



Follow-up on evaluations

**Progress report on the implementation of
recommendations from the external evaluation
of UNCTAD subprogramme 3**

International trade

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WHAT

Implementation of UNCTAD-wide recommendations by JIU

Evaluation of subprogramme 3 : International trade

WHEN

UNCTAD XIII

UNCTAD XIV

Bienium planning & budget

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R 1: Programme Design

To respond to the SDGs and improve resource allocation efficiency and inter-disciplinary synergies, consider formulating an integrated Divisional programme or at least branch-wide programmes with appropriate ‘change-language’ indicators to show contributions, synergies and impacts of activities.

- **With the adoption of the Nairobi Maafikiano, the outcome document of UNCTAD 14, the Division will review and develop an integrated programme of work on the SDGs consistent with UNCTAD 14 outcome.**



R 2: Effectiveness

Review and optimise the number of publications/e-publications through member and inter-divisional consultations, and initiate a few joint publications with GDS and ALDC Divisions, under the Directors' compact.

The Division is reviewing and optimizing a number of publication through (among others):

- Developing a new series “Exploring new trade frontiers”, that cover cross-cutting issues involving the work areas of all branches of the division.
- The Division contributed to two ALDC publications (one chapter for Ethiopia DTIS and on Costs of LDC graduation).
- The Division collaborated with GDS on GDS' preparation of the publication on “Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2016”.
- The Division also collaborated with GDS (Virtual Institute) in its preparation of a teaching material on the low carbon economy.



R 3: Broaden, as necessary, the policy alternatives for development in the elaboration of policy advice, publications, technical cooperation, parliamentary documents and other activities related to the sub-programme.

- Based on Nairobi outcome the Division is launching a number of new studies on TPP, NTMs, Services, Green Exports, Trade and Gender that are aimed at widening the policy alternatives for development.
- As an example:
 - The Division has launched work on oceans economy in the lead up to and following the SIDS Conference in Samoa. It is developing policy approaches to implement trade-related targets of the oceans SDG namely SDG 14 and several of its specific targets.



R 4: Link trade-and-gender work programme more directly and enhance advocacy function of trade and gender practice in trade policy formulation initiatives, while retaining specific identity of the gender team as the UNCTAD-wide lead on gender mainstreaming.

- The Division will be further strengthened, supported and integrated in the SP3. The Division will be involved in ensuring that, whenever appropriate, analytical, intergovernmental and TC activities include gender considerations.
- At the UNCTAD-wide level, the Division has been given the responsibility to coordinate the UNCTAD Network of Gender Focal Points, is the UNCTAD's Focal Point for the Geneva Gender Champions Initiative, and is responsible for coordinating UNCTAD's implementation of the UN SWAP.
- Trade and gender impact have been integrated in capacity building on alleviating poverty and creating jobs from various interfaces of the work of the Division.



R 5: Explore to the extent possible potential cost efficiencies in hosting arrangements, logistics and schedules of UNCTAD's and WTO's regional courses.

- The Division always participates as well as invites WTO to participate in various conferences, meetings and thematic events (As an example, during UNCTAD14, WTO and the DITC organized a joint event on a ministerial level)
- The DITC always provides its resources persons for P166 regional courses. However, the courses are organized by the DTL

R 6: Evolve methodologies for capturing ‘Environmental goods and services’ trade flows and explore through the consensus-building pillar, member consultations on potential tariff classifications for Environmental goods and services; analyse environmental regulations in context of NTMs; and explore design of a Policy Tracker for all countries across key domains – using same sources and tools as NTM data collection.

- The Division started an initiative to consider environmental regulations affecting trade of biodiversity based goods as part of its non-tariff measures (NTMs) work. It is being implemented through joint collaboration of the Division's two branches namely the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch and the Trade and Analysis Branch. The initiative is directed at mapping and identifying NTMs affecting the trade of biodiversity-based products from Colombia, Peru and Vietnam in the food, personal care and phytopharma sectors when exported to major markets of China, European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States.)



R 7: Add the dimension of 'Climate Change, Environment, Sustainable Development' in all trade policy advice, through joint work plans with Trade Environment Development Branch.

- The Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch has collaborated with other branches of the Division in integrating and addressing environmental and development issues relevant in their respective trade policy work.
- Namely:
 - Collaboration between TED Branch and TAB on collection of NTMs data related to biodiversity based goods. Capacity building on biodiversity and market access is done in cooperation between TED branch and TAB. A joint TED - TAB project on NTMs in fisheries is explored.
 - TAB and TED cooperate on voluntary and private standards linked to UNFSS activities.
 - TAB has produced a policy brief (No. 37) and a publication (Trading into Sustainable Development) strongly linking its work on trade control measures to the SDGs, incl. environmental goals.



R 8: Consider a pilot for joint programming with the ALDC Division covering needs assessments, marketing and communications; mission coordination and planning, resource mobilization, and implementation of trade-related capacity development projects including EIF.

- The DITC is already collaborating with ALDC Division in projects under EIF such as DTIS of Ethiopia.
- DITC contributed a chapter on "Gender-based Patterns and Constraints in Rural Development" to The Least Developed Countries Report 2015.
- DITC is contributing to the LDC Report 2016 assessment of market access issues, in particular NTM affecting LDCs



R 9: Under donor-funded Trade Productive Cluster projects, pilot MoUs with willing frontline agencies in select countries, and build in mentoring and trade capacity development of resident agency staff by UNCTAD.

- The Division participates in a several Trade Productive Cluster projects:
 - DITC is the focal point on trade and employment within an ILO - UNCTAD steering committee and has developed within the Trade Productive Cluster with ILO a project outline for country projects. Donors have been approached.
 - DITC is implementing the second phase of the UN Trade Cluster project in Lao PDR on organic agriculture



R 10: Include offices of relevant and appropriate non-governmental organizations, aid institutions and bilateral aid agencies in invites to relevant seminars and launch events.

- **The Division is constantly increasing its collaboration with NGOs, aid institutions, bilateral aid agencies and private sector by inviting them to participate at its capacity building seminars and launch events.**
- UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative collaborates with over 50 NGOs, cooperation agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and development banks, among others. These partners include for instance: the CBD and CITES Secretariats, UEBT, CAF, CAN, PhytoTrade Africa, Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) and CSEND and public and non-public National BioTrade partners in some countries.
- The Division is strengthening its cooperation with ISO on international standards and linkages to sustainability standards and NTMs. A MoU and joint seminars are considered.
- The Divisions is cooperating with number of NGOs, such as the Consumer International on consumer protection issues. In particular, the Division directly worked with the Consumer International on elaboration of the new Guidelines on Consumer Protection.



R 11: Communications

Subsume all publications and dissemination related activities under an integrated Communications Plan- jointly with the CIU for key outputs from the three pillars, integrating electronic and social media tools for outreach and stakeholder engagement.

- The Division proactively puts efforts to strengthen its Communication Pillar:
 - Press releases and dissemination-related activities for all the Division's events before and during UNCTAD14 were closely coordinated with CIU. Information on upcoming meetings, workshops and other events were sent to CIU for dissemination and inclusion in the web highlights.
 - The Division took further steps to strengthen its outreach by creating Twitter account (We had 36 % increase of our Twitter followers over 5 days of UNCTAD14. During the UNCTAD14: we tweeted 329 times; we were retweeted 819 times, we had 638 likes; our tweets has 188,000 "impressions" (i.e. the number of times our tweets were seen on twitter)
 - For internal communication the Division uses Sharepoint facility.



R 12: Other

Formulate with external support if necessary, biennial work programmes using RBM best practices, and select more concrete indicators answering to overarching economic, social and environmental goals and targets enshrined in the SDGs.

- The DITC is following the lead of DSG Office, which is leading the UNCTAD-wide RBM, especially related to SDGs.



R 13: In the design and prioritisation of technical assistance, consider country capacities and willingness to assume implementation commitments in regulatory, policy and institutional reforms and to report results to the TDB.

- The Division is now working much closer with governments whereby considering their capacity and willingness to undertake and implement reforms.
- For example NTMs data collection in ASEAN was conducted jointly with governments.

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