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**Trade and Development Board
Working Party on the Strategic Framework
and the Programme Budget**

Seventy-seventh session

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the draft UNCTAD programme plan
and performance information for the year 2020
(part II of the proposed programme budget)**

**Draft UNCTAD programme plan and
performance information for the year 2020
(part II of the proposed programme budget)***

* This note has not been formally edited.

Contents

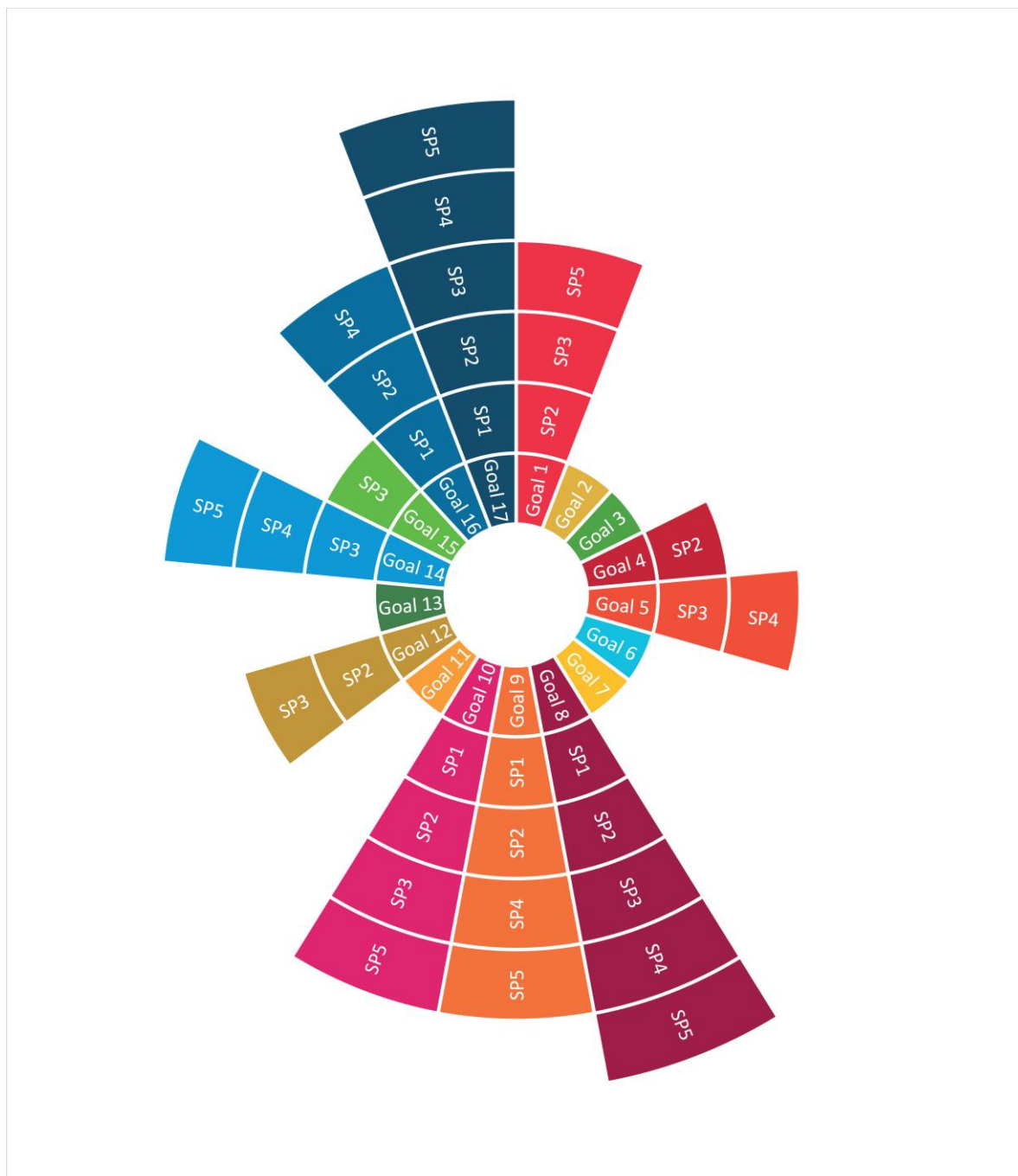
| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| I. Overall orientation | 3 |
| II. Subprogramme 1. Globalization, interdependence and development | 8 |
| III. Subprogramme 2. Investment and enterprise | 14 |
| IV. Subprogramme 3. International trade and commodities..... | 21 |
| V. Subprogramme 4. Technology and logistics | 29 |
| VI. Subprogramme 5. Africa, least developed countries and special programmes | 37 |

I. Overall orientation

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is responsible for assisting developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. UNCTAD was established to promote an inclusive global economy, through informing national and international policies, while giving priority consideration for the needs and interests of developing countries. This would lead to better standards of life and create a better and more effective system of international economic cooperation whereby the division of the world into areas of poverty and plenty may be banished and prosperity achieved by all. (para 8 Maafilekiano). In accordance with the Nairobi Maafilekiano: The important role of UNCTAD will be strengthened as the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including the quadrennial sessions of UNCTAD in particular the principal functions of the Conference outlined in Part II, article 3 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX). Through its work to promote development-centred globalization, UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including poverty eradication, improving the well-being of citizens, and addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization.

2. The mandates of the programme on trade and development guide the subprogrammes in formulating the respective deliverables, which contribute to the attainment of each subprogramme's objective. The objectives of the subprogrammes are aligned with the Organization's purposes to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends, as stipulated in article 1 of the United Nations Charter. UNCTAD will give due account to cross-cutting issues such as good governance at all levels, freedom, peace and security, respect for human rights, including the right to development, gender equality and women's empowerment, youth and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies, which are essential to all countries to attain sustainable and equitable growth and development. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, and for the programme on trade and development, these purposes are embodied by a number of Sustainable Development Goals. In identifying the alignment of the programme with the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs more directly relevant to the mandate of UNCTAD were chosen, for instance SDGs 8 and 17, with subsequent additions based on the relevance to specific deliverables under each subprogramme. The figure below summarizes the specific Sustainable Development Goals that the objectives, and therefore the deliverables, of the respective subprogrammes are aligned with.

UNCTAD: Alignment of subprogrammes with Sustainable Development Goals



Abbreviation: SP, subprogramme.

3. The objective of the subprogrammes are also aligned with other relevant conferences, including the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the outcomes and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). UNCTAD will also promote further implementation of ministerial declarations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

A. Recent developments

4. Trade protectionism has posed increasing challenges to multilateralism in recent years. Automation, austerity policies and gender exclusion pose further threats to the development prospects of developing countries. As sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD has a key role to play in the United Nations system in building consensus around a more development-centred globalization, and moving towards a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable global economic environment.

5. Moreover, as many development challenges are closely interconnected, UNCTAD contributes to effective responses to these challenges through the integrated treatment of trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development to support the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda.

B. New mandates, strategy and external factors for 2020

6. Supporting multilateralism for trade and development, building productive capacity in developing countries, advancing structural transformation and mobilizing financing for the 2030 Agenda are key policy objectives, which developing countries rely on for UNCTAD support at this challenging time. To achieve these objectives, UNCTAD intends to prioritize the definition of holistic approaches to the support provided to beneficiaries, through the delivery of more interdivisional products drawing from the capacities under all its subprogrammes in relation to productive capacities, technology and the digital gap, macroeconomic issues, financing for development and illicit financial flows. UNCTAD will centre its approach around, helping developing countries and partners alike to think outside the box and move forward the smart partnerships and new ways of work that are needed to revitalize globalization for development. From its side, UNCTAD will also seek to innovate and maximize its resources, for instance by exploring the interlinkages between trade, technology and investment, rather than looking at these issues in isolation. In thinking outside the box, UNCTAD also intends to continue the engagement of the youth in its main areas of work. The youth bring a fresh perspective to the work of UNCTAD through their engagement and in return are exposed to training and networking opportunities for their future.

7. In preparation for the end of the quadrennial cycle in 2020, the UNCTAD secretariat will focus its efforts on the parts of the mandate that are not yet on track for completion in the quadrennium, as identified by the deliberations of the midterm review, which took place in October 2018. The Secretariat will particularly strive to ensure implementation of mandates reinforced by the Nairobi Maafikiano for which resources proved to be insufficient. The fifteenth quadrennial conference of UNCTAD, which will be held in 2020, will be an important moment for member States to come together to discuss recent developments and long-term trends in the area of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and to take stock of the achievements, and the shortfalls, of the first four years of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. With the Istanbul Programme of Action near completion, although the external environment continues to hold back the doubling of exports of the least developed countries, the pace of momentum towards graduation and beyond has become a shared mantra of the international community. By 2020, in just four years since eTrade for All was first proposed at the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, nearly every least developed country, as well as a growing number of middle income countries, will have assessed their eTrade readiness. eTrade and the work on the digital economy in general illustrate the new cross-cutting and interdivisional approach being tested, for instance delivered through the interdivisional effort for the Africa eCommerce Week held in Nairobi in 2018 or through the plans for an interdivisional delivery of the 2019 Intergovernmental Group of Experts on eCommerce and the Digital Economy. More generally, UNCTAD has also established mechanisms for coordination and joint quality assurance for its statistical work.

8. The overall programme plan for 2020, as further detailed under each of the subprogrammes, is based on a number of planning assumptions.

(a) The fifteenth session of UNCTAD will also guide the programme of work, including through any new priorities and deliverables;

(b) UNCTAD will operate on the assumption of availability of up-to-date and accurate economic and financial information and data at the country and regional levels and that cooperation with relevant entities on the production of key statistics is continued;

(c) The continued availability of extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation programmes, the continued political will to achieve consensus in intergovernmental meetings, and the existence of conditions and capacities in member States to adopt and implement policies and strategies, are all key enablers for the achievement of the objectives set out under the various subprogrammes.

(d) This programme plan was prepared through an iterative approach, combining top-down priority setting and a bottom-up lead from the Divisions responsible for each subprogramme. In the process, one of the main underlying assumptions was that the resources would be at a similar level and internal distribution as compared to the previous budget cycle. This means that any targeted reductions would need to be implemented without programmatic implications.

9. UNCTAD will continue to integrate a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, for subprogramme 3 the planned result for 2020 combines deliverables from the research and analysis and technical cooperation pillars in order to help women cross-border traders to formalize, scale up and diversify their businesses. Efforts are being made across all subprogrammes through an internal statistics coordination task force to enhance the availability and quality of gender-disaggregated statistics. Throughout its programme of work, UNCTAD will seek to explore the nexus between gender on the one hand, and technology and innovation on the other, as one defining factor for gender empowerment. Gender mainstreaming is considered a cross-cutting issue of relevance to all UNCTAD subprogrammes in line with UNCTAD mandates and internal guidance of the Secretariat. These efforts will be accompanied by the development of corresponding measurement tools and mechanisms.

10. With regard to cooperation with other entities, UNCTAD has concluded agreements with an array of international organizations and international non-governmental organizations to enhance common approaches and synergies in various areas of work. One of the main objectives of cooperation with other entities is the combination of UNCTAD expertise with the reach and presence of partner entities in order to maximize the impact provided to beneficiaries. UNCTAD has also developed mechanisms to enhance its partnerships with the private sector, in particular by defining due diligence guidelines. Notably, at this difficult moment for multilateralism and a challenging external economic environment, in 2018, the UNCTAD World Investment Forum convened more than 6,000 investment-development stakeholders from 186 countries, including 11 Heads of State, over 50 ministers and 70 parliamentarians, to forge closer partnership with the private sector in pursuit of investment in sustainable development.

11. With regard to interagency coordination and liaison, through its participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subordinate committees, UNCTAD contributes to ongoing reform initiatives and system-wide efforts to make progress with regard to working together. This includes contributing to a more impactful United Nations development system response to the challenges encountered in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UNCTAD has notably taken a lead role in implementing the repositioning of the United Nations development system, co-chairing the Strategic Results Group of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to ensure that Sustainable Development Goal financing expertise plays a greater role in the United Nations activities at country level and in the next generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in line with the financing strategy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UNCTAD also continues to lead the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in delivering operational activities “as one” at the country level, in collaboration with 14 other entities. Joint and transparent programme delivery, the rationalization of country presence and coordination of country planning and funding arrangements are elements of the development reform that seek to provide a maximum

alignment between the work of agencies and beneficiary priorities. UNCTAD aligns itself with this intended result, while at the same time seeking to maximize the impact of its expertise through cooperation with agencies with stronger presence on the ground and larger resource bases.

12. As one of the five major institutional stakeholders of the financing for development follow-up process, UNCTAD plays a lead role in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development follow-up, contributing to the deliberations of the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, as well as contributing to the Inter-Agency Task Team on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In addition, UNCTAD is a key contributor to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators, supporting monitoring and follow-up to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

C. Evaluation activities

13. The following evaluations and self-evaluations completed in 2018 have guided the programme plan for 2020:

- (a) Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of UNCTAD;
- (b) External in-depth evaluation of subprogramme 5 on Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, project evaluations of the following:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States;
 - (iii) Strengthening the capacity of members of the Economic Community of Central African States to enhance development linkages from the mineral resources sector;
 - (iv) Support developing country policymakers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks;
 - (v) Strengthening the capacities of developing country policymakers and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development.

14. The findings of the evaluations referenced under paragraph 13 (a) and (b) above have been taken into account for the programme plan for 2020 of all subprogrammes.

15. The following evaluations and self-evaluations are planned for 2020: There will be no external in-depth evaluation in 2020 as this is the year of the fifteenth quadrennial session of UNCTAD. The evaluation plan will include all six United Nations Development Account projects set to conclude in 2019–2020, in addition to a mid-term evaluation of the European Union–UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola (Train for Trade II), self-evaluations of two projects relating to the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), and one relating to the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) 6 programme in the Philippines.



II. Subprogramme 1 Globalization, interdependence and development

A. Objective

16. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance economic policies, rules and strategies at the global, regional and national levels for sustained growth and inclusive and sustainable economic development of developing countries.

B. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

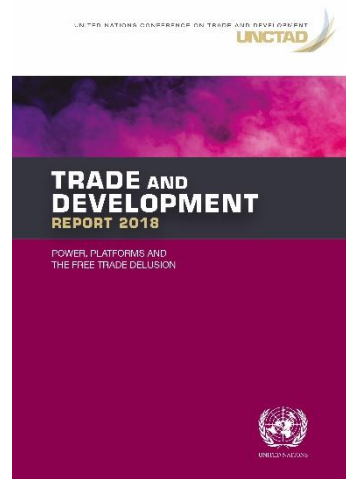
17. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

C. Highlighted actual result in 2018

Several developing countries re-examine their digital policies thanks to the *Trade and Development Report 2018*

From 2015 to 2018 there has been an increasing need to adapt multilateralism to delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Within that wider context, goals, targets and indicators have been at the centre of the discussion during most of that period. However, a narrative that can link those indicators of success to policy measures, institutional reforms and, critically, resource mobilization, has remained elusive. Under subprogramme 1, UNCTAD responded to that need and started to build such a narrative around the idea of a “global new deal” as a framework for addressing the multi-dimensional problems of inequality, exclusion, instability and fragility of the global economy. These problems cannot be considered simply as an inevitable by-product of technological changes or the spread of global market forces, but rather as resulting from policy decisions and omissions, along with the rollback of regulations and the decay of representative institutions.

In 2018, the *Trade and Development Report 2018: Power, Platforms and the Free Trade Delusion* extended this narrative to address these problems in relation to the international trading system, the emerging digital economy and the problem of linking infrastructure and structural transformation. The Report proposed concrete ways for developing countries to address these issues, and in particular, some innovative ways of dealing with problems of asymmetric power of large digital firms.



The importance of policy space for building the digital economy in developing countries, and of devising national digital regulatory policies has been highlighted. The findings of the report were widely reported in the media, including in the world's leading newspapers such as the *Financial Times*, *Le Monde* and *El País*.

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is policymakers' improved understanding of the global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustained development. Evidence of the result includes discussions of the findings and policy recommendations of the Report that were undertaken at the ministerial level and in some cases at Head-of-Government level. So far, this has been the case in several leading developing countries grappling with the challenges of the digital economy, for example Ethiopia, India, Malaysia and South Africa. It has also resulted in concrete policy changes in some of these countries.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme of enhancing economic policies and strategies at the global, regional and national levels for sustained growth and inclusive and sustainable economic development of developing countries. As such, it also improves the likelihood of developing countries achieving the 2030 Agenda.

18. The planned result for 2018, Enhanced understanding of the interplay between successful domestic and international resource mobilization for development, debt sustainability and of the policy choices for a durable solution to financing for development challenges and to the debt problems of developing countries, referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the number of institutions and countries having used the capacity-building services of the DMFAS programme. In 2018, 39 countries used the capacity-building services of DMFAS, which is more than half of the target for the whole biennium (68). This is especially important at a time when the number of countries in debt distress is growing and interest rates are bound to increase further.

D. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Improving prospects for a reduction of illicit financial flows (Sustainable Development Goal 16.4) in selected African countries

In 2018, under subprogramme 1, UNCTAD started analysing more systematically the problem of measuring illicit financial flows. These flows constitute a significant drain on vital and scarce development resources in many developing economies. By diverting resources from social spending and productive investment, they pose a direct threat to sustainable and inclusive development. They could also weaken political and institutional legitimacy and adversely affect overall economic activity. These risks have been recognized in the 2030 Agenda, with the reduction of illicit financial flows listed explicitly as a target (16.4) of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

The challenge was that little has been known about the magnitude and the channels of illicit financial flows. Although some estimates have been proposed in the literature, there is still no agreed definition or measurement methodology for these flows. This is problematic from a policy perspective because such information would allow policymakers from developing countries to gain knowledge on the size of illicit financial flows, their origins and channels, as well as obtain evidence for a targeted and effective policies for curbing these flows.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme is planning as a major deliverable to develop a methodology for estimating illicit financial flows. As co-custodian of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Commission for Africa, is working under subprogramme 1 to define, estimate and disseminate statistics on illicit financial flows in the context of developing economies in Africa, some of the economies most affected by this

developmental challenge. Through a series of implementation guidelines, pilot activities and technical assistance, by 2020 UNCTAD will have developed the capacity to measure illicit financial flows in several participating countries in Africa.

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is the capacity to more accurately estimate illicit financial flows in participating countries. The lessons learned will inform the national monitoring of illicit financial flows, including through Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1, and will guide policy actions in affected countries to curb these flows. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will be the inclusion of the new methodology in the official balance of payments statistics of the participating countries, as shown in the following table:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|--|---|
| Absence of methodology and reliable statistics on illicit financial flows | Establishment of methodology for measuring illicit financial flows | Inclusion of the new methodology in the balance of payments statistics of participating African countries |

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme of enhancing economic policies and strategies at the global, regional and national levels for sustained growth and inclusive and sustainable economic development of developing countries. As such, it would also increase the likelihood of developing countries achieving the 2030 Agenda.

19. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

E. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

20. Table 1 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the aforementioned objective.

Table 1
Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Quantified deliverable:

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Parliamentary documentation (number of documents) | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. Reports for the General Assembly, including on external debt sustainability and development, South–South cooperation, assistance to the Palestinian people, the economic cost of occupation to the Palestinian people, and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 2. Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including on financing for development issues, on UNCTAD | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| assistance to the Palestinian people and the Overview of the <i>Trade and Development Report</i> | | | | |
| 4. Reports for the Trade and Development Commission and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Reports for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings) | 20 | 18 | 32 | 43 |
| 1. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 2. Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings | 0 | 0 | 6 | 25 |
| 3. Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 4. Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Meetings of the Trade and Development Commission and related multi-year expert meetings | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 6. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. Debt Management Conference | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge: | | | | |
| Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects) | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| 1. Project on enhancing the public, private and/or international capacity related to the assistance to the Palestinian People | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Project on trade in services development for the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Project on development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Projects on installation, update and maintenance of the DMFAS programme | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 5. Project on measuring illicit capital flows in sub-Saharan Africa (jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Commission for Africa) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 126 | 128 | 126 | 126 |
| 1. Seminars and workshops for policymakers, including on formulating development strategies and policy recommendations; sovereign borrowing and lending; globalization, trade and development | 30 | 32 | 30 | 30 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Ad hoc expert discussions, including on inclusive growth and Sustainable Development Goals; the interdependence between trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 3. DMFAS training courses for administrators and debt auditors from selected countries in recording debt data, reporting, debt statistics, debt analysis and debt auditing | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Publications (number of publications) | 9 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. <i>Trade and Development Report</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. UNCTAD <i>Handbook of Statistics</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. UNCTAD <i>Sustainable Development Goal Monitor</i> | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 5. Studies, including on external debt; developing country financial crises; international financial architecture; Palestinian economic development; South–South cooperation and regional integration | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 1. Policy and statistical briefs on macroeconomic, development, financing and debt, structural transformation and South–South cooperation issues | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 2. Chapters on debt and debt sustainability and addressing systemic issues of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Economic and maritime statistical country profiles | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. DMFAS documentation and software | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 5. Training materials on debt management | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 6. Non-quantified deliverables | | | | |
| C. Substantive deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to policymakers, including on domestic resource mobilization, structural transformation, growth policy (Group of 20), debt renegotiation at the Paris Club, financial instability, debt sustainability and statistical capacity in the area of trade and development • Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD Financial Database; World Economic Macromodellers database; UNCTAD statistical Data Centre; Financial Stress and Debt Sustainability Indicators. | | | | |
| D. Communication deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures and presentations on external debt, development finance, and macroeconomic and development policy issues; e-newsletters and brochures on DMFAS and the Virtual Institute. | | | | |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

- **External and media relations:** press releases; press conferences and interviews, including on developing country debt and external financing; South–South cooperation and regional integration; assistance to the Palestinian people.
- **Digital platforms and multimedia content:** DMFAS; Virtual Institute; Untasted.

Note: The list of deliverables in the final programme plan and performance information document will be presented in summarized form. The detailed presentation contained here is meant to facilitate consideration at the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party.

F. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variations between the actual and planned figures in 2018

21. The variance in substantive services for meetings was driven mainly by meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board, owing to the new format of the Board.

22. The variance in publications was driven mainly by the UNCTAD *Sustainable Development Goal Monitor*, owing to difficulties in conceptualizing this new publication.

Variations between the planned figures for 2019 and 2020

23. The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven by the fifteenth session of UNCTAD and the Debt Management Conference, owing to the frequency of the events, every four years for the former and every two years for the latter.

24. The variance in publications is driven mainly by *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures*, owing to its publication solely as a document accompanying the UNCTAD quadrennial conference, every four years.



III. Subprogramme 2 Investment and enterprise

A. Objective

25. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for productive capacity-building, economic diversification, job creation and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

26. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development). Investment is a cross-cutting issue for all Sustainable Development Goals.

C. Highlighted actual result in 2018

Member States are better equipped to deal with challenges posed by the new era of globalization and industrialization

In 2018, action was taken in support of member States to address the global challenges for international investment in the new era of globalization and industrialization. Indeed, investment can play a key role for countries engaging with – and benefiting from – the fourth industrial revolution. This revolution also poses unprecedented challenges to investment policymaking. Research work published in the *World Investment Report 2018* examined the challenges that countries face in adapting their investment policies to the new industrial revolution and presented policy options to make both industrial policies and investment policies work for sustainable development.

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the improved capacity of member States to address challenges posed by new era of globalization and industrialization. The report informed discussions at the highest level of policymaking during the 2018 World Investment Forum. The Forum – with more than 70 sessions – convened an unprecedented number and range of participants. This demonstrates that the Forum is an effective and impactful platform for mobilizing all investment stakeholders worldwide to channel global financing resources to Sustainable Development Goal-related sectors and ensure its developmental impact. As shown by the Forum outcome document, this resulted in concrete engagements from all players from the financing-for-development sphere to foster investment and entrepreneurial activities for sustainable development. The result confirms the Forum as an essential part of the strategy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for financing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Evidence of the result is included in the final declaration of the 2018 World Investment Forum. Already, more than 130 member States use UNCTAD's investment and enterprise policy frameworks to modernize their national and international investment and enterprise development strategies to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals. The results of a survey conducted after the Forum further confirms the value of this work, demonstrating progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the programme: Over 88 per cent of nearly 1,000 respondents to a survey conducted in the aftermath of the event said that the Forum made a valuable contribution to the 2030 Agenda, including by proposing how countries can design and implement strategies and policies to attract and benefit from investment, by presenting solutions for investment policy priorities, and by suggesting how funds and financing can be mobilized for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.



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World Investment Forum 2018

27. The planned result for 2018, enhanced ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in designing and implementing strategies and policies to attract investment and enhance its contribution to inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals, referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the fact that 32 countries recorded improved investment-related performance following UNCTAD assistance (as measured by an increase in the average inflows of foreign direct investment between 2008–2012 and 2013–2017). Some of the countries assisted recorded a significant rise. For instance, such inflows increased by more than 100 per cent in Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo and Ethiopia while it grew by about 90 per cent in Bangladesh and 55 per cent in Mozambique. In countries where the impact of an investment policy review was assessed through an implementation report, inflows of foreign direct investment also increased sharply. This is the case for instance in Ghana, Rwanda or Zambia with an average increase of 206 per cent (for more detail, see *Investment Policy Review: Implementation Reports – Lessons Learned* (UNCTAD/DIAE/IPB/2018/3)).

D. Highlighted planned result for 2020

A favourable and enabling environment for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2018, as determined by the outcomes of the World Investment Forum, the ninth session of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and the observation from field work, countries with formidable investment needs often lack the institutional capacity to catalyse foreign investment in support of sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goal-related sectors.

The challenge was to effectively disseminate priority policies for Sustainable Development Goal investment promotion, promote institutional capacity-building and adoption of relevant tools for investment promotion and facilitation, and a conducive investment climate.

In response, for 2020, building on its action plan for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals (a set of priority actions that could constitute a significant big push for the Sustainable Development Goals), as well as on subsequently developed assistance to member States, the subprogramme will help countries create a favourable and enabling investment environment. Deliverables will include consensus-building advisory work, technical assistance and further technical development of the six UNCTAD policy frameworks on investment and enterprise for development and in particular, the action menu on investing in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is a shift in investment policy making towards sustainable development as a result of broader awareness among policymakers of strategies and tools available to promote and facilitate investment in Sustainable Development Goal sectors. This will materialize in new investment promotion strategies, an investment promotion agency focus on the preparation and marketing of pipelines of bankable Goals-related projects, the development of new partnerships, the reorientation of investment incentives and investment guarantees to support Goals-related investment, regional cooperation in infrastructure development and the development of industrial clusters, innovative financing and the reorientation of financial markets, and changes in the global business mindset.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the widespread adoption of key tools and strategies, combined with the requisite institutional capacity for effective implementation, to be measured by the take-up and usage of UNCTAD's tools and the implementation rate of UNCTAD's recommendations, as shown in the following table:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|---|--|
| Gaps in awareness, understanding and implementation capacity among policymakers and investment practitioners on investment policies and instruments to attract investment in Sustainable Development Goal-relevant sectors | Further development and promotion, including through dissemination and capacity-building, of frameworks and tools on how to attract investment in Sustainable Development Goal-relevant sectors | Eighty per cent of beneficiaries from UNCTAD assistance reporting on successful recommendations, strategies and policies aiming at attracting investment in Sustainable Development Goal sectors |

The expected result in terms of promotion of investment in the Sustainable Development Goals would also be evidenced by meeting or exceeding a target of 80 per cent of beneficiaries from subprogramme 2 work reporting on successful strategies, policies and

recommendations aimed at attracting investment in Sustainable Development Goal-sectors and activities.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.

28. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

E. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

29. Table 2 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the aforementioned objective.

Table 2

Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Quantified deliverable: | | | | |
| A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: | | | | |
| Parliamentary documentation (number of documents) | 8 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 1. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2. Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board on investment for development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Reports for the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and for related expert meetings | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. Reports for the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings) | 40 | 44 | 28 | 68 |
| 1. Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings | 0 | 0 | 4 | 24 |
| 2. Meetings of the Trade and Development Board | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Meetings of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and related expert meetings | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 5. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 6. Meetings of the World Investment Forum | 16 | 20 | 0 | 20 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge: | | | | |
| Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects) | 52 | 52 | 50 | 52 |
| 1. Projects on regional investment issues analysis | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 2. Projects on investment policy reviews | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 3. Projects on international investment agreements | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 4. Projects on investment promotion | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 5. Projects on investment guides | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 6. Projects on business facilitation | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 7. Projects on enterprise development and business linkages | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 8. Empretec projects | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 9. Projects on accounting and reporting | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 10. Projects on the contribution of foreign investment to inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| 1. Seminars on foreign direct investment, its development dimension and the theme of the <i>World Investment Report</i> | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 2. Training workshops on best practice in national and international policies related to investment | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 3. National workshops on investment policy reviews and follow-up | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 4. Training workshops on international investment statistics and survey methodologies | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 5. Ad hoc expert discussions on key issues relating to foreign direct investment | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 6. Training workshops on investment promotion and facilitation for policymakers, investment promotion officials and diplomats | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 7. Training workshop on the negotiation, implementation and reform of international investment agreements | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 8. Ad hoc expert discussions on investment policies for sustainable development | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 9. Training workshops on intellectual property for development | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 10. Training workshops on enterprise development policies | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| 11. Training seminars on accounting and sustainability reporting | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 12. Workshops and seminars on responsible investment issues | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 13. Ad hoc expert discussions on enterprise competitiveness issues | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Publications (number of publications) | 25 | 25 | 24 | 25 |
| 1. <i>World Investment Report</i> and its overview | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Publications on investment issues for development, including the <i>Transnational Corporation Journal</i> , best practices and lessons learned in foreign direct investment in least developed countries, global investment trends monitors, responsible investment | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 3. Publications on investment policies for development, including investment policy reviews, investment policy monitors | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 4. Publications on investment promotion and facilitation | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 5. Publications on enterprise development | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 6. Publications on accounting and reporting, including the annual <i>International Accounting and Reporting Issues Review</i> , series on accounting and reporting | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 7 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| 1. Investment guides | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Reports on measures affecting international investment | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. International investment agreement issues notes | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Policy briefs on intellectual property rights for development | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Training materials on enterprise development and business linkages | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 6. Non-quantified deliverables | | | | |
| C. Substantive deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to developing countries, including on formulating policies to attract foreign direct investment for development; advisory services statistics and analysis on international investment, including on responsible investment; advisory services to governments, including on national policies and international investment agreements and sustainable development, as well as investment promotion and facilitation, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, business facilitation, and accounting and reporting standards; advocacy and advisory services to investment promotion agencies and Empretec centres • Databases and substantive digital materials: databases on foreign direct investment and the activities of MNEs, national and international policies, enterprise development | | | | |
| D. Communication deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Standards of Accounting and Reporting update; Empretec newsletter | | | | |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External and media relations: World Investment Network; World Investment Forum Report; booklets; newsflashes • Digital platforms and multimedia content: Global Registration Portal; Investment Policy Hub; and other platforms on investment and enterprise development | | | | |

Note: The list of deliverables in the final programme plan and performance information document will be presented in summarized form. The detailed presentation contained here is meant to facilitate consideration at the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party.

F. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

30. The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven by the World Investment Forum, owing to the increase in the number of specialized ministerial and high-level meetings in the area of investment promotion and facilitation, as well as in the area of responsible investment, in line with paragraphs 55(p), 55(q) and 76(i) of the Nairobi Maafikiano and paragraph 17 of the Nairobi Azimio.

Variances between the planned figures for 2019 and 2020

31. The variance in parliamentary documentation is mainly driven by the report and background documents of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, owing to the four-year cycle of the Conference.

32. The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven by the World Investment Forum, owing to the fifteenth session of UNCTAD and the seventh World Investment Forum being organized in 2020.



IV. Subprogramme 3 International trade and commodities

A. Objective

33. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure that international trade and commodities are an engine for prosperity, inclusiveness and sustainable development for all member States.

B. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

34. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), Goal 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss) and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

C. Highlighted actual result in 2018

Harmful fisheries subsidies are much more than an ocean issue – they compromise our security on land

In 2018, UNCTAD consolidated its position as the leader of the United Nations coalition to end harmful fisheries subsidies, and contributed with concrete proposals to advance an agreement on fisheries subsidies at WTO. The overexploitation of fish stocks is a global challenge. Harmful fisheries subsidies directly contribute to overfishing and overcapacity. Today, nearly, 33.1 per cent of assessed fish stocks are overexploited or depleted. This does not only threaten the whole marine ecosystem; it compromises welfare and life on land. Fish is critical for food security, for it represent 40 per cent of protein intake of the global population. And the sustainability of fisheries is essential to the livelihoods of billions of people in coastal communities around the world, especially in developing countries, where 97 per cent of fishermen live.

UNCTAD, in cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group; the Commonwealth; Economic Commission for Europe; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Ocean Institute; and United Nations Environment Programme, organized the second Oceans Forum on Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14, which convened more than 100 member States. The Forum provided a policy-oriented report on options for action by member States and other stakeholders. The recommendations put forward by the Chair of the Forum, the Special Envoy for the Ocean, include the following:

- (a) The necessity to act swiftly and address harmful fisheries subsidies. The existing political momentum needs to be translated into disciplines that are enforceable, practical and acceptable to all Member States;

(b) The largest fishing nations are also the largest subsidizers (UNCTAD) hence fisheries subsidies go beyond the developed-developing country categorization. It is an issue of common responsibility and action;

(c) Gathering data on fisheries subsidies remains a challenge, but it should not prevent Members from pursuing and achieving Goal 14.6. There is an urgent need to compile data on structure, nature and level of subsidization in developed and developing countries alike;

(d) Special and differential treatment for developing countries, especially small island developing States and the least developed countries, and those with low fishing capacity was considered an essential aspect of any WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation outcome. If any subsidy is to be granted for fleet development by a country with low catch capacity, it must be accompanied by effective fisheries management systems;

(e) The involvement of agencies such as UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as scientific advisory bodies that provide technical expertise in the negotiation process and their continued engagement will be essential for monitoring of results and implementation of any potential agreement.

This deliverable contributed to the advancement of Goal 14.6: to end by 2020 harmful fisheries subsidies which contribute to the overexploitation of fish stocks and to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It also, contributed to the implementation of the 2017 WTO ministerial decision on fisheries subsidies, which asserted the will of Member States “to continue to engage constructively in the fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to adopting by the Ministerial Conference in 2019, an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines”.

Evidence of the result is the fact that these recommendations have made it into various proposals by Member States in WTO Negotiations. The negotiations have now on the table a single consolidated non-attributable draft text negotiating what could be the basis for further negotiations and hopefully a comprehensive agreement to be reached before 2020. The Oceans Forum on Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14 constitutes the only open-ended United Nations process where issues can be discussed by all stakeholders. Only Member States can take part in the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.

35. The planned result for 2018, strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit more from the opportunities arising from international trade, referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved. This is evidenced by the target of 70 per cent of stakeholders participating in country-based activities confirming improved capacity to identify and to address gender-specific trade barriers and gender-specific obstacles on the supply side. The interim value of the performance measurement is of 80 per cent, which refers to activities that have been evaluated by stakeholders through questionnaires. About 227 participants from developing countries, the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition took part in the online courses on trade and gender delivered in 2018 (one standard edition for all developing countries and two regional editions for the East African Community and Southern African Development Community groups).

D. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Unleashing the potential of women informal cross-border traders for sustainable livelihood and economic empowerment

In 2018, UNCTAD travelled to Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to hear from nearly 200 women who engage in subsistence living through informal cross-border trade. It is estimated that women make up about 70–80 per cent of informal cross-border traders across sub-Saharan Africa. Based on this, UNCTAD produced a report that analyses the problem and proposes policy recommendations.



Photo credit: © United Nations Multimedia Photo Library

Selling dried fish in an open market

The challenge is that this is an often-overlooked problem with important effects on the welfare of women and their families. The predominance of women in cross-border trade is often a result of constraints on their time and mobility, but also of reduced access to productive and financial resources. Complex trade rules, lengthy clearance processes and weak governance at borders contribute to make informality one of the few options available to women. Trading informally, however, exposes them to several risks, including the confiscation of the merchandise, sexual harassment and abuses. When asked why they took such risks, the most common answer was “children must go to school; we need an income to pay school fees”. UNCTAD found that women traders have limited knowledge of customs rules and trade regimes. “We don’t know the people or even the offices to go to when we arrive at the border”, says a cross-border trader from Chipata, at the border between Zambia and Malawi. Likewise, opportunities for developing entrepreneurial skills are limited. “Educate us to know the trade we are doing... help us to know more about what we should do to improve our business”, says a cross-border trader from Mchinji, central Malawi, nearby Zambia.

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is that more than half of women trained consider switching to formal trade channels and have a good understanding of how to scale up and/or diversify their business. The pilot training programme delivered at six border areas in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia is expected to be replicated in other borders, as shown in the following table:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|---|--|
| Lack of awareness by women informal traders about border procedures, documentation requirements, and rights and obligations, and lack of basic entrepreneurial skills. | The UNCTAD training programme at six border crossings will contribute to increasing awareness by women traders about border procedures, documentation requirements, and rights and obligations, and to increasing knowledge about basic entrepreneurial skills. Customs officers will also benefit from the training on trade rules and procedures. | More than half of the women trained consider switching to formal trade channels and have a good understanding of how to scale up and/or diversify their business. The pilot training programme delivered at six border areas in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia is expected to be replicated in other border posts and possibly in a different region building on its positive results. |

In response, for 2020, UNCTAD will organize a pilot training programme at six border crossings in those three countries starting in 2019.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include, on the one hand, strengthened women traders' awareness about border procedures, documentation requirements, and rights and obligations, and, on the other hand, the necessary entrepreneurial skills to run successful businesses and thrive beyond subsistence levels. The training will also facilitate a dialogue between informal cross-border traders, cross-border trade associations and border authorities.

For 2020, it is expected that more women informal cross-border traders will be able to use formal trade channels and scale up or diversify their business.

The expected result would demonstrate progress towards collective attainment of the objective.

36. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

E. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

37. Table 3 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the aforementioned objective.

Table 3

Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Quantified deliverable:

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:

| Parliamentary documentation (number of documents) | 21 | 18 | 22 | 22 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Reports to the General Assembly on international trade and development, and world commodity trends and prospects | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Reports on trends in trade and on trade regulations and sustainability standards, and ad hoc reports on commodities trends and prospects for the Trade and Development Board | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Background documentation for the Trade and Development Commission and for related expert meetings, including on non-tariff measures and sustainability standards | 8 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 5. Reports of the intergovernmental groups of experts on 10 Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings) | 40 | 32 | 42 | 64 |
| 1. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings | 0 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| 4. Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 6. Meetings of the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings | 23 | 16 | 23 | 23 |
| 7. Meetings of the annual sessions of the intergovernmental groups of experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 8. Annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining and Sustainable Development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge: | | | | |
| Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects) | 18 | 18 | 15 | 21 |
| 1. Capacity-building projects, including on services, trade and inclusive growth; competition and consumer protection laws and policies; sustainability standards; regional and multilateral trading negotiations; and multilateral trading negotiations, boosting intra-African trade, in particular in the least developed countries; and dispute settlement and commercial diplomacy | 10 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| 2. Project on collecting, monitoring, reporting and disseminating data on non-tariff measures | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Projects on generalized and global systems of trade preferences; trade, environment and development; and assistance to commodity-dependent countries in achieving greater diversification and value addition | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| 4. Projects to assist developing countries on accession to the WTO, formulating development-oriented trade policies, and on strengthening the creative economy | | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 199 | 226 | 46 | 124 |
| 1. Seminars for policymakers on the World Integrated Trade Solution, Trade Analysis and Information System, and non-tariff measures; sustainability | 72 | 70 | 24 | 48 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| standards; preferential trading arrangements; WTO accession; services policies and frameworks; emerging development challenges in the international trading system; and trade, international trade negotiations, environment and sustainable development | | | | |
| 2. Capacity-building training on trade policy of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and economies in transition; skills of competition and consumer protection agencies; sustainability standards; and gender and trade | 110 | 145 | 5 | 58 |
| 3. Workshops for supporting commodity dependent developing countries to formulate strategies and policies and harness development gains, and respond to challenges and opportunities of commodity markets | 9 | 3 | 9 | 10 |
| 4. Panel discussion on changing international trade landscape and trade costs | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Panel discussion on challenges and opportunities of international trade for the promotion of sustainable development | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 6. Ad hoc expert discussion on the role of competition law and policy and on consumer protection and policy | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7. Geneva Trade and Development Workshop Series held jointly by UNCTAD, WTO, University of Geneva and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Publications (number of publications) | 27 | 13 | 36 | 31 |
| 1. Publications on trade and sector specific publications | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 2. Publications on trade, multilateralism and the Sustainable Development Goals | 9 | 3 | 13 | 14 |
| 3. Publications on trade trends and policy in the international context | 9 | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| 4. Publications on trade, market efficiency and consumer welfare; publications on competition and consumer protection policy | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. Publications on trade, commodities, economic diversification and value addition | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 14 | 14 | 18 | 19 |
| 1. Reports on UNCTAD work with competition and consumer protection policies and on the Global Commodities Forum | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Handbooks and policy briefs on classification of non-tariff measures, Generalized System of Preferences, and effective competition and/or consumer protection agencies | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 3. <i>Manual on Consumer Protection</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Model law on competition | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5. Materials on competition and consumer protection under the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 6. UNCTAD–WTO–International Trade Centre publication: <i>World Tariff Profiles</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7. Sustainable Development Goal indicators | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8. Chapter on international trade as an engine for development of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 9. Trade-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals Report | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Flagship report of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 11. UNCTAD–Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional commissions reports on World Economic Situation and Prospects | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 12. Training modules on topics in international trade negotiations | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| 13. Non-quantified deliverables | | | | |

C. Substantive deliverables:

- **Consultation, advice and advocacy:** United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards; Global Commodities Forum; Multi-stakeholder meeting on commodities and development; Global Services Forum; Non-tariff Measures Week; Bio Trade Congress; Trade and Gender event; creative economy event; advisory services on trade-related decision-making; advisory services on integration into the global economy and participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements; advisory services on integration of trade concerns into national trade and services policies; advisory services on cooperation and partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development; advisory services on trade and gender; advisory services on developing competition and consumer protection frameworks; advisory services on trade and environment issues and creative economy potential for sustainable development.
- **Databases and substantive digital materials:** World Integrated Trade Solution, Trade Analysis Information System.

D. Communication deliverables:

- **Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:** Lectures for the Virtual Institute; lectures and exhibits on issues related to the work of the subprogramme; newsletters on Generalized System of Preferences and on UNCTAD work on competition and consumer protection; brochures/flyers on trade and gender; on commodity policy research and implementation/projects; booklets and fact sheets related to the work of the subprogramme.

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

- **External and media relations:** Press releases; op-eds.
- **Digital platforms and multimedia content:** proceedings of meetings conducted by the subprogramme; online training course on non-tariff measures; interactive tools related to national competition and consumer protection laws, commercial diplomacy and dispute settlement; electronic version of the model law on competition; teaching package on trade and gender.

Note: The list of deliverables in the final programme plan and performance information document will be presented in summarized form. The detailed presentation contained here is meant to facilitate consideration at the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party.

F. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variations between the actual and planned figures in 2018

38. The variance in substantive services for meetings was driven mainly by the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings, owing to the delay in the decision of the Trade and Development Board on the date and topic of the Commission.

39. The variance in publications was driven mainly by trade, multilateralism and the Sustainable Development Goals, owing to the fact that four publications under this item are in progress and will be launched in 2019.

40. The variance in seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events was driven mainly by capacity-building training deliverables, owing to the fact that the two planned deliverables on trade and gender were completed in 2018. Furthermore, an additional 35 days of training were delivered on trade and gender in 2018.

Variations between the planned figures for 2019 and 2020

41. The variance in substantive services for meetings is mainly driven by the meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings, owing to the four-year cycle of the Conference.

42. The variance in seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events was driven mainly by the seminars for policymakers and the capacity-building training, owing to the fact that most of the workshops and training deliverables planned for 2018–2019 were completed in 2018, leaving a comparatively smaller amount of the planned deliverables for 2019.

43. The variance in publications is driven mainly by trade and sector-specific publications and by trade, commodities, economic diversification and value addition, owing to the fact that six publications are published every two years and will be delivered in 2019.



V. Subprogramme 4 Technology and logistics

A. Objective

44. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to harness innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy, trade logistics, and capacity-building, for inclusive and sustainable trade and development in developing countries.

B. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

45. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

C. Highlighted actual result in 2018

UNCTAD helps Afghanistan modernize its customs

In 2018, as Afghanistan gradually emerged from years of conflicts, the Government of Afghanistan pushed ahead with ambitious reconstruction efforts and modernization of its administration. Modernization of the Afghanistan Customs Department continued to be one of the top priorities of the Government as it became apparent that more efficient and transparent custom procedures were essential to improve national competitiveness and transparency and help kick-start the national economy. The launch of a national development strategy also required higher and predictable levels of domestic fiscal resources, which entailed transparent and effective customs tariff revenue collection mechanisms. The UNCTAD ASYCUDA customs modernization programme was therefore selected as an appropriate solution in 2005 and funded by the World Bank Emergency Customs Modernization and Trade Facilitation Project (ECMTFP, 2005–2010) and Second Customs Reform and Trade Facilitation Project (SCRTFP, 2011–2018).

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is to automate and modernize procedures at customs to accelerate customs clearance and improve tariff collection. The ASYCUDA programme, using the ASYCUDA software developed and implemented by UNCTAD staff, was gradually rolled out in Afghan customs over a period of 13 years. ASYCUDA was rolled out simultaneously with UNCTAD-led trade facilitation reforms implemented with the Ministries of Finance and of Commerce.

Evidence of the result can be found in the fact that by the end of 2018, ASYCUDA system covered more than 90 per cent of international trade in Afghanistan, delivering significant benefits to the country, such as contributing to the increase in customs' annual revenue from \$50 million in 2005 to almost \$1 billion in 2018. Additionally, the implementation of ASYCUDA has spearheaded the re-organization and modernization of customs in Afghanistan. Moreover, the computerization of customs operations has played an

essential role in the consistent and transparent enforcement of customs legislation, regulations and procedures at the national level, leading to eased trade procedures and faster and easier exports and imports, with a positive impact on the Afghan economy. ASYCUDA has also allowed for the implementation of risk management in customs operations, greatly improving transparency. ASYCUDA now provides accurate and timely information to decision-makers, as imports and exports are monitored on a constant basis. As an example of improved customs efficiency, it should be noted that the waiting time for trucks at the major border crossings has decreased significantly. At Torkham, on the border with Pakistan, over 90 per cent of trucks are now cleared in less than 1.5 hours, down from 18 hours in 2003.

Beyond Afghanistan, over 100 developing countries work with UNCTAD to use ASYCUDA to automatize their customs process, thereby greatly contributing to improving the management of customs, raising revenues from tariffs and enhancing their private sector's competitiveness in international trade. The programme has been regularly updated and upgraded over the years and is now developing single window environments, bringing together various stakeholders interacting with customs during import/export procedures.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.



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ASYCUDA training session

46. The planned result for 2018, improved efficiency and sustainability of trade logistics of developing countries and some countries with economies in transition, referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the 22 developing countries and countries with economies in transition increasing the efficiency of their customs administration (for example, through a reduction in goods clearance time and an increase in revenue collection) with assistance from the ASYCUDA programme of UNCTAD. This allowed for shorter clearance times for goods at borders, thereby reducing the cost of doing business and enhancing the competitiveness of beneficiary economies. It also enhanced the tariff revenue collection in beneficiary countries, facilitating domestic resource mobilization in support of national development strategies.

D. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Boosting digital readiness in developing countries

In 2018, in response to the Nairobi Maafikiano, UNCTAD presented a new work programme on e-commerce and the digital economy to strengthen its position as a centre of excellence for supporting developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in harnessing the digital economy for development. The digitalization of the world economy has transformational impacts on all countries. However, given the wide divides between and within countries in terms of digital readiness, the digital shift can result in widening income inequalities. It is therefore high significance for the 2030 Agenda.

The challenges were aligned with the objectives of the new work programme: how to improve decision-making and policy formulation in member States and development partners on e-commerce and digital economy for development, in a gender-sensitive manner; as well as how to improve the efficiency of member States, development partners, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to address issues and provide assistance on e-commerce and the digital economy for development.

The work is implemented along three tracks. The first involves research and analysis to provide a sound basis for policymaking and support consensus-building processes at the global, regional and national levels, through the Digital Economy Report, to be launched in 2019, among other publications. The second involves international policy dialogue, including through the new Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, the UNCTAD E-commerce Week in Geneva, Switzerland, and regional events, such as the Africa E-commerce Week of December 2018, which was co-organized in Nairobi with the African Union and the European Union. In 2019, the new Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be convened. The third track relates to technical assistance and capacity-building to make assistance more transparent and easily accessible, through the eTrade for All initiative (etradeforall.org), including 30 partner organizations.

In response, for 2020, UNCTAD will prepare around a dozen rapid eTrade readiness assessments, and several national e-commerce strategies. More countries will expect assistance in fostering their legal frameworks for e-commerce and in developing their ability to measure and monitor the digital economy. The assessments address the capacity gap to allow for more informed policymaking and a meaningful and inclusive involvement of more countries in relevant dialogues. They provide the least developed countries with up-to date diagnostics of how they are harnessing the potential of the digital revolution for e-commerce, trade and development. Meanwhile, the eTrade for All initiative will help ensure more effective global support to developing countries.

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is enhanced readiness of member States to engage in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the adoption of laws and regulations and the implementation of recommended actions related to e-commerce; improved data availability; as well as actions taken by countries and partners in the implementation and upscaling of programmes and initiatives on e-commerce and the digital economy, as shown in the following table:

| <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Divides between and within countries in terms of digital readiness | Availability of information and tools through a multi-track approach of research and analysis, policy dialogue and technical cooperation | Enhanced readiness of member States to engage in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy |

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.

47. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

E. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

48. Table 4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the aforementioned objective.

Table 4

Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Quantified deliverable: | | | | |
| A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: | | | | |
| Parliamentary documentation (number of documents) | 18 | 19 | 21 | 25 |
| 1. Reports to the General Assembly on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and on science and technology for development | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Reports to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development intergovernmental body and intersessional panels, including one final report (2018) on its Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| 3. Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 4. Background note and reports for the Trade and Development Board | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat, and report for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings on issues related to science, technology and innovation | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 6. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat, and report of the Trade and Development Commission of UNCTAD (contributions), and related expert meetings | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 7. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat for, and report of, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy (reports to the Trade and Development Board) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 8. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat for, and report of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings) | 48 | 50 | 47 | 73 |
| 1. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 2. Meetings of the annual sessions and intersessional expert panels of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including the final meeting (2018) of the Working Group of the Commission on Enhanced | 22 | 22 | 16 | 16 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet | | | | |
| 3. Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings | 0 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| 4. Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 5. Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 6. Meetings of the annual sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings | 7 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| 7. Meetings of the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 9. Working group on measuring digital economy | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 10. Science Technology and Innovation Forum of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge: | | | | |
| Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects) | 30 | 33 | 32 | 32 |
| 1. Projects within Train for Trade capacity-building programme: port management; issues related to trade including e-commerce and statistics; and pedagogical methodology | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 2. Projects (national, regional and interregional) on transport and related services, including ASYCUDA | 22 | 24 | 22 | 22 |
| 3. Projects within programmes on transport, trade facilitation and trade logistics | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Projects within the programme on e-commerce and the digital economy | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 415 | 419 | 514 | 419 |
| 1. Train for Trade training-of-trainers events | 55 | 55 | 60 | 55 |
| 2. Train for Trade national delivery workshops | 260 | 260 | 260 | 260 |
| 3. Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation | 52 | 52 | 128 | 52 |
| 4. Ad hoc expert discussions on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 5. Ad hoc expert discussions on the role of technology (including information and communications technology) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| and innovation in development, including for the operationalization of technology transfer | | | | |
| 6. Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on e-commerce and the digital economy for development, including on information economy statistics, and economic, technical, legal and regulatory aspects e-commerce and the digital economy for development and e-commerce and the digital economy measurement | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 7. Training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda (Paragraph 166), regional and short courses | 25 | 25 | 36 | 25 |
| 8. Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on science, technology and innovation and development | 12 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Publications (number of publications) | 7 | 18 | 27 | 24 |
| 1. UNCTAD <i>Technology and Innovation Report</i> and overview | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2. <i>Digital Economy Report</i> and overview | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. <i>Review of Maritime Transport</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Science, technology and innovation policy reviews | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 5. National e-commerce strategies | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 6. Current studies on science, technology and innovation series | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 7. Studies on transport trade logistics and trade facilitation series | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 8. Reports on cyberlaws | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 9. Train for Trade Port Management series | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Rapid eTrade readiness assessments for the least developed countries and other developing countries | 0 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 8 | 12 | 15 | 14 |
| 1. UNCTAD policy briefs on the following topics: science, technology and innovation; e-commerce and the digital economy; trade logistics | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 2. <i>ASYCUDA World Report</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Year in Review of the eTrade for All initiative | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Technical notes on information and communications technology (including e-commerce and the digital economy) for development | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Technical notes on trade facilitation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 6. Chapter on science, technology, innovation and capacity-building of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 7. Background notes for the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Background notes and presentation for the High-level Committee on Programmes | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Economic and maritime country profiles | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Inputs to the report of the Inter-Agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 11. Report of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 12. Non-quantified deliverables | | | | |
| C. Substantive deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation, advice and advocacy: E-commerce Week; Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; Sessions of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development; advisory services on science, technology and innovation policies for development; advisory services on policy and practical aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy for development; advisory services on measurement of e-commerce and the digital economy; advisory services on transport policies and international legal instruments standards and rules related to the facilitation of international trade, transport, and transport security, for port operators; eTrade for All initiative. • Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD platform for learning and capacity-building, Train for Trade; port performance statistics platform; online repository on national trade facilitation committees; Global Cyberlaw Tracker; online e-learning modules for the course on key issues on the international economic agenda (Paragraph 166); online platform for sustainable freight transport; eTrade for All online platform. | | | | |
| D. Communication deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Newsletters on ASYCUDA, eTrade for All and transport and trade facilitation; brochures, flyers, information kits. • External and media relations: Press releases, press briefings, interviews, press conferences, and news items related to issuance of major publications under this subprogramme, and organization of important events. • Digital platforms and multimedia content: tft.unctad.org public website; Commission on Science and Technology for Development website; ASYCUDA website; Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation website; eTrade for All website; Paragraph 166 website; online platforms for innovation policy learning. | | | | |

Note: The list of deliverables in the final programme plan and performance information document will be presented in summarized form. The detailed presentation contained here is meant to facilitate consideration at the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party.

F. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

49. The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven mainly by the background notes and reports for the Trade and Development Board, owing to the submission of two such documents in 2018.

50. The variance in publications was driven mainly by rapid eTrade readiness assessments, owing to the publication of 11 such assessments in 2018 in response to the Nairobi Maafikiano mandate to strengthen UNCTAD work on e-commerce and the digital economy.

51. The variance in technical materials was driven by UNCTAD policy briefs, owing to the enhanced dissemination of the Organization's research products in response to evaluation findings and recommendations.

Variances between the planned figures for 2019 and 2020

52. The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven by the preparatory reports for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, owing to the four-year cycle of the Conference.

53. The variance in seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events is driven mainly by the events on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation, owing to the uncertainty regarding the continued availability in 2020 of extrabudgetary resources to fund these activities.

54. The variance in publications is driven by deliverables in the areas of science, technology and innovation, cyberlaws and e-trade, owing to uncertainty regarding the continued availability in 2020 of extrabudgetary sources.



VI. Subprogramme 5 Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

A. Objective

55. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to support structural transformation and enhance the integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy.

B. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

56. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

C. Highlighted actual result in 2018

Harnessing the potential of fisheries for export diversification in structurally vulnerable economies

In 2018, research activities were carried out on how to diversify the export and productive structure of the least developed countries and other vulnerable economies, with special emphasis on the fisheries sector. Although the sector holds significant potential for employment and development in the least developed countries, as it is one of the fastest growing industries, it remains informal and dominated by traditional ancestral activities. Consequently, many least developed countries have been unable to fully exploit the potential of fisheries for diversification and economic development. Even though the least developed countries are some of the biggest producers of fish, their share in global exports remains at 2 per cent. Compliance with international public and private standards is one of the most significant barriers to to export for the least developed countries.

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is to support structural transformation in the economies of the least developed countries. UNCTAD identified ways to expand into more productive industrial food processing, through research, workshops and technical training on how to improve compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, in relation to the development of the fisheries sector. These activities, which were formalized in a training manual, formed the basis of a technical cooperation project focusing on diversifying fisheries exports and fostering productive capacity development and structural transformation. Targeted trainings, aimed at disseminating the policy recommendations included in the manual, have been organized to build the capacities of countries in Africa and Asia to diversify their export structure. As a result, UNCTAD and leading research centres in Mauritius and Viet Nam signed a memorandum of understanding, which established two regional centres of excellence that would serve as technical advisory outreach services and

training hubs for fisheries and aquaculture for the least developed countries and other vulnerable economies. The goal of the centres is to enable the least developed countries to better harness the sustainable development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture to structurally transform their economies. The result is evidenced by the recognition by the beneficiary countries in Asia and Africa wanting to pursue this training and cooperation further in a more formal setting. The first regional training course on how best to harness the potential of the fisheries sector for socioeconomic development in the least developed countries was held in November 2018 in the newly established Asian regional Centre of Excellence in Viet Nam. In particular, the course targeted how to build the human, regulatory and institutional capacities needed for meeting international food safety standards.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.



Photo credit: © Nha Trang University, Viet Nam

Signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding Viet Nam

57. The planned result for 2018, greater awareness of and dialogue on policy options to promote the economic development of Africa, referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the number of member States reporting increased capacity as a result of UNCTAD research and analysis for the national policymaking process. For instance, some of the main conclusions and recommendations originating from the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration for Structural Transformation* were included and fed in the socioeconomic discussions leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration.

D. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Building productive capacities for economic transformation

In 2018, Africa and the least developed countries accounted for less than 3 per cent of global trade, even though they represent 30 per cent of the world's population, and some 57 per cent of people living in extreme poverty. As highlighted by the research and policy analysis work carried out by UNCTAD, the challenge for these countries is due to the fact that they have not been able to fully exploit their trade potential to diversify their economies, create employment and support long-term sustainable development due the lack of productive capacities.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will design and develop a new programmatic approach focused on benchmarking and building productive capacities in landlocked developing countries aimed at diversifying their economies and participating more fully in international trade. This work, as mandated by the resolution 2017/29 of the Economic and Social Council (August 2017), aims to measure progress in and identify obstacles to the development of productive capacities in developing countries. Developing productive capacities requires addressing three equally important issues: building new capacities,

utilizing current capacities and maintaining existing ones. This will have significant policy implications for landlocked developing countries and calls for the need to go beyond business as usual. Developing new productive capacities, while utilizing and maintaining existing ones, should be carefully sequenced. This should include having a clearly defined timeframe and considering the initial conditions and resource endowments in each country. Operationally, this means that while the medium- to long-term goal should be to build new capacities, in the short term, the focus should be on how to maintain and utilize existing capacities. Full and effective utilization of existing productive capacities will require the adequate availability of inputs, better infrastructure, developing skills of the workforce and coordinated implementation of trade and development policies.

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is to enable vulnerable countries to know their starting and finishing/optimal positions with regard to productive capacities, and thus to identify the practical steps and areas where targeted policies are needed the most.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the creation of a sound methodology to calculate a productive capacity index and the calculation of indices for landlocked developing countries, as shown in the following table:

| <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Absence of benchmarking on productive capacities | Creation of a sound methodology for calculation of a productive capacity index | Calculation of productive capacity index for landlocked developing countries with the result of increasing the use of existing productive capacities |

This new programmatic approach will be implemented in combination with training, workshops and ad hoc advisory services to landlocked countries, at first, with a view to expanding the sample to more countries at a later stage. The expected result of this benchmarking exercise is to strengthen the institutional capacities to promote economic transformation and resilience-building efforts of a subgroup of vulnerable economies. The expected result will also be evidenced by an improvement in the landlocked countries' productive capacities with clear benefits in terms of enhanced trade and employment.

The expected result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.

58. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

E. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

59. Table 5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the aforementioned objective.

Table 5
Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Quantified deliverable: | | | | |
| A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: | | | | |
| Parliamentary documentation (number of documents) | 11 | 11 | 6 | 10 |
| 1. Reports for the Economic and Social Council, including on 6 vulnerability profiles | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 2. Report and background documents of the fifteenth session 0 of UNCTAD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including 5 on the Overviews of the <i>Economic Development in Africa Report</i> ; on UNCTAD-wide activities for the least developed countries, on UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of small island developing States/landlocked developing countries, on UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of Africa on indicators and benchmarks on productive capacity in landlocked developing countries | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings) | 8 | 8 | 10 | 31 |
| 1. Meetings of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its Committee for Development Policy | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including 0 preparatory meetings | 0 | 0 | 1 | 22 |
| 3. Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade 6 and Development Board | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| 4. Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework ² and the Programme Budget | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge: | | | | |
| Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Projects on trade and development, to build national capacity | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Projects on the Enhanced Integrated Framework | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 16 | 22 | 20 | 19 |
| 1. Workshops on trade issues relevant to the least developed countries, including on duty and quota-free market access; on activities related to diagnostic trade integration study/post-diagnostic trade integration study in the Enhanced Integrated Framework; and on structural | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| economic transformation and progress towards post-least developed country status | | | | |
| 2. Workshops on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway, the Istanbul Programme of Action, trade and poverty | 0 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 3. Ad hoc expert discussion on matters relevant to the development in the least developed countries and in Africa | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Publications (number of publications) | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 1. <i>The Least Developed Countries Report and its overview</i> | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. <i>Economic Development in Africa Report</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Report on building and measuring productive capacities | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 4. Report on enhancing coherence between trade and industrial strategies for poverty alleviation in Africa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 5. Research and analytical studies on duty free and quota free and rules of origin | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. Lessons learned on geographical indications | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 7. Sectoral and thematic issues of interest for landlocked developing countries: policy implications to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 8. Challenges faced by the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and actions to take in the context of the final appraisal of the Istanbul Programme of Action | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 1. Papers on trade and poverty | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Research papers on trade and development in vulnerable economies | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Non-quantified deliverables | | | | |
| C. Substantive deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on priority 5 of the Vienna Programme of Action and on measuring productive capacities for landlocked developing countries; advisory services on smooth transition strategies for the least developed countries; advisory services on trade and development issues for small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries; advisory services on trade issues relevant to the least developed countries, including duty-free quota-free market access to delegates from the least developed countries, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework; consultations on UNCTAD activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; consultations for the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa. | | | | |
| D. Communication deliverables: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures on issues relating to least developed countries and African development, globalization, | | | | |

| <i>Deliverables</i> | <i>2018 plan</i> | <i>2018 actual</i> | <i>2019 plan</i> | <i>2020 plan</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

development strategies and policy coherence; policy briefs relating to the *Economic Development in Africa Report* and *The Least Developed Countries Report*.

- **External and media relations:** press releases, press conferences and interviews on research results and policy proposals.

Note: The list of deliverables in the final programme plan and performance information document will be presented in summarized form. The detailed presentation contained here is meant to facilitate consideration at the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party.

F. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variations between the actual and planned figures in 2018

60. The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven by workshops on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway, the Istanbul Programme of Action, and trade and poverty, owing to increased efforts to enhance the use of the subprogramme's research outputs for the improvement of evidence-based policymaking.

Variations between the planned figures for 2019 and 2020

61. The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by the reports to the Economic and Social Council, including on vulnerability profiles, owing to the fact that the triennial review of the least developed countries category by the Committee for Development Policy was carried out in March 2018, which led to an increase in the number of vulnerability profiles to be prepared in 2020, compared with those being prepared for 2019. This increase is in turn related to the next review scheduled to take place in early 2021. The number of profiles depends on the number of least developed countries found to be pre-eligible for graduation in the previous review.

62. The variance in substantive services for meetings is mainly driven by the meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings, owing to the four-year cycle of the Conference.

63. The variance in publications is driven mainly by four new reports: on building and measuring productive capacities, on enhancing coherence between trade and industrial strategies for poverty alleviation in Africa, on lessons learned on geographical indications, and on sectoral and thematic issues of interest for landlocked developing countries owing to a response to positive evaluation findings on the appreciation of the subprogrammes' publications.