

UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise

Achievements and the Way Forward

31 December 2012

In 2012, the reputation and standing of UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE) reached new heights, which can be ascribed to a number of successful high profile initiatives and outputs. Partly because of such achievements, the outcome of UNCTAD XIII reconfirmed and strengthened the organization's mandates in the area of investment and enterprise. The Division's attainments require ingenuity and energy from staff members, including a tireless pursuit of quality and responsiveness to our clients' needs, be they beneficiaries of our technical assistance, users of our analytical outputs, or member States and donors who put their trust in our activities. The main challenge for 2013 will be to further enhance our key products and services in order to maximize their development impact.

Our achievements in 2012

As mentioned, the Division's growing stature arises from successive global initiatives, strategic management approaches, new partnerships, and an increasing presence at the highest level of international fora in the areas of investment and enterprise. I would just like to briefly outline some of the Division's seminal achievements in 2012, which have underpinned its international reputation as a centre of excellence in investment and enterprise development: During the year, the Division:

- Organized the **2012 World Investment Forum (WIF)**, confirming the event as the largest and highest profile forum for the global investment-development community. We expanded WIF's stakeholder base to include new partners, such as sovereign wealth funds;
- Launched the **Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD)**, which is now widely recognized as a pivotal set of guidelines for formulating a new generation of investment policies at both national and international levels.
- Published the **Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF) and Toolkit**, which has filled a policy-making gap in developing countries in the area of entrepreneurship for development;
- Issued the quarterly **Global Investment Trends Monitor** and the **Global Investment Policy Monitor**, which are rapidly becoming the reference point for up-to-date information on international investment;
- Established a new platform for our **Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE)**, which now incorporates 7 major exchanges (including the Nasdaq which in itself owns 10 equities markets around the world), covering over 10,000 companies worldwide. The SSE was described by *Forbes* magazine as one of the "World's Best Sustainability Ideas".

- Further developed the **Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI)** through research and implementation of projects in a number of pilot countries, partly in cooperation with the G20.
- Upgraded the **FDI-TNC databases** by adding new global value chain (GVC) data and an enhanced capacity building package to increase the impact of our work on FDI statistics;
- Formulated and piloted the **Accounting Development Toolkit**, which provides a core capacity building tool for our work on corporate accounting and reporting;
- Contributed to **investment policy-making at the highest level**, such as at summits of the G20, COMESA, ASEAN, and Commonwealth.
- Further embedded the Division's **Results-Based Strategic Management (RBSM)** mechanism to ensure optimal allocation of resources and the sustained impact of our actions. Our RBSM was praised by both the UN Office for Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit as exemplary.

Overall in 2012, the Division produced 70 publications, including books, manuals, reviews and reports, which were widely disseminated. For instance the worldwide launch of **World Investment Report 2012** generated over 1,500 press reports in some 100 countries. We delivered 60 workshops and training activities, and organized and contributed substantively to more than 60 major conferences on investment issues. We provided 81 advisory services to regional groupings and individual countries. We also maintained and established 27 e-Regulation portals, and updated 7 databases, including the FDI-TNC database that contains comprehensive information on over 200 economies. Over 100 countries have benefitted from the Division's technical assistance.

More detail on these achievements and all the Division's activities in 2012 can be found in the publication *UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise: Results and Impact Report 2012*.

Our orientation in 2013

Looking ahead, the Division is facing the prospect of delivering more (in terms of both quantity and quality) within existing resources. In response to key challenges, the following priority areas for our work in 2013 were identified at the recent Division's managers' retreat and subsequently discussed at the staff meeting:

- **Conducting ground breaking research on global value chains** -- launching the **WIR 2013** as a basis for new strategic policy agendas in trade and investment;
- **Preparing for the World Investment Forum 2014** -- an even bigger and higher profile event in the year of UNCTAD 50's anniversary;
- **Contributing to the formulation of a UN Post-MDG development framework** -- providing inputs on investment and enterprise development;
- **Enhancing existing core products and services** – further strengthening our core products, such as IPR, EMPRETEC, IIA and SSE, including through innovative approaches; and operationalizing our core policy frameworks – the IPFSD and EPF.

- **Further improving delivery and impact** – exploring ways and means to further increase the Division's effective and efficient delivery, including through innovative models of leveraging initiatives and events with the private sector and partnering with regional integration groupings, as well as better communications with international investment stakeholders.
- **Promoting innovative management tools** - further encouraging “working as one”, rather than in ‘silos’. This might be reinforced through mechanisms such as the informal temporary swapping of chiefs and staff between sections, revamping our communications and meeting culture, enhancing our collaboration with other divisions and services of UNCTAD; and a further streamlining of the Division’s RBSM.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the colleagues in the Division for their commitment and energy in this past year. Our achievements have been made possible mainly due to their collective wisdom and hard work.

I would also like to extend the Division's great appreciation to the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General for their support and guidance in 2012. The Division will continue to follow the **Secretary-General's 3Cs Principles** (i.e. concentration, coordination and communication). Additionally, I would like to thank colleagues from across UNCTAD for their good will, support and cooperation.

As we look forward to 2013, I am confident that thanks to the dedication and professionalism of Division’s staff and its working culture we will meet the new challenges and take the Division to even greater heights. I look forward to working with you all to make 2013 another successful year for the Division.

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