAD/DITC/2016/1). The localized module includes case studies, data, and coursework with an overall approach that gives weight to topics that best address regional context and specificities.

580. The policy brief “Implementing gender-aware ex ante evaluations to maximize the benefits of trade reforms for women” was published in November 2016 (UNCTAD/PRESS/PB/2016/7). The policy brief aims to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the scope of ex ante gender evaluations of trade reforms, and to provide practitioners with an overview of the different approaches available to perform it.

Events

581. Awareness-raising on the trade and gender nexus: During the period under review the Trade, Gender and Development Programme organized the following meeting on the topic of trade and gender:

(a) 19 July 2016 Ministerial round table: Women as agents for economic change – smallholder farming, food security, agricultural upgrading and rural economic diversification in least developed countries, fourteenth session of UNCTAD, Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) 23–24 May 2016, Expert Meeting on Trade as a Tool for the Economic Empowerment of Women, Geneva, Switzerland;

(c) 17 March 2016 side event: Trade and global value chains – how to address the gender dimension, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 60th session, New York, United States of America.

582. **Results:** The above activities yielded positive and multiplier effects in terms of enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into trade policy.

583. Through the online course on trade and gender, beneficiaries have considerably enhanced their understanding on the links between trade and gender and increased their capacities to formulate gender-sensitive trade policies. All participants agreed that the course had met or exceeded their expectations and enhanced their knowledge of the trade-gender links, with a number of them noting that the relationship between trade and gender was new to them, and that the course helped them learn more about it. According to the feedback received, the course succeeded in preparing participants to conduct their own research on the topic, and/or incorporate trade and gender concepts into their teaching and policy-related work.

584. Participants were asked to provide two examples of how they would apply what they had learned in their teaching, research and/or policy advice or advocacy work in the following 6–12 months. Most of them - 58 examples in the second edition - planned to use course knowledge in their research. The second most intended use of course knowledge was in policy formulation and advice: the 32 examples provided by the participants related to contributions to specific policies or policy-related projects, as well as awareness-raising for policymakers and advocacy on trade and gender issues.

Finally, course participants proposed 32 ideas of potential use of course knowledge in their teaching, in particular in classes on economics, international economics, international trade, international trade theory and policy, development economics, gender and project management, ethics and social responsibility, economics for SMEs, international trade law, international trade finance, and agricultural economics.

585. The localized teaching Module targeting countries of the COMESA regional group is intended to benefit regional stakeholders as well as a broader audience of stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa. Hard copies of the module will be disseminated to the COMESA secretariat and to selected participants of the COMESA-specific online course, which will be launched in May 2017.

586. An evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the participants of the SYEM on Trade as a Tool for the Economic Empowerment of Women held in May 2016. Most participants assessed various aspects of the Expert Meeting as “relevant” or “satisfactory”. 41.5 per cent of participants rated the expert meeting as “very relevant” to their work; 48.8 per cent as “relevant” and 9.7 per cent as “partially relevant”. Moreover, 58.5 per cent of participants said that they were familiar with many of the issues discussed and noticed that the meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen and building upon their previous knowledge and understanding of the issues. Thirty-nine per cent declared that they were familiar only with some of the issues discussed. Through the presentations and the debate, they were able to expand their knowledge and understanding of the nexus between trade and gender.

587. The ministerial round table at UNCTAD XIV and the side event at CSW 60th were both well attended. The presentations stimulated an active debate on the gender-specific difficulties faced by women in accessing productive assets and services and on the negative consequences of such shortcomings on women’s productive potential. It was noticed that a broad political commitment to address gender inequality exists and is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Gatherings such as those organized by UNCTAD provided the opportunity to think about how to implement the new global development frameworks at the country level.

D2 International Investment Agreements

Table D2

International Investment Agreements

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/0BG	Capacity-Building in Developing Countries in IIA	2000–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015-2017	2015–	ASEAN
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity Building in Investment for Development (Netherlands)	2015–	Netherlands

588. **Development context:** Today’s network of international investment rules is multi-layered and multifaceted. The past year saw an expanding regime of international investment agreements (IIAs), with intensified efforts at the regional level. At the same time, a number of IIA terminations took effect and negotiations of some mega-regional agreements faced mounting challenges.

589. Growing unease with the current functioning of the global IIA regime and the system of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS), combined with the evolution of the international investment landscape, the greater role of governments in the economy and today's sustainable development imperative led countries to reform their IIA regimes. Today, the question is not whether or not to reform, but about the what, how and extent of such reform.

590. Integrating sustainable development objectives into IIAs requires addressing a number of questions, including: how to safeguard the right to regulate while preserving protection; how to enhance legal clarity of certain provisions; how to reform dispute settlement; how to promote and facilitate investment; how to ensure responsible investment; and how to manage the systemic complexity of the IIA regime.

591. **Objectives and features:** UNCTAD's Work Programme on IIAs responds to this trend of reform, aiming to make the IIA regime work better for both States and investors, and more conducive to sustainable development. The Programme covers activities in UNCTAD's three pillars (research and policy analysis, technical assistance and advisory services, and intergovernmental consensus-building).

592. *Mandates:* The IIA Work Programme has been guided by the Accra Accord, which established UNCTAD as the key focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with matters related to IIAs (paragraph 151), the Doha Mandate, which ratified it (para. 65 (k)) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which calls on UNCTAD to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with member States on investment agreements (para. 91). To this add the Nairobi Maafikiano which reiterates the call for UNCTAD to continue its existing programme (para. 38 (l)) and to continue promoting a better understanding of issues related to IIA and their development dimension (para. 55 (hh)).

593. More recently, in December 2016, the UN General Assembly Second Committee adopted a resolution (A/RES/71/215) which "encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with Member States on investment agreements and investment policies that promote a better understanding of issues related to international investment agreements and their development dimension, in accordance with its mandates." (para. 23).

594. **Outputs:** In 2016, the main outputs were as detailed in the following paragraphs.

Research work related to technical assistance

595. In addition to regular reporting and monitoring on international investment policy developments, UNCTAD's IIA Work Programme carried out research and policy analysis, among others, for the following publications:

(a) 2016 World Investment Report (WIR): Investor Nationality – Policy Challenges. Both the report's chapter on investment policies (chapter III) and its special theme chapter on "Investor nationality: Policy challenges" contain policy analysis and recommendations on IIAs.

(b) IIA Issues 'Taking Stock of IIA Reform'. The note offers a preliminary stocktaking of IIA reform showcasing efforts undertaken towards a more sustainable development-friendly IIA regime at the national, bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

(c) IIA Issues, 'ISDS: Review of Developments in 2015'. The note updates on ISDS cases, summarizes selected new cases and reviews in a user-friendly manner, key arbitral decisions.

(d) Research Note, 'Investment Facilitation: a Review of Policy Practices'. The Note surveys presence and content of investment facilitation-related features of investment policies (mapping a sample of close to 2000 earlier IIAs and the IIAs concluded in 2015 and 2016 against the 10 action lines of UNCTAD's Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation).

(e) IIA Navigator: The UNCTAD database on IIAs currently contains the texts of over 3,320 IIAs (this includes close to 2,920 BITs and 365 TIPs) signed until today and of 71 model IIAs and offers a “one-stop shop” for IIA-related information that is continuously updated with the latest trends in this rapidly evolving area of policymaking.

(f) ISDS Navigator: Containing information on 767 publicly known treaty-based ISDS cases initiated by the end of 2016, this database is the world’s most complete, free of charge ISDS database, making information accessible to policymakers, academia, journalists and the interested public who do not have access to the subscription services of the specialized media.

Technical assistance

596. Following the July 2012 launch of the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the IIA Work Programme rolled out a comprehensive plan of technical assistance activities and advisory services based on UNCTAD’s Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (since July 2015) and, subsequently, on its Roadmap for IIA Reform and its Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation. The analysis is, however, tailor-made considering the specificities of each country and/or region. Feedback is typically in writing, but increasingly includes face-to-face or web-based interactions with beneficiary country’s policymakers.

597. In 2016, UNCTAD’s IIA Work Programme provided advisory services to five regional organizations and nine countries and organized and attended over 48 meetings and capacity-building events. This includes the organization of two regional trainings and one national workshop, which, together with three intergovernmental meetings, reached out to over 700 investment policy stakeholders, of whom 41 per cent were women. This also includes at least 13 intergovernmental meetings by other organizations (some being served by video conferencing), four trainings and 20 academic or policy events, discussing IIA related issues. The following gives further details on some of the activities that took place.

1. Advisory services and ad hoc technical assistance

598. UNCTAD’s advisory services are demand-driven and include: comments on countries’ or regions’ model IIAs, and comprehensive analysis of countries’ IIA networks aimed at identifying options for refining key treaty standards and maximizing the treaties’ sustainable development dimension.

599. Countries having benefited from UNCTAD’s written advisory services in 2016 include: Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Mongolia and Sri Lanka, with Egypt also benefiting from intensive face-to-face discussions in Cairo (involving senior officials discussing UNCTAD’s review of the country’s existing BIT network and how to reform it in line with national development strategies).

600. Advisory services were also undertaken at the regional level. In 2016, the IIA Work Programme commented on the regional IIA models of CARICOM, COMESA, and SADC, as well as the Pan-African Investment Code (PAIC) (for the African Union) and the Investment Chapter of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). For the African Union, SADC and UNECA, among others, written comments were complemented by presentations and advisory meetings through video link. In the case of COMESA, UNCTAD’s analysis found also reflection in the 2016 COMESA Investment Report.

601. Investment Policy Reviews (IPR): In 2016, the IIA Work Programme contributed to the IPR processes by conducting a comprehensive legal review of the IIAs and ISDS experiences for the IPRs of the Gambia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and regional IPR of the countries of South-East Europe.

2. Regional or other training courses, organized or co-organized by UNCTAD

602. The following regional or other training courses took place:

(a) Regional IIA Training for Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), 12–15 January 2016, Casablanca, Morocco, developed in cooperation with the IDB, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), and the Moroccan Investment Development Agency (AMDI).

(b) Regional Training on IIAs and IIA Reform for Latin America, 28-30 November 2016, Bogota, Colombia, organized in cooperation with IISD and MINCIT, Colombia.

(c) Training of Egyptian Diplomats on Investment Promotion and Protection, 6-7 December 2016, Cairo, Egypt.

(d) The IIA Work Programme contributed to a number of trainings organized by others, examples include:

(i) Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: Information Seminar for Journalists and Economists of the WTO, 24 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland;

(ii) German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE): Managing Global Governance programme, 15 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland;

(iii) Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), Training for Transition Economies, FDI Policies, 20 September 2016, Vienna, Austria;

(iv) WTO Advanced Course on Trade in Services, 19-23 September, Geneva, Switzerland.

603. **Overall results and impact:** There is strong evidence that the UNCTAD's IIA Work Programme has a concrete and positive impact. UNCTAD's policy tools have shaped investment policymaking at all levels of policymaking.

604. Comparing substantive IIA clauses over time shows a clear shift in drafting practice. Modern treaty clauses frequently match the sustainable development options outlines in UNCTAD's Policy Framework. A review of 18 IIAs concluded in 2016 for which texts are available (15 BITs and three TIPs) shows that most of the treaties include provisions safeguarding the right to regulate for sustainable development objectives, such as those identified in UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development.

605. In 2016, principles and policy options developed in UNCTAD's Policy Framework and Roadmap for IIA Reform found reflection in new international investment instruments, negotiating processes at the international and regional levels and national reform actions. Examples include: the Group of 20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking; mega-regional agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), together with the Joint Interpretative Instrument on Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union and its member States; discussions on the establishment of a multilateral investment court at the initiative of the European Commission and Canada; negotiations of the CFTA for Africa or the PAIC, regional models developed by CARICOM, COMESA, and SADC; national IIA reform initiatives (the latest resulting in the recently released model treaties).

606. For technical assistance activities, positive feedback is evident from post workshop evaluations, individual expressions of appreciation and requests for further assistance. The following are examples:

(a) "The information and experiences shared at 2016 UNCTAD-IDB Regional IIA Conference had a real impact in holistic reforms of our IIA regime, culminating in the development of a more balanced model BIT, which formed the basis for our new Treaties. Many thanks for UNCTAD's commitment to map the treaty content and highlight it in the World Investment Report series. Of particular interest for us this year, is the need to address existing treaties signed under the old regime and I am glad to state that the Conference provided a lot of clarity to us on

this issue.” – Senior Legal Adviser, Investment Promotion Commission, Nigeria, 15 January 2016;

(b) “I am informed that the programme tackled the important issue of the IIAs and investor-State dispute settlement reform and proposes specific policy options to help participating countries in their reform efforts (...) The course was a tremendous success and was well received by the participants of our member countries. I would like to thank you once again for this commitment to this collaboration.” – Chief Executive Officer, Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)/Islamic Development Bank (IDB), 26 January 2016;

(c) “Thank you for sharing UNCTAD’s comments on the draft CARICOM template. We appreciate UNCTAD’s thoughtful analysis of the draft text, which will be valuable to ongoing review of the template.” – Ms. Chantal Ononaiwu, *Trade Policy and Legal Specialist, CARICOM, 22 November 2016.*

(d) “I had also the opportunity to learn more about UNCTAD's idea of a systemic and sustainable, development-oriented reform for the IIA regime. That whole experience provided me with some food for thought for what would later become Brazil's CFIA. I can't talk about Brazil's CFIA construction process without mentioning UNCTAD.” – Secretary of Foreign Trade and Services, Ministry of Industry of Brazil, statement delivered in July 2016.

(e) “Thailand has drawn from UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development report as a basis to refine our Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (Model BIT) in order to rebalance investment protection and the right to regulate in pursuit of the public interest.” –Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, statement delivered in July 2016.

D3 Empretec and Business Linkages

Table D3
Empretec and Business Linkages

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donor
INT/OT/BBV	Strengthening SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	2012–	Private sector companies
ETH/OT/DAW	Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Ethiopia	2014–	United Nations Development Programme
SAU/OT/CBI	Empretec Saudi Arabia	2014–	Saudi Arabia
UR/T/OT/DAK	UN Inter-Agency Cluster DaO Joint Programme on Market Value Chains Tanzania	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ZAM/OT/CAU	DaO. ILO led Green Jobs Joint Programme. Zambia project	2014–	International Labour Organization

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-333I (9AX)	Project AX: Support developing country policy makers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015–	Development Account

607. **Development context:** The General Assembly of the United Nations has recognized the role of entrepreneurship in development adopting three resolutions, respectively at its sixty-seventh (2012), sixty-ninth (2014), and seventy-first (2016) sessions, which highlighted the centrality of entrepreneurship in the achievement of sustainable development and stressed the need for evaluating the success of entrepreneurship promotion policies and impact measurement tools and indicators.

608. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in September 2015, emphasized the role of entrepreneurship in sustainable development, particularly in Goals 4 and 8, including:

(a) Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), target 4.4: “By 2030, sustainably increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”;

(b) Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), target 8.3: “Promote development oriented policies that support productive capacities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”.

609. The GA resolution of 21 December 2016 in paragraph 23 invites the United Nations system, “and in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue to provide support to and assist Member States, at their request, to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises”. Moreover, the principal ministerial declaration of the Conference (Azimio) in its paragraph 17 states: “We call upon UNCTAD to further develop its activities for promoting and facilitating investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development”.

610. These mandates underpin UNCTAD’s technical assistance work.

611. **Objectives and features:** UNCTAD’s assistance in policy formulation advocates a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated approach to identify, formulate and implement policy measures on entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion. The objective is to help countries design initiatives, measures and institutions that will promote entrepreneurship across six interrelated priority areas¹²: formulating national entrepreneurship strategy, optimizing the regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development, facilitating technology exchanges and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking.

612. The second pillar of UNCTAD’s assistance focuses on implementation, working with national stakeholders, to develop entrepreneurial skills and build local productive capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises, through UNCTAD’s Empretec and Business Linkages programmes.

613. Since its inception in 1988, Empretec has been installed in 39 countries and has been assisting entrepreneurs by establishing self-sustained, local market-driven

¹² As identified in UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework - EPF, launched in 2012.

entrepreneurship development centres (Empretec national centres). In 28 years of activity, 400,000 entrepreneurs have benefited from Empretec workshops and business development services available in the existing network of Empretec centres worldwide.

614. The Business Linkages programme seeks to upgrade the capacity of local suppliers and facilitate their integration into global and/or regional value chains through business links with large international or domestic companies. The programme operates in nine developing countries and has created substantial and mutually beneficial results, both for small suppliers and foreign firms. The programme is increasingly geared to contribute to the SDGs, leveraging the incentives and resources of the private sector to adopt environmental standards and ensure the beneficial inclusion of the poorest segment of the population, especially in rural settings.

615. As evidenced by several years of implementation, UNCTAD's business linkages country programmes allow domestic SMEs, including rural enterprises, to diversify and add value to their production, thereby participating more effectively in international production systems. Country interventions provide support for small local suppliers, for instance, to meet the environmental standards of transnational corporations or develop the entrepreneurial mind-set of poor rural entrepreneurs and marginalized urban producers.

616. **Outputs:** The main outputs in 2016 in the areas of Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, Empretec and Business Linkages are reported as follows:

Entrepreneurship Policy Framework

617. Several countries have been implementing the UNCTAD Framework, with some variation across countries. For instance, in Ecuador and Dominican Republic, following the endorsement of the national entrepreneurship strategy, the implementation stage of action plans was rolled out in 2016, with the active involvement of key ministries and national institutions and stakeholders, bonded in a national network.

618. UNCTAD continued its collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), providing inputs and suggestions for the finalization of the AUC's Master Plan for SME development, which benefited from lessons and feedback from the EPF implementation phase in a number of African countries.

619. Building on the EPF, UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat launched a Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Guide to support the creation and strengthening of national systems that provide young people with the entrepreneurial skills, resources and networks they need to start and grow businesses in fair and youth-friendly regulatory environments. The Policy Guide has been used in 2016 as a reference to assess the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem in two African regions (East and South) and Latin America, during three regional workshops organized in the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and Argentina, between May and December 2016.

620. In 2016, UNCTAD continued or started to provide assistance on entrepreneurship policies in the following countries:

(a) *EPF implementation in Cameroon:* UNCTAD has worked closely with the Government of Cameroon, assisting the Ministry of SMEs, Social Economy and Crafts in the identification of key barriers to entrepreneurship development to start a review of the policies currently in place. A mapping of the stakeholders and an assessment of the current ecosystem was conducted by the Ministry and UNCTAD.

(b) *EPF implementation in the Dominican Republic:* In the Dominican Republic, five different working groups finalized the Action Plan of the National Entrepreneurship Strategy by area and created a lobby and pressure groups for reform, constituted in a National Network for Entrepreneurship advocating a new Entrepreneurship Law to be put in place. Subsequently, the Vice-Ministry of Industry, Commerce and SMEs, collaborated with UNCTAD to draft, validate and implement an Action Plan, with the active involvement of the private sector and of academia. UNCTAD also provided further assistance in the simplification of the regulatory system and in the consolidation of a public-private sector alliance for entrepreneurship.

Building on this technical advice, a new entrepreneurship law, integrating inputs by stakeholders' network, was approved in December 2016.

(c) *EPF implementation in Ecuador*: In May 2016, UNCTAD organized a national workshop dedicated to the simplification of the regulatory system and the introduction of e-regulation mechanisms. All stakeholders of the national public-private alliance took part in the elaboration and implementation of the Action Plan 2015-2020, generating synergies among the different entities and mobilizing additional local actors. In November 2016, a public award was organized to recognize the efforts of both public and private sector stakeholders in the implementation of the entrepreneurship action plan in Ecuador.

(d) *EPF implementation in the Gambia*: A two-day entrepreneurship policy workshop, organized by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, in partnership with the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency and UNCTAD, took place in February 2016. The workshop facilitated coordination among focus groups to complete and update the country's National Entrepreneurship Promotion Strategy 2014-2018 and a second workshop in October 2016 validated the strategy. The final policy document will be delivered to the Ministry in 2017.

(e) *EPF implementation and youth entrepreneurship policy in the United Republic of Tanzania*: In May, a two-day regional capacity-building workshop on the development of national youth entrepreneurship frameworks was organized in collaboration with the ILO and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The workshop, which attracted 60 participants from eight Commonwealth East African countries, reviewed and analysed the current state of youth entrepreneurship in the region. The assessment report was the basis for the development and implementation of a national entrepreneurship strategy and action plan under the overall coordination of the National Economic Empowerment Council of the United Republic of Tanzania.

(f) *Regional workshop on youth entrepreneurship policies in South Africa*: Over 50 senior representatives from ministries of labour, youth development, trade and industry of 10 African countries participated in a three-day policy workshop on youth entrepreneurship in South Africa, in November 2016. Organized by UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat, it was hosted by the Government of South Africa. Also in attendance were NGOs, academia and enterprise development incubators. Countries represented included Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Swaziland.

(g) *Regional workshop on entrepreneurship policies in Argentina with a focus on youth*: A three-day regional workshop on youth entrepreneurship policies was also hosted in Argentina in November 2016. 45 speakers from Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, El Salvador, Ecuador and Argentina, and 200 delegates, including from regional organizations such as UN-ECLAC, BID, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Central American Integration System, were present and took active part in the discussions. The event was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Production of Argentina, the Empretec Argentina Foundation and the Entrepreneurship Development Program of the General Sarmiento University of Argentina.

Empretec

621. In 2016, Empretec activities under the installation and consolidation phase continued in Cameroon, the Gambia, and Saudi Arabia. An Empretec pilot workshop was organized in Malaysia, in August 2016. UNCTAD is following up on official requests for Empretec installation from 26 countries, and requests for assistance to revive Empretec in four other countries where some training activities had been conducted in the past.

622. Among the achievements of the Empretec network in 2016, under the guidance of UNCTAD's Enterprise Branch, the following had a particular relevance at the global or country level:

(a) The 2016 Empretec Women in Business Award ceremony, held at UNCTAD XIV in Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) The organization of the third Empretec Global Summit, in Medellín, Colombia, during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress;

(c) A conference on “Entrepreneurship and Migration”, with the participation of Empretec Jordan, during the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Geneva;

(d) The expansion of business linkages projects in Benin, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, with the active involvement of national Empretec counterparts;

(e) The official launch of Empretec in Cameroon by the Secretary General of UNCTAD;

(f) Rapid progress of the entrepreneurship development programme in Ethiopia, also through the certification of a high number of national Empretec trainers and master trainers;

(g) The organization of a pilot Empretec workshop in Costa Rica for poverty eradication and a master class workshop in Geneva for Swiss entrepreneurs.

623. The following section provides some highlights on centres in the installation phase and more details about promising initiatives undertaken by some centres per region or geographic areas.

1. *Empretec in the Middle East*

624. In 2016, the Saudi Arabia Empretec centre worked at enriching the training material with more localized examples of successful entrepreneurs and business cases.

625. In Jordan, 10 workshops took place in 2016, all fully subsidized by participants. The Empretec centre in Jordan (BDC) focused on developing targeted follow-up services to assist small businesses reaching sustainability and profitability. The centre has also been actively looking for funding opportunities particularly on entrepreneurship initiatives for migrants, which is one of the most pressing challenges for both the national government and the international community. BDC successfully organized three workshops for public institutions and conducted youth entrepreneurship workshops in collaboration with universities and colleges.

2. *Empretec country activities in Africa*

626. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency hosts the Empretec centre and provided business support services through its network of 60 advisers, who assisted 800 businesses in 2016. Empretec Gambia has 12 national trainers, who have been certified in August 2016 after training supervised by international trainers from Empretec Ghana.

627. Cameroon inaugurated the centre in a new building hosted in the national Centre de l'artisanat in May 2016. In 2016, six workshops were organized in Douala and Yaoundé. 150 entrepreneurs were trained during the reporting period. In collaboration with the National Agency for SMEs and the Minister of Youth, UNCTAD also trained 24 local trainers in youth entrepreneurship and delivered two pilot workshops in two high schools.

628. UNCTAD's assistance to the Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNDP, continued in 2016 under the country's Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). Further to certification of 39 national trainers, UNCTAD developed a new methodology and organized a workshop on certification of national master trainers, certifying 19 national master trainers. UNCTAD also organized a management workshop to develop local capacity to manage the Empretec national and local centres in the country; developed training materials and conducted a training-of-trainers activity for national trainers for low literate people.

629. In the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, Empretec training continues to be complemented by business linkage efforts. The number of entrepreneurs assisted in 2016 was 362 in the United Republic of Tanzania and 74 in Zambia.

3. *Empretec country activities in Latin America*

630. Conquito, the Empretec Centre in Ecuador, offers entrepreneurship training as an integral part of the services provided by the local metropolitan development agency. Eight workshops took place with the support of international trainers from Argentina. A first business-to-business meeting, gathering 1,000 entrepreneurs, took place in November 2016.

631. In 2016 two Empretec workshops took place in Paraguay in collaboration with Empretec Argentina. The Paraguayan local implementing partner and UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding and officially launched the Empretec programme in the country.

4. *Empretec country activities in the Russian Federation and India*

632. In the Russian Federation, the Alcoa Foundation provided funds for Empretec activities as part of its development programme to improve the quality of lives of local communities. A workshop for the Samara region was organized jointly with the Ministry of Economy of Samara region and the city government of Samara. Another workshop was conducted in the region of Mordovia, in cooperation with the Association on entrepreneurship education and State University of Mordovia.

633. Empretec India organized three Empretec workshops, increasing the total number of trainers to 10.

5. *Empretec global network activities*

634. The XXIII Annual Meeting of Empretec Directors gathered representatives from ten Empretec national centres. Participants shared achievements and updates on activities carried out since the last annual meeting, discussed the harmonization of training materials and were briefed on the outcomes of two impact assessments conducted in Panama and Saudi Arabia. The final sessions provided an overview of upcoming global and regional events, and featured a presentation of a social media platform for entrepreneurs.

635. UNCTAD continued its partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Week in the context of which it organized a conference on Entrepreneurship and Migration in Geneva (November 2016). It also participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Medellín, Colombia (March 2016). The third Empretec Global Summit was held in the context of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress, in Medellín. The Empretec Summit offers new opportunities and incentives for Empretec graduates to internationalize. Some 150 participants attended.

6. *Empretec Women in Business Awards at UNCTAD XIV*

636. The biennial awards honour women from developing countries and transition economies who have founded successful firms, created jobs, and become role models in their communities. The 2016 award ceremony was held in the context of UNCTAD XIV, in July in Nairobi. Women entrepreneurs from Argentina, The Gambia, Viet Nam and Guatemala were honoured. Awards were delivered by the private sector and international organizations helped improving their access to education and resources, and adding to their motivation to grow their enterprises.

Business Linkages

637. The following activities were carried out in 2016:

(a) **Benin.** Building on a mapping exercise carried out in four value chains, a number of activities were launched in 2016: two agreements were concluded with a French hotel chain and a Danish maritime company, with a view to upgrade a group of

selected local suppliers and contractors. In September, a group of 20 suppliers to the hotel chain participated in a sensitization workshop.

(b) Mozambique. In 2016, two Empretec training workshops were held for 34 growth-oriented entrepreneurs in Pemba and Nampula. UNCTAD supported the Enterprise Mozambique Foundation through the development of training materials in Portuguese and the organization of training-of-trainers activities. New partnerships were established with both the University and the Municipality of Nampula with a view to further expand Empretec activities in the region.

(c) United Republic of Tanzania. In 2016, UNCTAD's assistance in the country continued its support to farmers and processors with a view to establish sustainable linkages with the hotel industry and the tourism sector. In 2016, 33 coffee farmers have been trained on Empretec and 100 farmers in Farming-as-a-Business (FaaB). Building on the linkage-building programme with Tanga Fresh Ltd., UNCTAD provided milk suppliers to ASAS Dairies Ltd. and Njombe Milk Factory with two training sessions, in collaboration with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). One FaaB workshop and one Empretec workshop were organized between the end of August and beginning of September 2016 in Iringa for two groups of milk suppliers. Two FaaB workshops were also organized in September 2016 by UNCTAD in collaboration with Darsh Industries, a large tomato processor with factories in Arusha and Iringa. FaaB training materials, originally developed for milk suppliers, were accustomed for coffee growers and tomato farmers, with practical examples and realistic calculations used to influence understanding of farmers on different business concepts.

(d) Zambia. In 2016, UNCTAD and its national implementing partner, the Zambia Development Agency, conducted a number of activities to assist small contractors and material suppliers to link up with large construction companies, under the Zambia Green Jobs Programme. The project assisted 74 MSMEs through entrepreneurial and business management skills training, included by Empretec. Women-owned businesses were prioritized with 25 women trained in collaboration with the Zambia Women in Construction association and WECREATE, a women-focused entrepreneurship support programme. In addition, the project has been working with Lumwana Mining Company and the Zambia Development Agency to enhance the capacity of 20 SMEs in a pilot programme to increase local supplier participation in mining. The project also trained 15 women in environmental competencies in the construction sector. The project has also facilitated trials for the commercial adaptation of an alternative building technology. Kalumbila Town Development Corporation and BlockZ have entered into negotiations for construction of a Habiteria interlock brick demo house to build 700 low-cost housing units by local SMEs.

638. **Results and impact:** UNCTAD's EPF has been rapidly taken up as a reference by several countries, regional commissions and international organizations. Policymakers, researchers, business support organizations and entrepreneurs, have endorsed the Framework and the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Guide, and recognized their value for developing and implementing sound and conducive entrepreneurship strategies. In light of the Sustainable Development Goals, a strong emphasis has been placed on how to address vulnerable groups, in particular women, youth and displaced people.

639. A growing number of requests for assistance were made to UNCTAD in 2016. During the year, field activities aimed at implementing action plans on entrepreneurship began in two Latin American countries, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, while national strategies to foster entrepreneurship have been developed, and in some cases already adopted, in three African countries, the Gambia, Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania.

640. The participation of large number of country delegations to regional workshops on youth entrepreneurship policies in Africa and Latin America is a clear sign of how UNCTAD's tools and the participatory approach are particularly effective in bringing

stakeholders together, promoting dialogue, filling gaps and coordinating the successful implementation of validated action plans.

641. Surveys conducted by Empretec programmes in some countries, confirm the impact that Empretec had on entrepreneurs. For instance, a summary of a recent survey conducted on 165 empretecos, who attended Empretec workshops in Saudi Arabia between 2014-2016 highlighted the positive impact of the training on job creation (+49 per cent on average) and sales growth (over 60 per cent of the enterprises recorded higher sales).

642. According to the most recent impact assessment conducted in Brazil by SEBRAE, the national Empretec centre, behavioural and business performance indicators of over 1,300 Empretec graduates were measured through a countrywide survey. Among the findings, two thirds of participants confirmed that their businesses recorded an increase in turnover, and for one out of eight that increase was between 21 and 30 per cent. In terms of job creation, the increase recorded among the responding enterprises, was 14.5 per cent.

643. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNCTAD's support to farmers affiliated with Hans R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) helped smallholder farmers in the Southern Highlands to improve their overall business acumen, thus contributing to improve their livelihoods and move from a subsistence small farming mind-set to a more entrepreneurial mind-set. During monitoring exercises conducted by independent consultants, it emerged that all cases of additional income are due to farmers behaving more entrepreneurially and seeking additional ways to generate income. As an example, a substantive number of beneficiaries do not exclusively produce coffee but, after the intervention, started to produce beans and maize to benefit from improved market linkage opportunities. In other cases, coffee farmers identified business opportunities in animal keeping or the cultivation of agricultural seeds, which helped diversify and increase incomes (between 50 and 70 per cent).

D4 The Virtual Institute

Table D4

The Virtual Institute

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/6AP	Trust Fund for the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development	2006–	Multi-donor

644. **Development context:** Developing countries often have limited local capacities to undertake economic analysis, formulate and implement national policies in a way that will support them in achieving their development objectives. To build such capacities, academic institutions (universities and research centres) can play an essential role, as they educate future decision-makers and can provide analytical inputs to inform their Governments' economic policy decisions.

645. **Objectives/features:** In this context, the Virtual Institute (Vi), UNCTAD's capacity-building and networking programme for academia, works with academic institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their teaching and research in international trade and development issues, and to increase the policy orientation and relevance of their work.

646. **Outputs:** In 2016, eleven academic institutions from nine countries joined the Vi, extending the reach of the network to 134 universities and research centres from 64 countries, including 15 LDCs. The number of Vi associate members grew to 5,545 government officials, students and members of civil society from 175 countries;

647. The Virtual Institute continued to provide its member institutions with services in three areas: (a) support to teaching, (b) professional development for academics and (c) facilitation of cooperation among the members of its academic network and

dissemination of UNCTAD's research to the academic community. Members were offered a "menu of services" which allowed them to select those Vi services that corresponded to their needs, interests and financial resources. During the period under review, the Vi received financial support from the Government of Finland and the "One United Nations" fund for the United Republic of Tanzania. Some of its activities (such as study tours, fellowships, workshops and some dissemination activities) were also funded or co-funded by the beneficiary institutions.

648. The Vi published two new teaching materials, one on the topic of structural transformation and industrial policy and the other on trade, environment and sustainable development, as well as French and Spanish versions of volume 1 of the Vi teaching material on trade and gender. The Vi also co-published a book with the WTO titled "An Advanced Guide to Trade Policy Analysis: The Structural Gravity Model". Academics from Burundi and Tanzania adapted Vi teaching materials on commodities and competitiveness to their national contexts. Three fellowships at UNCTAD enabled academics to prepare two research papers and develop one new graduate programme. The first research paper is on the link between export performance and household poverty. The second is on the participation of domestic firms in international trade in the case of Senegal. The new graduate programme is on the Sustainable Development Goals. Three mentored research projects generate research papers analysing the links between trade and gender in Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria. Furthermore, four national professional development workshops trained 110 researchers in Chad, Senegal Tanzania and Togo.

649. Two online courses, one on trade and gender, and the other on the economic analysis of non-tariff measures, graduated 134 trade researchers and practitioners from more than 40 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Four new online courses (to be launched in 2017) were developed in 2016, as well as eight multimedia teaching resources. The topics of these courses are: Introduction to Stata for trade analysis; Structural transformation and industrial policy; Climate change and economic development; and Economic analysis of Non-Tariff Measures.

650. There were six study tours and visits which trained 144 students from five countries. Libraries at Vi member institutions were enriched with more than 4,100 UNCTAD research reports and Vi teaching resources. Finally, 14 video-conferences presented UNCTAD's research findings to 593 university students and lecturers from seven countries, and a South-South teaching support brought a professor from Burundi to teach a post-graduate programme in Kenya on the topic of international competition and competitiveness.

651. The Vi online courses and professional development workshops delivered in 2016 equipped nearly 250 academics, government officials and members of civil society with the knowledge and skills needed to analyse and provide policy-relevant advice on the impact of trade and gender, non-tariff measures, commodities, remittances, and industrial policy.

652. **Results:** The Virtual Institute contributed to enhanced teaching and research of trade and development issues at member institutions and increased policy orientation of their work by providing support for the development of both individual and institutional capacities in this area. The multiplier effect of Vi workshops and online courses, fellowships and mentored research projects, videoconferences and study tours, as well as the distribution of UNCTAD publications embedded the organization's research and perspective in graduate programmes at hundreds of universities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Students and trade practitioners in Nepal will benefit from new courses on the Sustainable Development Goals designed through a Vi fellowship, and in Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, graduate programmes will include teaching materials on commodities and competitiveness reflecting their national context.

D5 Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda – paragraph 166

653. **Development context:** The ability of developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to meet global economic and trade challenges depends on their capacity and understanding of key economic issues, as well as the interface among various sectoral policies in line with national development strategies. The need to secure these countries' integration into the globalized world economy can be satisfied only if they build resources, knowledge and skills that will allow them to take ownership of their own development and achieve their development objectives. To that end, under the regular programme of technical cooperation, UNCTAD conducted training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda in accordance with the mandate of the Bangkok Plan of Action adopted at UNCTAD X in 2000. These courses were an UNCTAD-wide activity in which all of its subprogrammes provide sectoral expertise. The courses drew on local resource persons from governmental, research and private-sector institutions, as well as UN regional commissions whenever feasible.

654. **Objectives and features:** The courses on key issues on the international economic agenda, known as Paragraph 166 courses, are delivered by the Policy Capacity Building Section (PCBS), located in the Knowledge Development Branch (KDB) of the Division of Technology and Logistics (DTL). They are delivered in two forms: short courses (half-day) for Geneva-based delegates and three-week regional courses for the five developing regions. The beneficiaries are mainly capital-based economic policymakers at relevant public institutions. Academics, among others, are at times considered, depending on the nominations received from the Permanent Missions to the United Nations based in Geneva.

655. The regional courses are inducted in UNCTAD's mandate and are cross-divisional in terms of content. The curriculum is designed and developed by PCBS of KDB, in collaboration with the experts from various divisions. During the design phase, collaboration is also sought with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and with national experts to ensure coherence among the various themes of the economic policy framework. Ranging from economic theories to trade policy, FDI, among others, the programme focuses on sustainable development as a central theme. In illustrating how economic policies have an impact, the curricula are integrated and showcase the various models of development. Additionally, the curricula in 2016 have been updated, illustrating the formulation of national and international development policies and strategies, which are placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, providing the overall framework for development policies in 2015–2030. The training comprises a number of lectures on economic trade and finance theories and their relevance to policy development, the role of investment and technology, along with detailed case studies and lessons learned from previous policy decisions. It is designed to promote critical thinking, with emphasis placed on policy design, coherence, coordination, implementation and measurement. Central to the course are policy development and simulation exercises, examinations and critiques of best practices in policy development, group work and debates.

656. The overall curricula of the regional course offer a fully integrated and interrelated approach for several substantive topics developed in the research work of UNCTAD. Additionally, it is adapted to each developing region and contributes to knowledge development and the understanding of contemporary economic issues among trade policy officials, finance and investment experts and academics who work in these areas. It generates a curriculum for each region focusing on the development of appropriate trade, finance, investment and innovation policies that are critical to achieve economic gains, which in parallel meets the development objectives of participating countries.

657. Achieving macroeconomic stability, with a sound monetary and fiscal regime, is paramount to the design of and support for development objectives. Mobilizing domestic

sources appropriately, complemented by relevant borrowing, can help promote economic activities and growth. Policymakers are encouraged to consider sound fiscal policies to support such initiatives in a changing global environment. The need to stimulate productive investment, develop local markets and promote diversification will require adopting relevant industrial policies. This also suggests that public investment itself should be targeted towards human capital and infrastructure development. The importance of developing a relevant industrial policy is key to the concept of developing and implementing policies to attract and embed FDI, which can benefit SMEs through business linkages, the development of regional and global value chains and the development of know-how. Science and technology issues that impact innovation in agriculture, energy and other areas and their role in providing value added to products that have domestic and international appeal are also illustrated in the curricula. Remaining competitive, whether in promoting domestic activity or in export-oriented sectors, for example, is crucial to ensure long-term economic growth. The curricula also focus on the importance of logistics to facilitate trade to ensure sustainable exports and imports. Trade negotiations, directly generating benefits from trade and investment and bringing development gains at the multilateral, regional or bilateral levels, are an essential part of the course.

658. In 2016, both face-to-face instruction and distance learning have been delivered as part of UNCTAD regional courses. An e-learning module on the history of UNCTAD was utilized to prepare selected participants ahead of the regional course. The module is divided into four parts, covering comprehensive knowledge on the UNCTAD's history, its three pillars of work and structure, the role of UNCTAD and other international organizations and UNCTAD's achievements and contributions. The module includes quizzes and a final assessment. Selected participants must successfully pass the final assessment as a prerequisite to the face-to-face sessions later scheduled in the respective host countries. This module enhances participants' knowledge on UNCTAD and its mandate, including contributions and achievements.

659. **Outputs:** In 2016, two regional courses were coordinated and delivered for Eastern Europe (Serbia, May-June) and for the Middle East and North Africa (Oman, October). A total of 39 policymakers and academics, from 23 economies, completed the courses. Among all participants, 62 per cent were women.

660. The multi-year venue continues to be an innovative way of raising support, gaining experiences from various economies, and enhancing bilateral cooperation at the country level. The contribution of national experts in shedding light on the national and regional experience is of significance to the programme's curricula in enhancing knowledge and boosting human capital among policymakers. Multi-year venues continue to support this program in all five developing regions for the PCBS/166 programme. They are:

- (a) University of Belgrade, Serbia, UNCTAD courses from 2014 to 2018 for countries with economies in transition;
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Oman, courses from 2012 to 2016 for Arab economies;
- (c) University of Mauritius, courses from 2013 to 2017 for African economies;
- (d) EAFIT University, Medellin, Colombia, courses from 2015 to 2019 for the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (e) Cooperation Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, courses from 2015 to 2019 for Asia and the Pacific economies.

661. Multi-year venues are a key indicator of the support that member States provide to the flagship course, as they reflect that support to the United Nations Secretariat, both in terms of financial and human resources.

662. The short courses continued to update Geneva-based delegates on the most recent research and developments on the international economic agenda, from the UNCTAD lens. In cooperation with several UNCTAD divisions, six short editions were offered in the spring and fall of 2016 on the following:

- (a) Recent development in international trade and in the use of trade policy instruments (12 February);
- (b) The imperative of transforming rural economies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (5 March);
- (c) Trade logistics, transport, trade facilitation and customs automation: Issues and UNCTAD's role (26 September);
- (d) The Trade and Gender Nexus and its Relevance for Inclusive Development (14 October);
- (e) National E-commerce Strategies for Economic Growth and Development (18 November);
- (f) Making Trade Work for Least Developed Countries (16 December).

663. A total of 164 delegates from 134 permanent missions participated in these short courses. Out of the total number, 50 participants or 30 per cent were women. The short courses represent a platform for informed dialogue between UNCTAD's researchers and Geneva-based representatives of member States, creating a virtuous knowledge-sharing circle. For example, UNCTAD experts are given the opportunity to present their recent research to delegates, while the comments and questions from delegates provide relevant input and potential research topics to UNCTAD's work. These sessions are usually well attended

664. **Results and Impacts:** The evaluations of the regional courses continued to illustrate that participants and their sending departments appreciated the debates on development-related topics and the integrated approach of the programme to ensure that economic gains benefit development. This is inherent in the design of the curriculum, which treats development from the multiple perspectives of trade, finance, investment and technology. It highlights that the debates and design and implementation of appropriate economic policies can contribute to growth and the development process in general.

665. Following the completion of the training, the vast majority of participants from the courses in Serbia and Oman indicated that the course provided an improved knowledge on international economic issues and development aspects at the national, regional and international levels. They have deepened understanding of the importance of the role of international trade in improving economic development, including the links between international economic, social and financial issues. The approach to link theory, policy and practice in economic policy development was highly rated. The unique approach that the course offered was also useful for the participants.

666. One participant to the thirty-fourth regional course held in Serbia noted, "This course was a great opportunity for me as a future policy maker and designer for my country because it gave me a good view on trade policies, measures for the region, world and especially my country integrated in the Multilateral Trading System and as an aspiring candidate to EU. Issues such as WTO, Agricultural Transport and Trade logistics, NTMs, CEFTA and others are just ones which deepened my understandings". Another participant to the thirty-fifth regional course held in Oman noted, "This course is a high ranking course that is very interesting and able to train future policy makers like us to better understand connections and interdependence between different policies and their impact on economic growth and development, and also widen knowledge on the economic situation of countries and learn from their experience in applying trade policy."

667. In brief, lessons on trade as an enabler to development and the need to fully assess the overall macroeconomic situation in solving a country's challenges were also mentioned. Many also praised the lessons learned from the experiences of other countries

and how economic gains can be achieved. Most participants expressed that the curricula had surpassed expectations, been helpful and provided overall knowledge on international economic issues and development. They also stated that they learned about global economic issues, why economic changes take place and how economies are impacted. More importantly, how to tackle economic related issues through policy making was well understood. The case studies presented in Serbia and in Oman were particularly helpful to most participants from Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa, who found that the experiences and lessons learned could be adjusted and utilised to improve their countries' economic trajectory, trade policy, institutional framework design and sustainable development.

668. In an assessment of the courses held previously, several participants reported in 2016 that they were already using the knowledge and tools acquired in their daily work, such as improvement of economic policy, trade negotiations, policy formulation, strategic planning, attracting FDI, employment creation as well as providing advisory services. Many also reported a better understanding of the essential role that trade agreements play in trade negotiations. Many also mentioned the linkages among international trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation as key pillars of the development strategy. Additionally, many noted that the knowledge gained helped them achieve a better understanding of contemporary economic issues and how to cope with the challenges of the new multilateral trading system. Several participants indicated improved capacity to employ analytical tools in the decision-making process. Many also cited the important lesson of policy coordination at the national level and its significance in leading to effective policies. Overall, participants appreciated the curricula's role in promoting debate and highlighted the policy development role-playing exercises as an example of how knowledge could be shared among policymakers, both at the national and regional level.

D6 Train for Trade port training programme

Table D6

Train for Trade port training programme

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/4AB	Mise en place d'un projet de renforcement des capacités de formation portuaire pour les pays en développement (Programme Train for Trade)	2004–	Developing country ports
INT/0T/5BS	Cooperation entre l'Autorite Portuaire de Valence (Espagne) et le programme Train for Trade de la CNUCED	2005–	Valencia port authority
INT/0T/7BR	UNCTAD/Train for Trade Port Training Programme for English-Speaking Developing Countries	2007–	Ireland
UR/T/0T/BBM	Delivering as One, Tanzania project	2011–	"One United Nations"

669. **Development Context:** The Train for Trade Port Management Programme (PMP) plays a vital role in supporting port communities in developing countries in quest for efficient and competitive port management. In many developing countries, ports play a key role in connecting them to international trade. Furthermore, 80 per cent of international trade is channelled through ports (this percentage is even higher in LDCs). Hence, the way the maritime sector is organized has a profound impact on trade volumes and transport costs and is therefore decisive for a country's competitiveness. Since the trade and maritime transport sectors are subject to constant regulatory changes, it is paramount that port officials are able to grasp the growing complexities of port management.

670. **Objective/Features:** The PMP brings together public, private and international entities to share expertise and best practices. Talent management and leadership development is a crucial part of the Programme. The PMP operates through three language-based networks (English, French and Spanish) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Programme also hosts the high-end course on “Modern Port Management”, which entails a powerful scheme to induce value-added solutions in port communities and performance measurement indicators.

671. Partnerships have been established with European ports to share their knowledge and expertise with ports in the South. Annual regional meetings bring together port officials from different countries, promoting sharing of experiences and expertise. South-South collaboration between port communities is promoted as it is crucial for knowledge sharing. For example, exchange of participants is encouraged in order to increase participants’ exposure to different port set-ups, as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge.

672. The Programme also offers training of trainer courses and coaching sessions in order to support capacity development of the instructors. The Modern Port Management course targets middle and senior managers and consists of 240 hours of training activities, which are divided into eight modules and delivered over a two-year span. The 8 modules of the Modern Port Management course are:

- (a) International trade and transport;
- (b) Organisation of a port system;
- (c) Functioning of a port system;
- (d) Future challenges to ports;
- (e) Methods and tools of port management;
- (f) Economic and commercial management;
- (g) Administrative and legal management;
- (h) Technical management and human resources development.

673. To obtain the UNCTAD Certificate in Modern Port Management, participants must complete each module and defend a dissertation. Many former participants in the Modern Port Management programme become instructors and therefore take more responsibility at the senior management level, thereby also multiplying the effects of the Programme. Other indicators of the effectiveness of the Programme in the field are the validation of the quality of participant’s dissertation by international and regional port experts, and the relevance of the dissertations (about 150 each year) to improve services in the port community.

674. **Outputs:** The key outputs of the French, English and Spanish Speaking Networks during the reporting period are highlighted below.

675. **French Speaking Network:** In 2016, the French-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo.

676. In 2016 the French-speaking members of the Port Management Programme held final dissertation panels and organized new training cycles of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme in Benin.

(a) A needs assessment mission was conducted in Mauritania, the latest member country of the French-speaking network. Subsequently, a Coaching Workshop was organized in October 2016 in cooperation with PANPA (Port Autonome de Nouakshott dit Port de l’Amitié) and PAN (Port Autonome de Nouadhibou).

(b) The 18th Coordination Meeting of the French-speaking network took place from 4 to 6 April 2016 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. The participating Director Generals and Focal Points of the ports of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Senegal and Togo reviewed the activities of the past year, exchanged best practices, and

agreed on the way forward. A representative from the Port of Pointe Noire, Congo took part as observers.

(c) Training of Trainers Workshop (ToT) covering modules 1-4 was organized from 18-24 June 2016 at the Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire (GPMNSN). The 27 workshop participants (including 10 women) were senior staff members from port communities in Benin (3), Côte d'Ivoire (3), Gabon (1) Guinea (5), Haiti (3) Madagascar (2), Mauritania (1), Senegal (2), and Togo (7). A total of 22 instructors shared their knowledge with the participants. Most of the instructors were from the Port of Nantes Saint-Nazaire (14), Union Maritime Nantes Port (1), Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Nantes Saint-Nazaire (2), Port Autonome de Cotonou (1), Port Autonome d'Abidjan (1) Office des Ports et Rades du Gabon (1), and Autorité Portuaire National-Haïti (1).

(d) In the French-speaking Network, South-South cooperation is an essential element of the programme. In 2016, members of Cameroun, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Togo participated in the Jury in Benin. Instructors from the Port of Abidjan, Cotonou, Libreville and Port-au-Prince contributed to the delivery of the ToT in Nantes.

677. **English Speaking Network:** In 2016, the English-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines. The English-speaking network continued to benefit from financial contributions of Irish Aid and from the collaboration of Irish ports, namely Port of Cork Company, Dublin Port Company, Shannon Foynes and Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Other port/maritime industry entities including terminal operators, logistics companies and cargo handling companies and the University of Cork provided support in-kind by allowing their experts time to deliver in the programme.

678. A Training of Trainers Workshop covering Modules 1 to 4 of the Modern Port Management course was organized from 24 May - 2 June 2016 by Train for Trade and the Dublin Port Company in cooperation with Port of Cork Company, Shannon Foynes Port Company and Belfast Harbour Commissioners in Dublin, Republic of Ireland. The event also benefited from the support of Irish Aid. 32 senior managers (including 11 women) from 10 countries were certified as UNCTAD local instructors. This comprised 1 participant from Bangladesh, 2 participants from Cambodia, 5 participants from member ports in Ghana, 1 participant from India, 3 participants from member ports in Indonesia, 2 participants from Kenya, 2 participants from Malaysia, 1 participant from the Maldives, 4 participants from member ports in Nigeria, and 11 participants from member ports in the Philippines. Equally, there were 6 observers who took part in some of the sessions of the programme being 5 from Philippines and 1 from Somalia. The workshop comprised eight working days. Each day was divided into four 90-minute sessions. On average, a module was completed every two days and obtained the overall satisfaction of 94% and overall average grade of 72%.

679. The English-Speaking network held its International Coordination Meeting in Dublin Port Company (DPC) Port Centre, Dublin, Ireland on 3 June 2016. 49 representatives from the port communities of Africa (Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria) and Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and the Philippines), UNCTAD, the Irish Government, and DPC attended the meeting.

680. **Spanish Speaking Network:** In 2016, the Spanish-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Peru. The Spanish-speaking network benefits from the collaboration of Spanish ports of Valencia and Gijon. The Port Authority of Valencia also gives a financial contribution to the programme.

681. Concrete outputs in 2016 were set out below:

(a) Organization of a Training of Trainers Workshop (modules 5 to 8) of the Modern Port Management course in Gijon, Spain from 18 to 29 April 2016, with the cooperation of the Port Authorities of Gijon and Valencia. 12 port managers (including 5 women) from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Portugal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela participated in the

course. The aim of the course was to prepare the senior managers of the private and public sector for their roles as future instructors to deliver modules 5 to 8 in their port communities.

(b) With the delivery of modules 5 to 8 of the course Modern Port Management for senior and middle port managers of Port Communities, Peru completed the fourth cycle of the course and the Dominican Republic, the second cycle. These modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade). Participants from Peru and the Dominican Republic presented final dissertations to the International Jury of the Train for Trade Network.

(c) The International Coordination Meeting of the Spanish-speaking Network was held in the Dominican Republic on 18 October 2016 with the participation of representatives of the member countries, the Spanish Port Authorities of Valencia and UNCTAD. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the results of the cycles and to evaluate the scope of strengthening and expanding the programme.

(d) The first cycle of the Port Management Programme was launched in Argentina and modules 1 and 2 of the Modern Port Management course delivered for 22 seniors and middle port managers (including 5 women) from the public and private sector.

(e) The third International Port Performance Scorecard (PPS3) Workshop in the framework of UNCTAD's Port Management Programme was organized by Train for Trade in cooperation with the Port Authority of Valencia and Irish Aid, in Valencia Spain, from 8 to 11 November 2016. The workshop focused on assessing the data submitted for the period 2015, refined the data definitions and developed the easily accessible metrics for port managers. 31 participants from the English, French, Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Port Networks participated in the workshop representing Angola, Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Ireland, Mauritania, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal and Spain.

(f) Volume 4 of the Modern Port Management series Port Performance, Linking Performance Indicators to Strategic Objectives (UNCTAD/DTL/KDB/2016/1) was published.

682. **Results:** In 2016, a total of 64 courses (capacity building events) were organised for 420 participants coming from 22 countries (including 8 LDCs) of the PMP Networks. One hundred and forty-eight Train for Trade certified trainers contributed to the activities alongside experts from port partners and UNCTAD. The active member ports of the PMP are Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal and Togo. More concrete results of the Train for Trade port management programme were summarized below.

683. **French Speaking Network:** Since the beginning of the French Network, 1262 Port operators have been trained with 24 per cent women which, comparatively with the port industry is a very good score.

(a) At the end of the Coaching Workshop in Nouakchott, participants evaluated the training very positively (satisfaction indicator: 89.25 per cent). The individual test results confirmed that the objectives of the seminar were achieved. Ninety per cent of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the training was useful and the quality of the modules was good. Ninety per cent were satisfied with the teaching materials and stated that the workshop had met its objectives. The first training cycle in Mauritania was launched in January 2017 with 27 participants (four women).

(b) The vast majority of participants of the Training of Trainers Workshop in Nantes considered the organization of training good or very good. Most participants felt that the approach used to teach the modules was effective and that the quality of the training material was good or very good. The content of the modules was evaluated as good or very good by a large majority of participants. Participants particularly enjoyed discussions and exchanges amongst themselves, as well as audio -visual media used (slides, videos, port visit, etc.).

(c) The ToT workshop of Nantes-Saint-Nazaire was evaluated very positively (satisfaction indicator: 89.25%) by its participants in terms of subject matter and depth, teaching method, time allocated and exercises given. All participants trained have to deliver in the next two years' part of the Port Certificate in their respective countries.

684. English Speaking Network:

(a) At the end of the Training of Trainers Workshop in Dublin, Ireland, eighty-four per cent of the participants agreed that the training methodology was effective, ninety-four per cent indicated that the training material was clear and accurate, and ninety-four per cent concluded that the coverage of the course subject was appropriate and that the quality of the written materials (manuals, annexes, etc.) was good. Likewise, ninety-four per cent of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that the depth at which the course explored the different topics was appropriate. Ninety-six per cent of the participants agreed that the teaching objectives were met for all modules.

(b) During the International Coordination Meeting, members agreed, among other important points, to actively seek to promote female participation in events, to enhance the exchange of information on the progress of past beneficiaries of the programme and to further increase activities in South-South cooperation.

685. Spanish Speaking Network:

(a) The instructors trained by Train for Trade in the Training of Trainers workshop participated in the delivery of the modules 5 to 8 of the course on Modern Port Management in Argentina, Peru and the Dominican Republic which clearly shows a multiplier effect in the capacity building process of the member ports. It is also important to highlight that some participants from previous cycles have now reached higher positions of responsibilities in their port communities and they are supporting the programme.

(b) 11 participants from the Dominican Republic and 13 participants from Peru presented their final work and obtained UNCTAD's certificate. The final dissertations aimed to identify a problem in the port community and to propose a feasible solution. Some of these projects are being implemented to improve ports' efficiency.

(c) The International Coordination Meeting concluded with a positive evaluation of the Port Management Programme in terms of the effectiveness, sustainability, South-South cooperation dynamics and impact. The meeting concluded with a work plan for the fifth cycle in Peru, the third cycle in Dominican Republic and the launching of the programme in Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The countries also confirmed their financial contribution for the launching of the new cycles.

(d) Twenty-two participants from Argentina enhanced their knowledge and competences on issues related to international trade and maritime transport, and the organization of a port system. The modules were evaluated by the participants with a 95 per cent satisfaction rate.

(e) The International Port Performance Workshop held in Valencia in November 2016, established the necessary metrics to help port managers assess the performance of the port and to benchmark themselves against reference ports in their regions and globally. The "Valencia PPS3 Memorandum 2016" was adopted at the end of the workshop. It aimed to build greater competitiveness based on higher standards of performance through a sustainable data sharing community. The PPS3 included the data collected from the PPS2 in 2015 held in Ciawi, Indonesia, as a data point and to expand the number of participating ports from the four Networks of the Port Management Programme as well as the Port Partners. Each port representative had the opportunity to present their results and experiences of the process, stakeholders' feedbacks, and contributions to the continuous improvement and development of the metrics and relate the measures to the national and local context. The new web platform for collecting data was also presented to the members and discussions organized by thematic group to refine the indicators and work on the interpretation of the results.

(f) Significant progress has been made since the inception of the Port Management Series in 2012. The Port Management Series of UNCTAD, Train for Trade, volume 4 which was published in English, French and Spanish, served as the basis for capacity building in the field of port performance and strategic planning in ports. The publication comprises the research and methodology that was adopted by the Network, including the steps to produce the port performance indicators. A new platform was also developed by Train for Trade in 2016, running on WordPress and coupled with MySQL and which allows for a user-friendly collection of data and automation of the results. The platform was the culmination of the recommendations from the Network, captured in memorandums from Manila (2014) and Ciawi (2015). These developments came as the number of port entities has increased from 23 in 2014 to 42 in 2016 and with data now covering a 6-year period (2010 to 2015).

D99 OTHERS

Table D99

Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GLO/OT/ABA	Support and capacity building for G77 countries	2010–	China
INT/OT/1AK	Financing of participation of Experts from Developing Countries and Countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD Expert Group Meetings	2001–	Finland, Iceland and Mauritius
INT/OT/BBV	Strengthening SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	2012–	Private sector companies
INT/OT/6AR	TrainForTrade Trust Fund	2006–	Multi-donor

1. Management and coordination

686. The “Trust Funds for the Financing of Expert attending UNCTAD expert meetings” was used to finance the travel of 6 experts from developing countries to enable them to participate in one of the multi-year expert meetings or to the single-year expert meeting held in Geneva in 2016.

2. Knowledge development

2.1. *TrainForTrade: Using information and communications technology to promote knowledge sharing, networking and competence*

687. **Development context:** Many developing countries are lagging behind in trade capacity and international competitiveness. Several constraints affect developing countries’ capacity to utilize the opportunities of trade for economic growth, development and poverty reduction. Lack of knowledge and skills is one of these constraints. Ensuring that trade policies are development-friendly, adapted to local conditions as well as to the global economy, requires access to knowledge, information and trade-related skills and capacities. Train for Trade is addressing these challenges by providing capacity-development frameworks that help facilitate the integration of developing and transition countries into the world economy.

688. **Objective/Features:** Train for Trade uses ICTs as a tool for knowledge-sharing, thereby maximising its number of beneficiaries and helping to reduce costs and CO₂ emissions. T Train for Trade promotes the use of interactive and collaborative learning technologies and is recognized as a key player in developing distance-learning tools by Geneva-based international organisations.

689. In line with the idea of One UN, the Train for Trade programme collaborates on ICTs and Knowledge Sharing with other UN agencies. It also promotes the use of interactive and collaborative learning technologies such as Learning and Content Management Systems, and is recognized as a key player in developing distance-learning tools by Geneva-based international organisations. It continued its cooperation with United Nations Agencies; as an example SDLS expressed its gratitude for the transfer of knowledge and helping to change the teaching process and save money for UNOG/SDLS with this new environment.

690. **Outputs:** Train for Trade continued its collaboration with the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism (CLM), the former Staff Development and Learning Section (SDLS), of the United Nations Office at Geneva in knowledge sharing and by providing hosting services for the Learning and Content Management System (LMS and CMS) which is used by more than 1,000 students each trimester in accessing course materials and technical support services. Thus, in culmination of technical know-how shared over the several years, the team helped SDLS to migrate and manage their platform and e-learning courses independently with occasional support. Likewise the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also took over their platform, hosting and managing it independently during 2016. Train for Trade has contributed efficiently to those two organisations during many years to impart the knowledge and skills to run on-line courses with trained human resources to run it.

691. In the context of the United Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) 14th Session organised in Nairobi, Kenya, on 21 July 2016, the Knowledge Development Branch (KDB) of UNCTAD's Division on Technology and Logistics organised a Side Event entitled: "E-learning: Leapfrogging Skills Development - Innovative knowledge for inclusive and sustainable development. Bridging the trade capacity gap." The side event partners and speakers include experts from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland; Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Singapore; BRCK Education Kenya; and Google Kenya, Ltd. Presentations and discussions among the participants and panellists culminated in producing the recommendations of the UNCTAD side event which is contained in the UNCTAD publication "E-Learning: Leapfrogging Skills Development." (UNCTAD/DTL/KDB/2016/2)

692. Train for Trade organized a distance learning course on Statistics on International Trade Services in English in collaboration with WTO, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Secretariat and the Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA), Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean region. The main objectives of this course are to raise awareness of Trade in Services' Statistics and its concepts, enhance statisticians' ability to do their work, and to help them better understand the manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services. This course counted 157 participants (66 per cent women) from 31 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

693. **Results/Impact:** The impact of the activities conducted by the TrainForTrade is evaluated at different levels before, during, and after the events relating to technical assistance and advisory services. Needs assessments and fact-findings are conducted in close collaboration with the national stakeholders through different mechanisms that foster national appropriation (e.g. National Steering Committees). During the activities several questionnaires are administered and direct feedback from participants is collected and analysed. After the events other types of benchmarking are being used to measure the level of commitment and participation of the stakeholders in the follow up of the recommendations.

(a) In 2016 Train for Trade delivered two face-to-face and two online courses in interdivisional cooperation, 44,000 hours of national face-to-face workshops and 5 trainings of trainers. A total of 796 trade operators (36 per cent women) from 65 countries, including 23 least developed countries, participated in these courses.

(b) Train for Trade continued collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) on e-learning activities and blended learning for over 300 staffs worldwide, representing 6'000 hours of on-line courses with more than 50 facilitators around the world.

(c) In 2016, Train for Trade saved approximately 200 tonnes of CO₂ by employing its blended -learning approach that utilizes on-line course delivery to maximize the number of beneficiaries while reducing training costs and the requisite travel.

(d) The Statistics on International Trade in Services distance learning course was finalized and validated by 157 participants who received UNCTAD's certificate. All the participants evaluated the course positively and encouraged UNCTAD to continue with the delivery of distance learning courses. In view of the positive assessment, WTO, ACS, SELA and SIECA are willing to continue the collaboration with Train for Trade for future courses.
