

## Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance

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

**January 27, 2026**

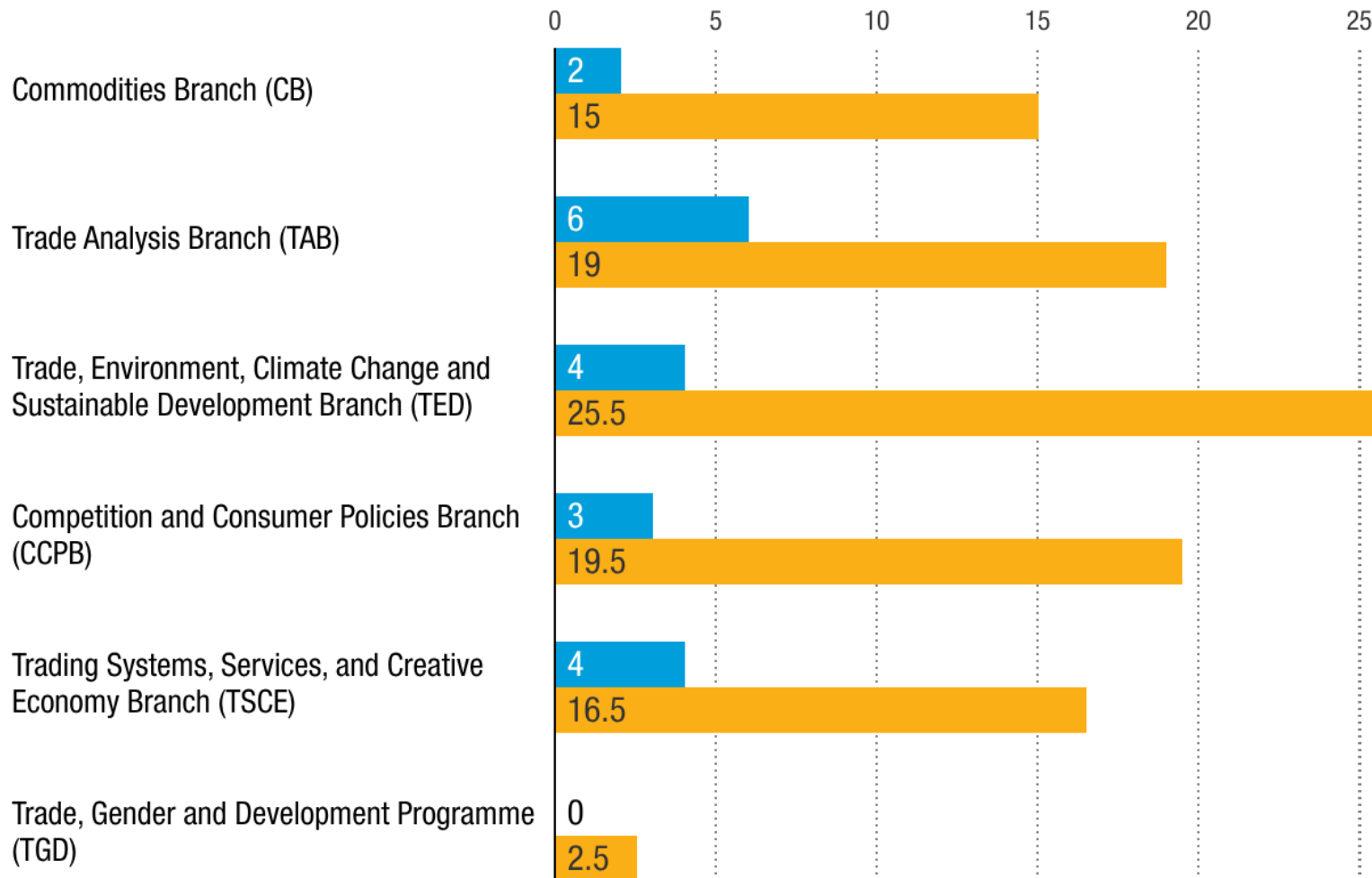
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# DITC Technical Cooperation Delivery in 2025

■ 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 | **Madagascar missions** scheduled: **Jan–Feb 2026**
- **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)

## 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**

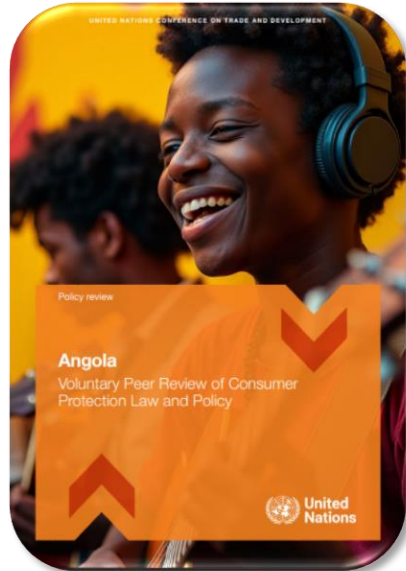


## Voluntary Dissemination Peer Review : Egypt

- 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.



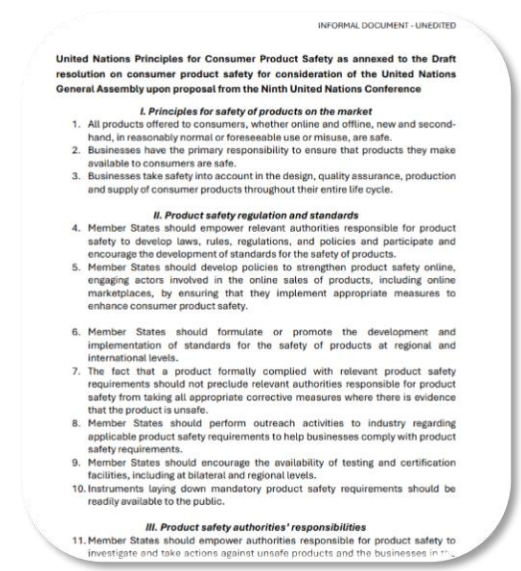
## Chile

**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

