

Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance

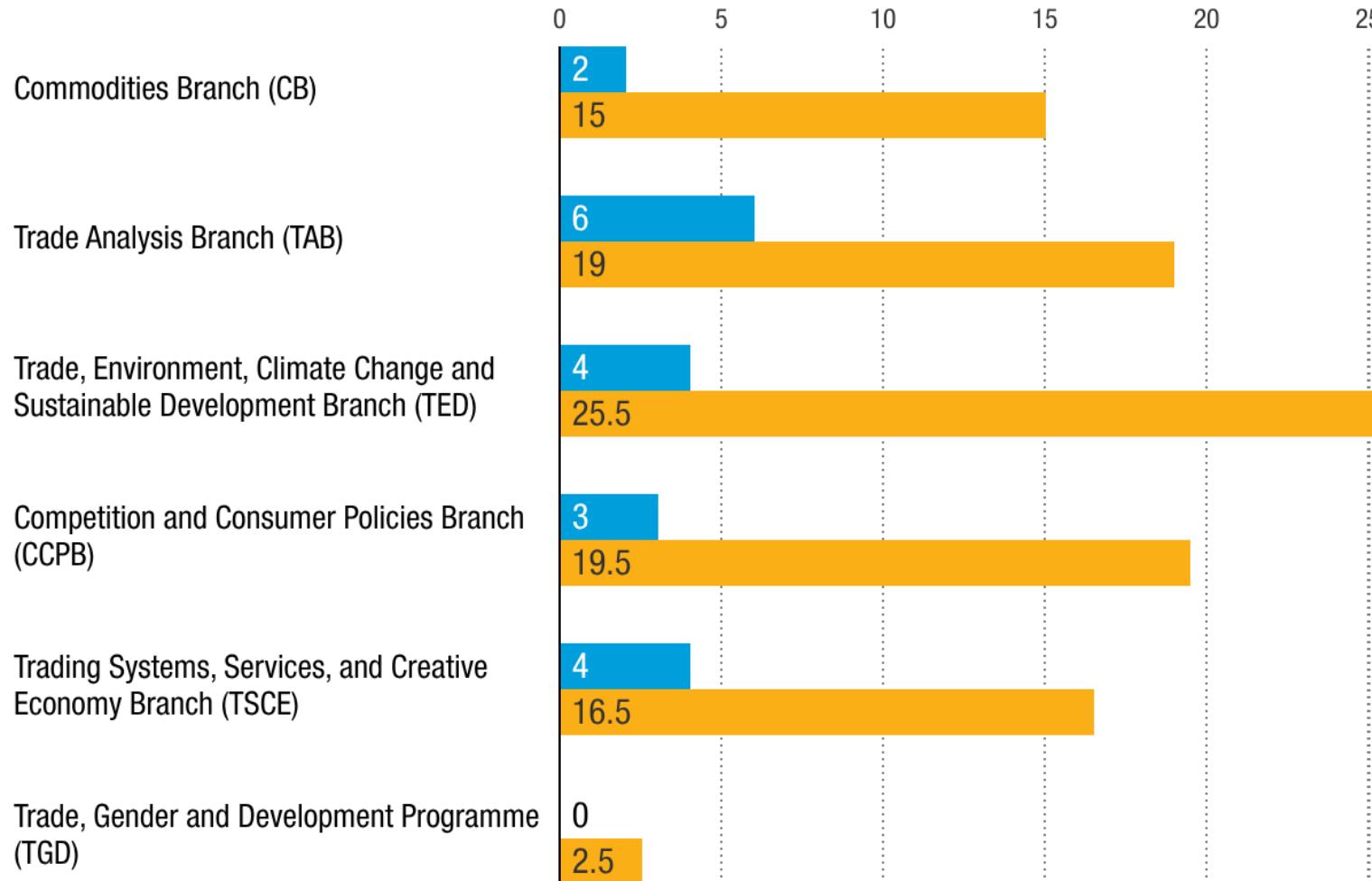
Technical Cooperation activities of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC)

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DITC Technical Cooperation Delivery in 2025

■ Number of Projects ■ Days of Technical Assistance



**In total, 19 projects
and 98 days of
technical assistance
in 2025.**

Non-tariff measures



NTM data collection & dissemination (150 countries)

- New NTM data collection: 8 Pacific SIDS, 7 CEFTA Parties
- NTM data updated in 10 ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, S. Korea
- API developed to facilitate the exchange of TRAINS NTM data with ITC via the Global Trade Helpdesk
- Exploring AI-enabled NTM data collection



Online courses: 300 participants in 2025

- Understanding NTMs in the Pacific - IMPACT project
- Harnessing Trade to Advance National Climate and Development Goals (in collaboration with Trade and Environment Branch)
- NTM and data collection (tailored courses for government officials and data collectors)



NTMs monitoring and reporting

- Upgraded CEFTA Market Access Barriers Database
- New dispute resolution mechanism - CEFTA AP7
- Strategy for private sector trade obstacles reporting
- Launch of a smartphone app for non-tariff barriers (NTB) report in AfCFTA members
- 16 NTBs in the AfCFTA resolved with UNCTAD mediation support

➤ Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy

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Trading systems

- **Ethiopia:** Advisory and technical support for preparation of the 6th WTO Accession Working Party meeting
- **Iraq:** Technical and legal review of WTO accession documentation, including the MFTR and revised goods and services offers
- **Comoros:** Post-accession support, TA on trade policy and SPS/TBT to deliver WTO commitments (with financial contributions from IsDB and ICDT)

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Services

- **Ethiopia:** Primer on data for trade in services and development policies, prepared with contributions from **China**
- **CARICOM:** Strengthening use of services trade data for policy-making in Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia
- **Bangladesh:** Leveraging services trade policies to better support and enhance apparel exports

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Creative Economy

- **Global:** Culture and Creative Economy Foresight (**Turin**, 23-25 April 2025)
- Artificial Intelligence in Creative Industries (**Russian Federation** (28 May 2025))
- Empowering Southeast **Asia's** Digital Creatives Into Impact Leaders (4 June 2025)
- **Asia's regional** Roundtable on Economic Diversification “The Creative Economy”
- Launch of Global Creative Economy Survey (November 2025)

Rapid assessment of value addition and diversification capacity in Southern Africa

Donor

Government of Japan

Beneficiaries

Madagascar, Namibia and Zambia

What we are doing

- Delivering **rapid, data-driven assessments** to identify **realistic diversification opportunities** in commodity-dependent economies
- Focused on **value addition within and beyond critical energy transition minerals (CETMs)**

What we have done so far

- **Country missions completed:** Namibia and Zambia
- **300+** potential products identified across countries
- **100+** diversification products validated with national industry and institutions
- **Dozens of targeted policy instruments designed** (finance, skills, infrastructure, standards, procurement)

| **Madagascar missions** scheduled: Jan–Feb 2026

Why it matters

- Moves diversification from **aspiration to action**
- Provides governments with **implementable product pipelines**, not generic strategies
- Directly supports **industrial policy design, investment promotion, and development finance alignment**
- Operationalizes global commitments on **value addition, resilience, and inclusive growth**

➤ Competition: Fostering competition culture



SMEs

- Online course on **competition policy & MSME development** (*market entry, finance, digitalization, institutional coordination*)
- Delivered **3** times since **2022** | **250+** certificates awarded



Albania

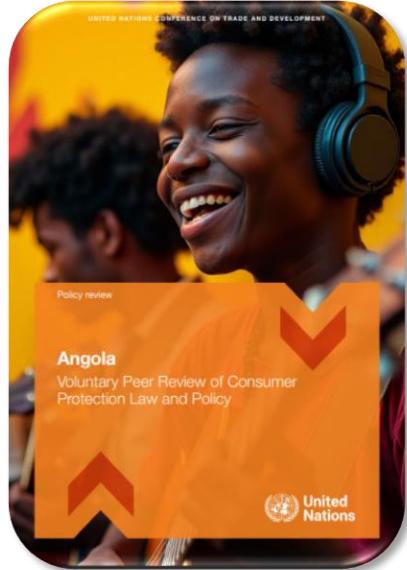
- Technical cooperation to strengthen **competition enforcement** and **competition culture**
- **Capacity-building** for the authority and judiciary + **compliance advocacy**



Voluntary
Dissemination
Peer Review :
Egypt

- Sharing findings on **competition law and policy** to raise awareness among **policymakers**
- Building **judicial capacity** through dedicated competition workshops

Consumer Protection: Enhancing legal frameworks



Angola

Voluntary Peer Review
of Consumer Protection
Law and Policy.



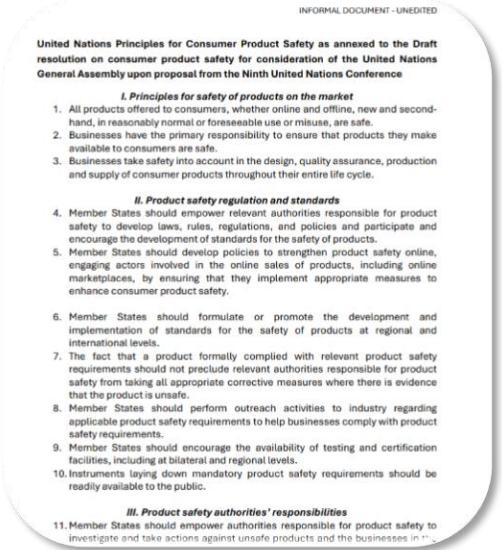
Chile

Advisory Opinion on Regulation
of the Sanctioning Powers of
Consumer Protection Agencies,
Collective Actions, and
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Mechanisms



Paraguay

Advisory Opinion on
Regulation of
Sustainable
Consumption



Global

United Nations Principles
for **Consumer Product**
Safety

Leveraging trade to harness sustainability and supporting climate action

240 Officials, Policymakers & Experts Trained

- Leveraging trade policy to advance national climate and development goals
- Addressing emerging trade issues in the blue, green, and circular economy

Cross-UN Collaboration on New Trade and Sustainability Projects

- Evidence-based Climate Action through Artificial Intelligence and Data Innovation for Caribbean SIDS (in partnership with UN DESA)
- Innovative Climate Action to Accelerate Green and Inclusive Industrialization in the Southern Africa Region (in collaboration with UN ECA)

Promoting Sustainable Trade through Circular Economy Practices

- The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) project supported the launch of one of Bangladesh's largest industrial water reuse initiatives.
- Strengthening water security, climate resilience, and key export sectors such as textiles



2026 Implementation: New Technical Cooperation Deliverables

- **Strengthening notification obligations and non-tariff measure transparency**
 - Deployment of trade portals and artificial intelligence to support developing countries with changing technical regulations starting in 2026.
- **leveraging services trade policies to enhance export competitiveness**
 - Analyzes services-manufacturing linkages to support apparel exports in Bangladesh through collaboration with the UK, UNDP, and the Ministry of Commerce starting in 2026.
- Implementation of the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme and the UNCTAD-UNDESA project provides **evidence-based climate action through artificial intelligence** and data innovation for Caribbean SIDS.
- Implementation of the 2nd edition of the e-Learning course builds capacity for harnessing trade to **advance national climate and development goals across member States**.
- Implementation of **sustainable coffee export strategies and traceability** supports a green and inclusive economy in Asia, alongside the Development Account project to accelerate green industrialization in Southern Africa.
- **Technical assistance and capacity building for African Portuguese-speaking developing countries and Timor-Leste**
 - Two rounds of thematic regional webinars on Competition Law, Policy, and Consumer Protection to continue the established Lusophone training cycle.
 - Implementation of the 2026 Pilot Programme facilitates training and stakeholder dialogues through collaboration with the CPLP and funding from Portugal, while requiring additional resources for full technical assistance.

Resource Mobilization Priorities: Underfunded and Scale-Up Needs

- **Transparency on technical regulations and non-tariff measures**
 - Extension of project scope from 4 to 10 African countries requires additional funding.
- **Services policies to boost export competitiveness (Lusophone countries)**
 - Full country-level delivery requires additional funding for policy analysis, dialogues, and training.
- **Sustainable trade, climate action, and green competitiveness**
 - Strengthening green competitiveness and trade intelligence in LDCs, advancing low-carbon marine biodiversity value chains in South-Eastern Africa, and implementing the programme of action on multiple uses of seaweed.
- **Gender-responsive trade support**
 - Expand gender-responsive technical cooperation on cross-border trade in LDCs
 - Support inclusive value chain upgrading in Lebanon's gems and precious metals sector
 - Strengthen gender-responsive critical minerals value chains in selected LDCs
 - Advance gender-responsive, AI-enabled services trade policy reform and capacity-building

Since 2020, DITC has received **open technical cooperation requests totaling USD 5.624 million, covering 37 projects.**

Thank you

