

**UNCTAD and G77 & China briefing on
key issues of relevance for United Nations General Assembly
77th Second Committee session**

Hybrid meeting in Geneva and New York

6 and 7 September 2022

Concept Note

1. Background

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the focal point in the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues of finance, investment, technology, and sustainable development. These themes take centre stage in the work of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Second Committee as the main body mandated to consider and provide policy guidance on agenda items related to financial, economic, and sustainable development themes, including the Financing for Development and 2030 Agenda. The New York Office of UNCTAD Secretary-General (UNCTAD NYO) connects UNCTAD work, spearheaded in its headquarters in Geneva, with the relevant UN processes and outcomes in New York and vice versa. An important task in this regard is the responsibility to support intergovernmental consultations to advance consensus on the agenda items entrusted to UNCTAD as substantive secretariat.

For the 77th UNGA Second Committee session, UNCTAD has the responsibility to draft the Secretary-General reports on the implementation of the following resolutions:

- Information, Communication and Technology for Sustainable Development;
- International trade and development;
- External debt sustainability and development;
- Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;
- Promoting investments for sustainable development; and
- Entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

UNCTAD also contributes to Secretary-General reports for the following agenda items for which other UN entities have primary responsibility:

- International financial system and development;
- Follow up of the International Conferences on financing for development;
- Follow-up of the Fifth International Conference on Least Developed Countries;
- Follow-up of the International Conference on Landlocked developing countries;
- Follow-up to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; and
- South-South Cooperation.

For the upcoming 77th session UNCTAD has also been mandated to inform the UNGA through a dedicated section of the Creative Economy Outlook on the implementation of resolution [A/RES/74/198 International Year of Creative Economy for sustainable development, 2021](#). In addition to drafting and contributing to Secretary-General reports on the implementation of UNGA resolutions, UNCTAD produces flagship reports resulting from its mandated research and technical cooperation emerging from its quadrennial conferences. The latest one being the [Bridgetown Covenant](#). This expertise is reviewed by its Trade and Development Board in Geneva and made available to the intergovernmental processes in New York.

At the request of the Group of 77 (G77) & China, New York Chapter, UNCTAD NYO has been organizing briefings provided by our experts in Geneva to the group's negotiators, including coordinators of Second Committee resolutions, to prepare for upcoming GA negotiation sessions. These annual briefings through video-link have been facilitating connections and collaborations between the group's negotiators and UNCTAD Geneva colleagues working on the related agenda items of the committee. In this context, G77 & China colleagues have been utilizing the opportunity to discuss substantive issues of relevance with UNCTAD counterparts during the drafting and negotiation processes of the resolutions they have responsibilities for.

To ensure maximum benefits to delegates, the G77 & China Chair and UNCTAD planned to provide these briefings around the first week of September before delegations start the process of drafting the resolutions.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The briefing will provide New York Delegates the opportunity to garner first-hand cutting-edge substantive information from UNCTAD Geneva experts, which they can utilize in support of the process of drafting and negotiating resolutions as well as coordinating across resolutions.

The expected outcomes are Delegates' deeper and enhanced understanding of thematic areas within UNCTAD's mandate and the linkages among these areas, which in turn can strengthen the UNGA Second Committee intergovernmental outcomes and alignment with Geneva's latest findings. As the briefing is open to both New York- and Geneva-based delegates of the G77 and China, it can also serve to strengthen links between the Second Committee in New York and the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board in Geneva. In this context, the Chair of the G77 and China in Geneva will also offer opening remarks on the first day of the meeting.

3. Organization

Building on previous experience, the briefings will be hosted by the UNCTAD New York office with remote participation for those that cannot attend in person. The briefing is targeted at the group's negotiators, including coordinators and facilitators, but it is open or attendance to all Delegates of the G77 & China, including in Geneva.

4. Provisional programme

Upon request of Pakistan, in its capacity of the Chair of the G77 & China, UNCTAD experts will provide key new empirical findings and action-oriented recommendations for the Second Committee items below for which UNCTAD has the responsibility to draft the Secretary-General reports on the implementation of their resolutions as well as other items, such as on groups of countries in special situations such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Chair of the G77 & China in New York will offer opening remarks, followed by the chair of G77 and China in Geneva and the UNCTAD Secretary General.

At the request of the Chair of the G77 & China, the briefings will be spread over two sessions of 3 hours each on 6 and 7 September 2022, to facilitate a deep dive on issues of current interest to the delegations according to the following schedule:

Session 1: 6 September 2022,
(09:00-11:40 hrs. NY time / 15:00-17:40 hrs. GVA time)

Chair: Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief UNCTAD New York Office

- Welcome and introductory remarks by the H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, PR of Pakistan, Chair of the G77 & China (7 minutes¹)
- Introductory remarks by H.E. Mr. Chad Blackman, PR of Barbados, Chair of G77 & China in Geneva (7 minutes)
- Introductory remarks by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General (7 minutes)

Presentations followed by interactive dialogue:

- **Division on Investment and Enterprise Development**
 - Promoting investments for sustainable development, Mr. Joerg Weber (30 minutes)
 - Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, Mr. Richard Bolwijn (30 minutes)
- **Division on Globalization and Development Policies**
 - External debt sustainability and development, Ms. Stephanie Blankenburg (30 minutes)
 - Illicit financial flows, Ms. Anu Peltola (30 minutes)
 - International financial system and development, UNCTAD official TBC (10 minutes)
 - Financing for Development, UNCTAD official TBC (10 minutes)

¹ The allotted time includes breaks in between speakers, presentation and interactive dialogue and closing remarks.

Session 2: 7 September 2022

(09:00-12:00 hrs. NY time / 15:00-18:00 hrs. GVA time.)

Chair: Imran Khan, Counsellor, Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York

Presentations followed by interactive dialogue:

- **Division on Technology and Logistics**
 - Information Communication technology (ICT) for sustainable development – Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz (30 minutes)

- **Division on International Trade and Commodities**
 - International trade and development, Ms. Miho Shirotori (30 minutes)
 - Creative Economy for sustainable development, Ms. Marisa Henderson (30 minutes)

- **Division on Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes**
 - LDCs, Mr. Rolf Traeger (20 minutes)
 - LLDCs, Mr. Mussie Delelegn (20 minutes)
 - SIDS, Mr. Pierre Encontre (20 minutes)

- **Office of the Secretary-General**
 - South-South Cooperation, Ms. Anida Yupari (20 minutes)

- UNCTAD Closing remarks (5 minutes)
- G77 & China Closing remarks (5 minutes)