



UNCTAD at a glance



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established almost six decades ago in 1964.

Our mission
“prosperity for all”



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

UNCTAD's work can
be summed up in
3 words

Think

UNCTAD helps developing countries participate more equitably in the global economy.

It also supports developing countries efforts to use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development.

Debate

Deliver



Think

Daily UNCTAD operates as a think tank, producing reports, policy reviews, insights and more. UNCTAD also carries out economic research and analysis published in several flagship reports:

- *Trade and Development Report*
- *World Investment Report*
- *The Least Developed Countries Report*
- *Economic Development in Africa Report*
- *Information Economy Report*
- *Technology and Innovation Report*
- *Review of Maritime Transport*



Debate

UNCTAD is also a forum where representatives of all countries can freely engage in dialogue, share experiences, tackle critical issues affecting the global economy and build multilateral consensus. UNCTAD holds quadrennial ministerial conferences and several board, multi-year and expert meetings throughout the year on a wide range of topics driven by an intergovernmental machinery. It also hosts high-profile events such as the World Investment Forum, eCommerce Week, and the UN Trade Forum.



Deliver

UNCTAD provides on-the-ground technical assistance and several turnkey tools such as the ASYCUDA customs software, and programmes, such as Empretec, UNCTAD's flagship capacity-building programme, while also making policy recommendations to support government decision-making.

**12 THINGS
UNCTAD HELPS
NATIONS DO**

01

Address macro-level development challenges



02

Achieve integration into the global trading system



03

Diversify their economies to make them less dependent on commodities



04

Limit their exposure to financial volatility and debt



05

Attract development friendly investment



06

Increase access to digital technologies



07

Promote entrepreneurship and innovation



08

Help local firms move up value chains



09

Speed up the flow of goods across borders



10

Protect consumers from abuse



11

Curb regulations that stifle competition



12

Adapt to climate change and use natural resources more effectively



More about UNCTAD

As the UN's main body dealing with trade and development, UNCTAD holds a unique position within the United Nations family and beyond, taking to heart the needs of developing countries.

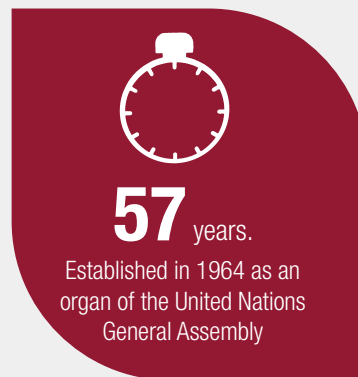
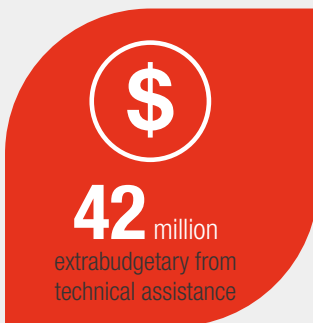
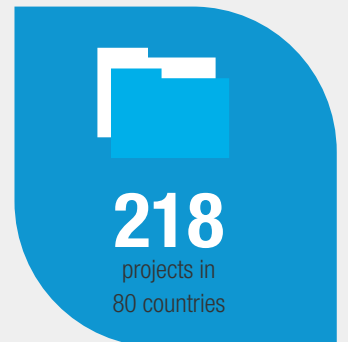
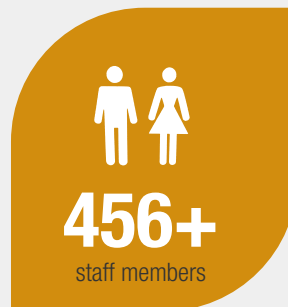
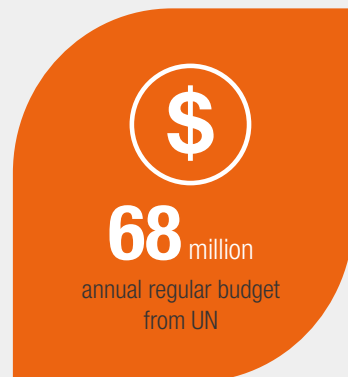
As part of the United Nations secretariat, UNCTAD reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but has its own membership, leadership, and budget. It is also part of the UN Sustainable Development Group and supports the implementation of the Financing for Development process.

UNCTAD works with member states, international organizations, academics, non-governmental organizations, media, civil society and youth.

The UN General Assembly held the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964. The UN institutionalized the conference and gave it a mandate to meet every four years, with intergovernmental bodies meeting between sessions and a permanent secretariat providing the necessary substantive and logistics support. There have been 15 quadrennial conferences since 1964. The fifteenth (UNCTAD15) is in Bridgetown, Barbados in October 2021.



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