



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
12 February 2010

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Trade and Development Commission

Second session

Geneva, 3 – 7 May 2010

Item 6 of the provisional agenda –

Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

Progress report on the implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to key trade and development issues

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

Paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord (negotiated at UNCTAD-XII in April 2008 at Accra, Ghana) stipulates that the role of Commissions is to, inter alia, promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD – consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical cooperation. To assist the Trade and Development Commission, the secretariat has prepared this progress report on its implementation in 2009 of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to trade and development issues, namely paragraphs 89, 90 and 94–106 under section C of sub-theme 2 on “Key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy”, and paragraph 170 of sub-theme 3 on “Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development”. Support specific to least developed countries (LDCs) is also reported. There is close synergy promoted among the three in most areas of work, with one or two pillars emphasized in some, depending on the nature of work involved. More detailed information can be found in the *DITC Activity Report 2009* (UNCTAD/DITC/2010/1).

1. Paragraph 89 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD’s contribution on trade and development should continue through analytical, consensus-building and technical assistance work in the areas of international trade in goods, services and commodities and the international trading system as provided below. UNCTAD should enhance its work on the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. UNCTAD should continue to cooperate closely with other international organizations and foster coordination of system-wide United Nations activities in the area of trade and development.”

2. Paragraph 96 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should also:

“... ”

“(d) Strengthen its work on the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction and gender equality.”

3. UNCTAD’s work on international trade is directed at strengthening the contribution of trade to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNCTAD contributed to raising awareness of the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on trade and on development goals, and fostered innovative thinking on crisis-mitigating measures. The following exemplify such work:

(a) The first session of the Trade and Development Commission (11–15 May) discussed the impact of the crisis on trade. The deliberations drew upon a report from the secretariat, the “Global economic crisis: implications for trade and development” (TD/B/C.I/CRP.1). The Commission requested UNCTAD to assist countries to assess the trade and development impact of the crisis on their economies and to consider policy options and successful strategies for appropriate mitigating measures. The second session of the Commission (May 2010) will continue to assess the implications of the crisis.

(b) UNCTAD contributed to United Nations Secretariat preparations to service the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (New York, 24–26 June), including to the Report of the United Nations Secretary General (A/CONF.214/4).

4. UNCTAD is a member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG) of the United Nations Secretariat. It provides data and analysis for the update of MDG indicators on market access, namely, indicator 8.6 (proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty) and indicator 8.7 (average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries). The IAEG prepared the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2009* and the United Nations Secretary General’s annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (A/64/1). UNCTAD contributed to the preparation of the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in September 2010. It provided inputs to the United Nations Secretary-General’s report *Keeping the Promise of 2015: A forward-looking review leading to concrete strategies for action to achieve the MDGs by 2015*.

5. UNCTAD provided analytical and statistical inputs to the United Nations *MDG Gap Task Force Report 2009*. The report discusses progress towards meeting MDG 8 on strengthening global partnership for development in a time of crisis.

6. Several technical assistance activities support developing countries in developing national trade policies that specifically integrate poverty reduction aspects. For example:

(a) The UNCTAD/United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)/India Project on Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalization in India, inter alia, linked resource poor farmers, artisans and fishermen to international trade through websites, disseminating information on export standards, and export–import procedures;

(b) Ongoing support was provided to the Government of Papua New Guinea in formulating a trade policy that would inter alia lead to greater downstream processing in commodities grown by subsistence farmers; and

(c) Support was given to Rwanda in preparing the Rwanda Trade Policy Framework. The initial draft was reviewed and validated by a national stakeholder consultation (Kigali, 16 June). It emphasized building of productive capacities, especially in rural areas to address poverty.

7. The intergovernmental Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy (10–11 March), addressed (a) the relation between trade and gender; (b) the impact of trade policy on gender through labour markets, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), agriculture and migration; and (c) how to advance mainstreaming gender in trade policy from theory to practice. UNCTAD prepared two studies for the meeting – Mainstreaming gender in trade policy (TD/B/C.I/EM.2/2/Rev.1), and (b) Mainstreaming gender in trade policy: case studies (TD/B/C.I/EM.2/3).

8. UNCTAD contributed to the “Delivering as One” activities under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), including through the United Nations Chief Executives Board Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. Assistance was provided upon request on international trade issues to Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Comoros, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Rwanda and the Syrian Arab Republic.

9. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should:

“(a) Continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective, and in particular analyse issues of concern to developing countries, placing greater emphasis on practical solutions.”

10. Each year, the United Nations General Assembly discusses progress and issues in international trade and development. In support of such deliberations, UNCTAD prepares the annual United Nations Secretary-General’s report *International Trade and Development*. The 2009 report (A/64/177) examined the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on trade and development and offer practical solutions on mitigating the crisis. UNCTAD serviced the relevant discussions of the United Nations General Assembly (sixty-fourth session) and the negotiations by member States on resolution 64/188.

11. The fifty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board conducted a comprehensive review of “Evolutions of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective: Impact of the crisis”. UNCTAD prepared the background note (TD/B/55/4). The President’s summary (TD/B/56/L.1/Add.2) stressed the need for innovative solutions to tackling the trade-related aspects of the crisis.

12. During the Trade and Development Board session, in commemoration of UNCTAD’s forty-fifth anniversary, a lunch-time event was organized on “Realizing Sustainable Development Gains from Trade” (17 September). Among other things, it stressed that UNCTAD’s role in promoting a robust development agenda in international trade had become even more pressing for assisting developing countries in responding

effectively to building recovery from the global crisis and fostering sustained growth and sustainable development.

13. Several analytical reports on emerging issues in the international trading system, providing practical solutions, were produced including:

(a) *Flexibilities for Developing Countries in Agricultural Market Access Negotiations* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2008/1);

(b) *Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures Applicable to LDC Exports* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/4);

(c) *Global Economic Crisis: Implication and Restructuring of the Services Sector in India* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/22);

(d) *Impact of the Global Slowdown on India's Export and Employment* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/23);

(e) "New and Traditional Trade Flows and the Economic Crisis" – a research paper on the effects of the economic crisis on new export sectors, presented at the ESCAP ARTNeT Conference in Bangkok (October);

(f) *On the Determinants of Exports Survival* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/47);

(g) *The Impact of Removal of ATC Quotas on International Trade in Textiles and Apparel* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/43);

(h) *Trade Liberalization and the Informal Sector: Insights from Panel Analysis* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/44);

(i) *Building Trade-Relating Institutions and WTO Accession* (Policy issues in international trade and commodities, UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/42).

14. Analytical inputs were provided to the preparation of several joint outputs with other United Nations organizations:

(a) *The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010*, published jointly with DESA and the United Nations regional commissions;

(b) The Project LINK 2009 meetings (in June, St. Petersburg and October, Bangkok), in collaboration with DESA, University of Toronto and several regional organizations, national governments and research institutions; and

(c) The World Bank Global Monitoring Report for 2009.

15. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: "UNCTAD should:

"...

"(b) Continue its work on developments in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries;

"(c) Help develop capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish their own negotiating priorities, and their capacity to negotiate and implement bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements;

"...

"(f) Promote coherence and consistency of regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system;

"(g) Support and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms."

16. UNCTAD participated in regular meetings of World Trade Organization (WTO) bodies including the General Council, the Goods Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Services Council, the Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council, the Committee on Trade and Development, the Sub-Committee on LDCs, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, the Working Parties on WTO accession and the Trade Policy Review body. UNCTAD participated in the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference (30 November–2 December). The Secretary-General of UNCTAD delivered a statement from the United Nations Secretary-General at the opening plenary.

17. Trade negotiators and policymakers in developing countries were supported in their preparations for the Doha negotiations on modalities for agriculture and non-agricultural market access, services, trade facilitation, rules, special and differential treatment, TRIPS and development issues. Support was provided to ministerial and high-level meetings of regional groupings for the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference, namely: (a) Dar-es-Salaam Declaration adopted by the Sixth LDC Trade Ministers' Meeting (14–16 October); (b) Phnom Penh Round Table Statement on LDCs' accession (28–30 September); (c) Communiqué of the Informal African WTO Trade Ministerial Meeting on "Consolidating the Development Dimension" (Cairo, 28 October); (d) African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries (ACP) Declaration on the Seventh Session of the Ministerial Conference (Brussels, 13 November). UNCTAD also contributed to the Ministerial Consultative Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Member Countries organized by the Islamic Development Bank (29 November).

18. Capacity-building support was provided on regional trade negotiations among developing countries, and between developing countries and developed countries such as ACP–European Union (EU) negotiations for economic partnership agreements. Support was provided to the ACP on issues interfacing the Doha negotiations and economic partnership agreements (EPAs) negotiations, including the developmental aspects of WTO rules on regional trade agreements relating to North–South agreements, agricultural and non-agricultural market access negotiations, particularly in respect of preference erosion, as well as services. Technical support was extended to regional configurations as well as to individual ACP States in preparation for EPA negotiations. Such support also pertains to advice on issues regarding coherence and consistency between regional trade agreements and the multilateral trading system. UNCTAD contributed to various national consultative workshops and technical meetings organized by the ACP Secretariat, the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Commonwealth Secretariat to discuss EPAs-related technical issues, such as a regional consultation meeting of African regions on EPAs (22–23 July, Botswana).

19. UNCTAD also assisted the regional course "Key Issues International Economic Agenda" for South America (Colombia, 8–11 September) and for Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia, 16–20 November). Jointly with UNCTAD's Virtual Institute, a Training Package on Regional Trade Agreements (UNCTAD/DTL/KTCD/2008/2) was developed. Also, an analytical report was produced on *Economic Partnership Agreements: Comparative Analysis of the Agricultural Provisions* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/3), as well as on the *Development Interface between Multilateral Trading Systems and Regional Trade Agreements* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/20).

20. UNCTAD conducted training to develop knowledge and skills, and to strengthen institutional capacities in developing countries to deal with dispute settlement in international trade, investment and intellectual property, drawing upon its 40 training modules in (a) trade and investment dispute settlement in international law in general; (b) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes/World Bank dispute settlement in the field of international investment; (c) WTO dispute settlement as regards international trade in goods, services and intellectual property; (d) World Intellectual

Property Organization (WIPO) dispute settlement; and (e) international commercial arbitration. Training courses were organized in (a) Lae, Papua New Guinea, 21–25 September; (b) Bangalore, India, 3–5 May; (b) Kolkata, India, 16–18 November; and Guangzhou, China, 23–25 November.

21. UNCTAD contributed towards the United Kingdom's World Trade Week, 8–12 June. It supported the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in his participating in the event, and disseminated short films on UNCTAD's collaboration with DFID. A national event was also organized in India through the UNCTAD India project.

22. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: "UNCTAD should:

"...

"(d) Intensify its trade and trade-related technical cooperation and capacity-building activities. It should strengthen its contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP)."

23. UNCTAD's trade and trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities cover four thematic clusters: (a) capacity-building for trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy; (b) trade analysis capacities and information systems; (c) competition policy and consumer protection; and (d) trade, environment and development. The assistance provided is discussed under the relevant Accra Accord paragraph. Expenditures on technical cooperation under the four clusters in 2008 amounted to \$6.7 million, 17 per cent of total UNCTAD expenditure – a level expected to be maintained in 2009.

24. The Enhanced Integrated Framework was officially launched on 31 May 2008 and become fully operational in July 2009. UNCTAD contributed to the review of Action Matrix in the Diagnosis Trade Integration Study for Rwanda conducted in November in Kigali, focusing on mainstreaming trade into the Action Matrix. Support provided to all LDCs is provided in the last paragraph.

25. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: "UNCTAD should:

"...

"(e) Continue to provide and strengthen technical support to and cooperation with developing countries, according to their level of development, particularly LDCs and countries with economies in transition, prior to, during and in the follow-up to their WTO accession process."

26. UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance programme assists 19 acceding countries, including LDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Sudan, Yemen, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe and Comoros) as well as recently acceded countries.

27. Advisory services, field missions and capacity-building activities were undertaken for Comoros (9–12 February), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (9–12 February), Algeria (27–29 April), the Islamic Republic of Iran (2–3 June, 17–19 October, 8–10 December), Azerbaijan (4–5 May), Bosnia and Herzegovina (17–18 March, 12–13 October) and the Syrian Arab Republic (7–11 December). Analytical support was provided to Belarus through a report on Belarus's trade regime. Algeria was assisted on intellectual property rights issues in formulating draft legislation with regard to data protection. Training was provided through an UNCTAD-wide training course under paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on WTO accession issues.

28. The fifty-third session of the Working Party (7–9 September) reviewed the progress made in the implementation of recommendations contained in the evaluation of UNCTAD’s trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building on accession to the WTO. The Working Party noted with appreciation the WTO accession programme and invited donors to make contributions to the UNCTAD Trust Fund for WTO accession.
29. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should:
 “...
 “(h) Examine ways of improving the utilization of trade preferences and of making preference schemes more predictable, and continue its work on the issue of erosion of preferences.”
30. UNCTAD continued promoting awareness and understanding among developing countries to better utilize preferences available under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other preferential schemes through regular provision of information on a dedicated website, provision of administrative support on certificate of origin, collection and compilation of data submitted by GSP donor countries, publication of handbooks on the GSP schemes and newsletters, and provision of technical cooperation and capacity-building services. Training seminars were held on various GSP schemes and rules of origin, including for the Syrian Arab Republic (9 December).
31. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should:
 “...
 “(i) Assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, in integrating trade and development concerns into their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.”
32. UNCTAD assisted Rwanda (UNCTAD/DITC/2009/2) and Papua New Guinea in the elaboration of trade policy frameworks. The policy frameworks would provide the basis from which the Government would develop a trade policy that specifically promote production and trade in pro-poor sectors. In the context of accession to WTO, LDCs are also assisted in their trade policy formulation and implementation.
33. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should:
 “...
 “(j) Assist structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies in their efforts to integrate into the multilateral trading system and to address their exposure to internal and external economic shocks.”
34. A number of UNCTAD activities addressed the needs of structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies:
- (a) Contribution to a regional workshop on trade in services for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member States (15–17 July, St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda);
 - (b) Building capacities of Fiji, Mozambique, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia to develop and take advantage of their creative industries;
 - (c) Assistance to Papua New Guinea in developing its trade policy to enhance the contribution of trade to production, trade and development.
35. Paragraph 94 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should strengthen its comprehensive work on services, trade and development by:

“(a) Enhancing its analysis of the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to increase their participation in global services production and trade;

“(b) Assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in establishing regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness;

“(c) Providing support in national services assessment and policy reviews;

“(d) Examining issues relating to the liberalization of trade in services and its development impact, including at the regional level;

“(e) Giving attention to multilateral rule-making in services, taking into account the interests and concerns of developing countries;

“(f) Fostering recognition of qualifications and standards;

“(g) Providing support to multilateral and regional negotiations on services; and

“(h) Strengthening services data and statistics.”

36. Research work, technical assistance, and intergovernmental deliberations were scaled up with the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: The Regulatory and Institutional Dimension. The first session was held in March 2009 and the second session is planned for 17–29 March 2010. The deliberation of the first session were facilitated by the secretariat’s background note (TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/2) and related documents, including “Infrastructure services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/CRP.1), as well as national experiences (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/21).

37. National services policy reviews (NSPRs) were undertaken, in Kyrgyzstan focusing on energy and tourism services, Nepal focusing on tourism and ICT services and Uganda focusing on construction, insurance and professional services. National stakeholder workshops to discuss the NSPRs were held in all three countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD contributed to various national and regional events on services economy and trade, including the Second China Trade in Services Congress (China, 24–25 November).

38. Several analytical studies were carried out, including:

(a) Infrastructure services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension (TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/CRP.1);

(b) *The Basel 2 Agenda for 2009: Progress so far* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/4);

(c) *Implications of International Trade and Trade Agreements for Primary Health Care: The Case of Services* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/16);

(d) *Strategies for Advancing the Development of the Services Sectors of Nepal: National Services Assessment Study for Nepal* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/19);

(e) *Strategies for Advancing the Development of the Services Sectors of Kyrgyzstan, National Services Assessment Study for Kyrgyzstan.* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/18);

(f) *Strategies for Advancing the Development of the Services Sectors of Uganda, National Services* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/17).

39. Customized technical assistance was provided to developing countries and country groupings on GATS negotiations, focusing on the request/offer negotiations under article XIX of the GATS, and on rule-making negotiations, and domestic regulations. Such support was extended, inter alia, to the African countries, LDCs, SADC and the Andean Community, e.g. through regional workshops on trade in services for ALADI (21–23 October in Montevideo, Uruguay) and for CARICOM member States (15–17 July, St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda).
40. Technical and advisory support on services assessment and negotiations was provided to the SADC secretariat, the SADC Trade Negotiation Forum and SADC policymakers and trade negotiators.
41. UNCTAD is a member of an inter-agency task force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, together with OECD, European Commission, International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNWTO and WTO. It contributed to the preparation of the revised edition of the “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services”.
42. Paragraph 95 of the Accra Accord states: “Without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums and in cooperation with other organizations, UNCTAD, within its mandate and in relation to the contribution of migrants to development, should conduct research and analysis on the potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad.”
43. Paragraph 95 of the Accra Accord states: “Without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums and in cooperation with other organizations, UNCTAD, within its mandate, should continue to analyse the potential of migrants’ remittances to contribute to development. It should focus on ways to expand the access of migrants to financial services, maximize the benefits derived from such remittances and minimize the cost through appropriate policies, while respecting their character as private funds.”
44. An Ad-Hoc Expert Meeting on the Contribution of Migrants to Development: Trade, Investment and Development Linkages was organized on 29 July. A background document was prepared (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2009/2) to facilitate the deliberations.
45. UNCTAD collaborates closely on migration issues with other Global Migration Group (GMG) members. In 2009, UNCTAD participated in the GMG Principal’s Retreat to discuss the impacts of the crisis on labour migration flows and policies, migrant employment, remittances, development in countries of origin (Menthon Saint-Bernard, 9 October). UNCTAD contributed to substantive discussions within the deliberations of the Global Migration Group, APEC, and the WTO including at its Public Symposium on trade and employment in times of the crisis (29 September). UNCTAD contributed to trade and development aspects of migration at the discussions of the Third Global Forum (Athens, 2–5 November).
46. UNCTAD also contributed to activities on migration organized by the International Organization for Migration, WTO, World Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission. It further contributed to the United Nations Secretary-General’s report on International Migration and Development (A/63/265).
47. Paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should also:
- “(a) Help strengthen the participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of world trade.”
48. Under a Development Account project on enhancing effective participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of international trade, three regional

workshops were conducted for (a) Latin America (Lima, Peru, 7–8 July); (b) Asia (Bangkok, Thailand, 2–3 November); and (c) Africa (Maseru, Lesotho, 7–9 December).

49. UNCTAD is implementing a multi-agency technical cooperation project on “Strengthening the creative industries in five ACP countries through employment and trade expansion,” with funding from the European Commission, and jointly with ILO and UNESCO for the period 2008–2011. UNCTAD carried out two studies for Zambia and Mozambique. Subsequently, two “High-level Policy Dialogues on Creative Economy” were organized for Mozambique (Maputo, 29 June), and Zambia (Lusaka on 2 July). Assistance was also provided to the respective Governments on institutional mechanisms. A High-level Policy Dialogue on the Creative Economy was also held in Thailand (Bangkok, 12 March).

50. The Creative Industries database on trade statistics for creative goods and services launched in 2008 has been updated in 2009 and is publicly available at www.unctad.org/creative-programme. The worldwide dissemination of the “Creative Economy Report – 2008” continued in international conferences, and national workshops. UNCTAD also shares knowledge, information and best practices and participates in the work of the United Nations Multi-Agency Informal Group on Creative Economy.

51. Paragraph 96 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should also:

“... ”

“(b) Address the trade and development impact of non-tariff barriers;

“(c) Further improve and disseminate its analytical tools, such as the Trade and Development Index, and databases and software, such as TRAINS/WITS.”

52. UNCTAD’s work on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) has mobilized the United Nations-system agencies, other relevant organizations, regional organizations, national organizations and several national research institutions in developing countries, for a coordinated and coherent approach to the definition, classification and collection of NTBs data on the basis of UNCTAD’s Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAIS) database.

53. UNCTAD, in collaboration with ITC, completed a pilot project on NTBs data collection in Brazil, Chile, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda. In parallel, UNCTAD and ITC also identified data sources and collected official data for some leading importing countries. In addition, a publication on “Non-tariff measures: Results of sample survey from pilot project in selected developing countries” is being prepared. This effort will provide information on some of the impact of NTBs on trade flows.

54. UNCTAD continued to strengthen its specific trade data and analytical tools. The TRAINS database was updated and contains tariff data and matching import statistics for 122 countries. Over 3,000 new licenses were issued to users of World Bank Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) during 2009. A new tripartite initiative to modernize the WITS software is underway with the World Bank and ITC. Training workshops and advisory missions on the trade databases and analytical tools were provided in New York (10 December), as well as in Bogota (Colombia, 2–4 December), Macau, China (14–15 December), Lima (Peru, 7–9 December), St. Petersburg (Russian Federation, 4–6 June), Bangkok (Thailand, 17–18 December), Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic, 29 September–1 October), Istanbul (Turkey, 23–25 April) and Montevideo (Uruguay, 2–3 July).

55. A module was developed on analytical tools and empirical techniques for trade analysis to support intensive workshops. Three such workshops were organized for universities through UNCTAD’s Virtual Institute: one in Senegal (Dakar, 14–17 April), one

in Uganda (Kampala, 29 June–3 July) and one in the United Republic of Tanzania (Dar-es-Salaam, 2–8 September).

56. Paragraph 97 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should promote and support economic cooperation among developing countries, including through the exchange of experiences and institution-building. It should upgrade its data and analytical tools on South–South trade and strengthen related technical assistance programmes. It should also continue its support for the revitalization and greater utilization of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries and other initiatives that stimulate South–South trade.”

57. UNCTAD serviced the Agreement on Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), and supported developing countries in negotiating the third, São Paulo, round of GSTP negotiations launched in June 2004.

58. UNCTAD hosted the Fourth Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of Global Network of Exim Banks and Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID) on 5 May with more than 80 countries present. A technical seminar on “Global Financial Crisis: Significance of South–South Trade Finance and Cooperation” was organized on 4 May. The fifth annual meeting of the General Assembly is planned for May 2010.

59. The South–South trade information database continued to be strengthened, providing more updated information on such trade flows.

60. Paragraph 98 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD’s work on energy-related issues should be addressed from the trade and development perspective, where relevant in the context of UNCTAD’s work on commodities, trade and environment, new and dynamic sectors, and services.”

61. The first session of the Trade and Development Commission discussed energy-related issues from the trade and development perspective, based on a report by the secretariat (TD/B/C.I/2). The Commission noted that the key challenge was to ensure universal access to sufficient and reliable energy sources that promoted sustainable development.

62. Preparations were launched for the Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development (9–11 February 2010). The meeting will discuss how to integrate the development and deployment of green renewable energy technologies into rural poverty reduction strategies, based on a report by the secretariat (TD/B/C.I/EM.3/2).

63. A study was commissioned by UNCTAD on the “Reform of the Electricity Sector in South Africa” in the context of the second session of Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: The Regulatory and Institutional Dimension (17–19 March 2010). The overall objective of the expert meeting is to assist developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition in identifying options for supporting their domestic infrastructure services capacity and efficiency, competitiveness and export capacity and ensure the provision of essential services. The second session of the expert meeting will focus on energy and financial services and on cooperative mechanisms for regulatory and institutional frameworks for infrastructure services.

64. A national services policy review for Kyrgyzstan prepared by UNCTAD focused, inter alia, on energy services and their contribution to growth and development of the country.

65. Paragraph 99 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue its work under the Biofuels Initiative, striving to maximize trade and development gains for developing

countries and countries with economies in transition while minimizing the potentially adverse environmental and social aspects of the biofuel option.”

66. UNCTAD’s BioFuels Initiative supported developing countries in assessing their potential in embarking on the use and production of biofuels. It also maintained partnerships with intergovernmental organizations, governments, applied research centres, non-governmental organizations and relevant initiatives. It further participated in various conferences such as (a) the Energy Pact Conference (16–17 March, Geneva); (b) the Ethanol Summit (1–3 June, São Paulo, Brazil); (c) the World Meteorological Organization Dialogue on “Biofuels, Trade Policy and Sustainable Development” (17 June, Geneva); and (d) the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Sustainable Energy (18–20 November, Geneva). An analytical study on “The Biofuels Market: Current Situation and Alternative Scenarios” (UNCTAD/DITC/BCC/2009/1) was produced.

67. Paragraph 100 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD, within its mandate and without duplicating the ongoing work of other organizations, should consider climate change in its ongoing work of assisting developing countries with trade- and investment-related issues in development strategies.”

68. An Expert Meeting on Trade and Climate Change: Trade and Investment Opportunities and Challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) (27–29 April), was organized. The secretariat’s reports for the meeting were on *The State of Play of the Clean Development Mechanism: Review of Barriers and Potential Ways Forward* (UNCTAD/DITC/BCC/2009/3), *Developing Country Interests in Climate Change Action and the Implications for a Post-2012 Climate Change Regime* (UNCTAD/DITC/BCC/2009/2) and *The Clean Development Mechanism – Guide 2009*.

69. UNCTAD became an implementing partner of the Nairobi Framework initiated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). UNCTAD also entered into a partnership with the African Union Commission. It contributed to the technical session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Pre-Conference of the Parties meeting (Addis Ababa, 21–23 October).

70. UNCTAD participated in various conferences: (a) the Africa Progress Panel workshop on “Kick-Starting Africa’s Carbon Markets” (17–18 November, Geneva); (b) the WTO Seminar on “Climate Change, Trade and Competitiveness” (17 October, Geneva); (c) the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to UNFCCC (7–18 December, Copenhagen, Denmark); and (d) various United Nations-organized side events during COP 15. UNCTAD also jointly organized a side event with the African Union Commission on “Development Opportunities for African Countries under a post-2012 Climate Change Regime” (11 December).

71. Paragraph 101 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on issues at the interface between trade and environment, such as market access, agriculture, the transfer of environmentally sound technology, environmental goods and services, environmentally preferable products, and standards, including issues concerning eco-labelling and certification costs, and follow up on trade-related issues contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It should strengthen work on the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development.”

72. Under the Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development, support was provided to the African Organic Conference (19–22 May, Kampala, Uganda),

including to the preceding East African Organic Conference (18–22 May). Support was also provided to the following national activities:

- (a) Burundi: A one-day awareness raising workshop followed by a two-day training workshop on organic agriculture (18–20 November);
- (b) Ethiopia: A one-day Ethiopian Organic Forum: Public Private Partnership (9 July);
- (c) Rwanda: A two-day organic stakeholder workshop to strengthen the cooperation of the sector and work on an action plan for organic agriculture (30 November–1 December);
- (d) United Republic of Tanzania: One national and two regional stakeholder meetings to promote the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Development Programme (regionals: June, September; national: 28 August);
- (e) Uganda: A national stakeholder consultation on the Ugandan draft organic policy as well as several meetings of the organic policy group (27 August 2009).

73. The Trade and Environment Review 2009/2010 was published. It discusses three promising areas of clean growth poles that can foster clean and sustainable growth – energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture including organic agriculture, and renewable energy technologies.

74. An Ad-hoc Expert Meeting on Facilitating Access of Small-scale Organic Farmers in Developing Countries to Supermarket Shelves (Geneva, 10–11 December), was organized by UNCTAD in collaboration with the secretariats of GLOBALGAP (FoodPlus GmbH) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). An UNCTAD study that compared the EU organic agriculture requirements (as a representative organic guarantee system) with those of GLOBALGAP for fruit and vegetables, served as the basic document for the meeting.

75. Paragraph 102 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to build on its experience to enhance its Biotrade Initiative, which gives support to the growing market for biodiversity products and services produced in a sustainable manner. The Biotrade Initiative should continue to support the creation of an enabling policy and environment to foster private sector engagement in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, while acknowledging the social, cultural, legal and economic complexity of this issue.”

76. UNCTAD’s BioTrade Facilitation Programme conducted an assessment of biotrade value chains in Aceh, Indonesia, and identified a list of biodiversity-based sectors which could be supported under the pilot project. A prioritization of sectors has been conducted with national and international experts as well as companies and BioTrade partners such as SIPPO. Discussions are also underway with the National Agency for Export Development in defining next steps to develop a national initiative in Indonesia.

77. Technical assistance was provided to the BioTrade Programme in Colombia. A mission to Bogota was undertaken (12–14 August) to support the new phase of the BioTrade Programme developed by the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development and the Comité Técnico Nacional de Biodiversidad y Competitividad.

78. In Uganda, the BioTrade Initiative continued to mainstream BioTrade sectors into national development strategies and to strengthen competitiveness of BioTrade SMEs involved in the natural ingredients and wildlife trade sectors in the country.

79. A workshop on “The Business of BioTrade: Conserving biodiversity through using biological resources sustainably and responsibly” was organized on 24 November in

Geneva in order to engage the private sector in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

80. A workshop on “Promoting an international enabling environment for biodiversity-related economic incentive measures” was organized on 25 November in Geneva. The workshop increased the understanding of the participants of the international legal framework for emerging biodiversity-related markets.

81. UNCTAD continued to assist developing country negotiators in their participation in the ongoing revision of the Novel Foods Regulation.

82. In increasing the awareness and understanding of BioTrade issues by public and private stakeholders, UNCTAD participated in various conferences including:

(a) The International Conference on Sustainable Production, Trade, Consumption and Lifestyle (17–18 February, Nuremberg, Germany);

(b) Multi-Stakeholders Consultations on Bio-cultural Protocols (1 April, Paris);

(c) In-cosmetics Munich and “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” conference (23–24 April, Munich, Germany);

(d) The side event on “Making the private sector a full partner in CITES implementation” (7 July, Geneva);

(e) The first meeting of the “Commission for Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Finance and Development” (11 September, New York);

(f) The CBD International Workshop on Incentive Measures (12–14 October, Paris);

(g) EXPOSUSTENTAT (26–28 October, São Paulo, Brazil).

83. A BioTrade Impact Assessment was developed to measure biotrade’s contribution to sustainable development through trade and investment. Field testing on natural ingredients for cosmetic and food sectors, fauna for leather and pets, handicrafts and sustainable tourism was carried out in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda.

84. Analytical studies carried out have included *The Business of BioTrade: Using Biological Resources Sustainably and Responsibly* (UNCTAD/DITC/BCC/2009/4) and *Issue Paper Concerning the Proposed Amendments to the Novel Foods Regulation: Definitions, Concepts and History of Safe Food Use* (UNCTAD/DITC/BCC/2009/5).

85. Paragraph 103 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should further promote and support cooperation, including by facilitating voluntary consultations among member States and regional groupings, in line with section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, adopted by the General Assembly in 1980 and reaffirmed in the São Paulo Consensus and at the Fifth Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set, held in 2005.”

86. Paragraph 104 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD is the focal point on the work on competition policy and related consumer welfare within the United Nations system. It provides to its member States a forum for intergovernmental policy dialogue and consensus-building in the area of competition laws and policies. It should continue to carry out research and analysis in this area for, and/or in collaboration with, its member States and international networks on competition policy. UNCTAD should continue to be a forum to discuss competition issues on the multilateral level, with close linkages to existing networks of competition authorities, and to promote the use of competition law and policy as tools for achieving domestic and international competitiveness. UNCTAD’s work in this area should promote competition law regimes that take into account the prevailing

conditions in the developing countries. Accordingly, future action by UNCTAD in this area needs to focus on:

“(a) The preparation and implementation of national and regional competition law and policies and measures appropriate to developing countries’ development needs and their consumers’ welfare;

“(b) Research and deliberations regarding anti-competitive practices in different sectors, their effects on consumer welfare and global markets and developing countries’ markets in particular, and mechanisms to address such effects;

“(c) Examining all issues relating to the interface between competition, privatization and innovation and their impacts on trade and development, including at the regional level;

“(d) Providing support to regional and South–South cooperation on competition policies;

“(e) Supporting developing countries in the formulation and implementation of competition laws;

“(f) Voluntary peer reviews of competition policy in UNCTAD should be extended to a wider group of developing countries and their regional economic organizations; and

“(g) Facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices in capacity-building in different regions, including programmes like the technical assistance programme on competition and consumer protection policies for Latin America (COMPAL), which should be strengthened.”

87. The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy (IGE), 7–9 July, provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between government officials involved in competition issues, international trade experts, representatives from regional and international institutions and civil society (TD/B/C.I/CLP/6). It established the agenda and documentation for the Sixth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set in 2010, which will be held from 8–12 November 2010.

88. UNCTAD held a voluntary peer review (VPR) on the competition law and policy of Indonesia (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2009/1). The VPR highlighted the challenges and opportunities faced by the Commission for the Supervision of Business Competition of Indonesia and addressed the issues of independence, investigative tools and law reform. In 2010, a VPR will be carried out on the competition policy of Armenia.

89. Several analytical reports were prepared or commissioned and used as material for intergovernmental meetings as well as in advisory missions:

(a) Public monopolies, concessions, and competition law and policies (TD/B/C.I/CLP/2);

(b) The relationship between competition and industrial policies in promoting economic development (TD/B/C.I/CLP/3);

(c) The use of economic analysis in competition cases, (TD/B/C.I/CLP/4, 28/04/2009);

(d) Review of capacity-building and technical assistance in the area of competition law and policy (TD/B/C.I/CLP/5);

(e) *UNCTAD Perspective – Competition Law and Policy*,
(UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2009/Misc.1);

(f) *Handbook on competition legislation Vol.1 – 2001–2009*,
(UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2009/2/CD);

90. Technical and capacity-building assistance was provided to developing countries on (a) competition advocacy, (b) preparation of national competition laws, (c) training of competition case handlers, (d) institution building including at level of regional institutions, and (e) consumer protection legislation.

91. Activities on advocacy for competition and a culture of competition were conducted for (a) the Syrian Arab Republic's Competition Commission (Damascus, 9–13 February); (b) the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, 22–23 April); and (c) Ecuador at the university "Espiritu Santo" and the IDE Business School (Guayaquil, 4–6 November).

92. Advisory services and consultative meetings supporting countries in drafting and/or reviewing their competition legislation, including building awareness of parliamentarians and stakeholders, and consumer protection laws were implemented for Rwanda (Kigali, 17–20 January), Angola (21–22 April), Ghana (Accra, 29 March–3 April), Lesotho (Maseru, 17–18 September), Costa Rica (San José, 1–2 October), Botswana (Gaborone, 17–18 November), Paraguay (Asuncion, 9–10 November) and Sao Tome and Principe (7–9 December).

93. Activities towards the training of case handlers on application and enforcement of competition legislation and consumer protection issues were implemented for (a) the staff of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Swaziland (8–20 March); (b) the staff of the Indonesian Competition Authority (Jakarta, 14–15 May); (c) officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq (Geneva, 8–12 June); (d) officials from Bhutan conducting a study tour to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (Canberra, 22–27 May); (e) Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, 16–17 July); (f) lawyers and sector regulators from Swaziland (Mbabane, 20–23 July); (g) Bolivia (La Paz, 20–21 July); (h) Ecuador (Quito, 23–24 July); (i) staff of the newly created competition authority in Nicaragua (Managua, 24–30 September); (j) officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Paraguay (Asuncion, 1–12 November); and (k) staff of the provincial office of the regional competition authority in legislation in Iquitos (Peru, 17–20 November).

94. UNCTAD's support to countries that have adopted national legislation, and to newly established competition agencies, included activities in institutional building. For example, a workshop was conducted for the Board of Commissioners of the Competition and Fair Trade Commission of Malawi (Mangochi, 23–24 March), followed by assistance in recruiting new staff for the commission. A fact-finding mission to Montevideo for the newly created Competition Commission of Uruguay (14–16 September) helped to finalize a project document on the enforcement of competition and consumer protection agencies.

95. A number of activities (such as workshops) in support of consumer protection issues were implemented, including on the elaboration of national consumer protection laws and of the institutional framework for implementation. The following countries benefited from such assistance: (a) Bhutan (Paro, 5–6 March); (b) Cambodia (Phnom Penh, 10 March, and 19–20 October); (c) the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vientiane, 22–23 October); (d) Botswana (Gaborone, 17–19 August); (e) Malawi (Lilongwe, 24–25 September); (f) Ecuador (Cuenca, 29–31 October); and (g) study tours for Botswana's officials to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (24–26 November) and to the Hong Kong (China) Consumer Council (1–2 December).

96. Activities carried under the Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Latin America (COMPAL) programme, contributed to strengthening competition and consumer

protection law and policies in five Latin American beneficiary countries (the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru). Resources were obtained for COMPAL II for the period 2009–2012, including Colombia as the sixth beneficiary country and comprising activities at both national and regional levels. Under COMPAL II, a regional seminar on Trade and Competition: Prospects and Future Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean was jointly organized by UNCTAD and SELA in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Caracas, 20–21 April). COMPAL II was launched at national levels in San Jose on 16–17 April, Bogota on 22–24 April and Lima on 27–28 April. In addition, technical assistance was provided to Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Paraguay.

97. A new Competition Programme for Africa (AFRICOMP) was launched on 22 June. This initiative aims to help African countries develop appropriate administrative, institutional and legal structures for effective enforcement of competition and consumer law and policies. Most of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in Africa in the second half of 2009 were undertaken within the frameworks of AFRICOMP.

98. Relations with regional integration groupings of developing countries have been strengthened to support the development and implementation of regional competition policy. A Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Technical Workshop for the development of the SACU Draft Cooperation Agreement on Competition Policy Enforcement and an Annex on Unfair Trade Practices (articles 40 and 41 of SACU agreement) was co-organized by UNCTAD and the SACU secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia, 23–25 March. It contributed to finalizing article 40 for the presentation to the Council of Ministers of SACU and agreed on the follow-up work on article 41 of SACU agreement. A regional seminar on Competition Law in Policy for SADC (Gaborone, 18–21 August) was organized for SADC member States.

99. Paragraph 105 of the Accra Accord states: “Taking into account the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Development Agenda and without prejudice to the work undertaken in other forums, UNCTAD, within its mandate, should continue to undertake research and analysis on trade and development aspects of intellectual property, including on the protection of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore and fair and equitable sharing.”

100. Legal and policy advice was provided to developing countries on negotiations in TRIPS-related issues in WTO. Assistance was provided on intellectual property rights-related regulatory reform to countries negotiating their accession to WTO. A training module was elaborated on the TRIPS Agreement (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2008/3). Algeria was assisted on intellectual property rights issues in formulating draft legislations on data protection. Under UNCTAD’s India project, targeted activities for enhancing awareness of benefits of geographical indications (GI) have resulted in five products acquiring GI registration.

101. Paragraph 106 of the Accra Accord states: “UNCTAD should continue to play an important role in developing and implementing projects under Aid for Trade. UNCTAD should continue to provide focused support to developing countries, in building their capacity to meaningfully participate in, and benefit from, the international trading system and to address the opportunities and challenges that this system offers.”

102. UNCTAD contributed to the Aid for Trade Initiative. It participated in the work of the Aid for Trade Advisory Group of the Director-General of WTO through which UNCTAD contributed to the Second WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade (Geneva, 6–7 July) which was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It (a) provided inputs to the WTO–OECD publication *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum*; (b) assisted developing countries, such as the ACP Group of States in

preparing their participation in the second global review; and (c) supported UNCTAD's participation at the global review. UNCTAD also contributed to the preparation by WTO of the Aid for Trade Work Programme for 2010–2011, to which it will make inputs. Also, UNCTAD collaborated with the United Nations University to publish a book that draws together the views of several United Nations agencies (UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP and United Nations regional commissions) on *Aid for Trade and Development: Global and Regional Perspectives*.

Special focus on LDCs

103. Apart from activities under the three pillars of UNCTAD's work that benefit developing countries generally or their regional groups or organizations, which included LDCs, support to LDCs included the following:

- (a) Monitored and reported on proportion of developed country imports from LDCs, admitted free of duty;
- (b) Assisted LDC ACP States in the ACP–EU negotiations for economic partnership agreements;
- (c) Conducted national services policy review for Nepal and Uganda;
- (d) Assisted LDCs in the process of accession to WTO;
- (e) Substantively supported the LDCs Round Table on WTO Accession, Phnom Penh;
- (f) Substantively supported the Sixth LDCs Trade Ministers' Meeting, Dar-es-Salaam;
- (g) Supported Rwanda in preparing a trade policy framework, in mainstreaming trade into the updating of the Rwanda's diagnostic trade integration study, and in preparing a study enhancing its participation in new and dynamic sectors of international trade;
- (h) Assisted Mozambique, Senegal, and Zambia in developing strategies to maximize trade gains from their creative economies;
- (i) Continued support to the Uganda BioTrade Initiative;
- (j) Contributed to a national seminar on trade and development for Mali;
- (k) Assisted consultations on the interface between competition authority and sector regulators in Rwanda;
- (l) Assisted Cambodia in elaborating the national consumer protection law and the institutional framework for its implication;
- (m) Conducted an induction workshop for the Board of Commissioners of the Competition and Fair Trade Commission of Malawi, followed by assistance in recruiting new staff of the Commission;
- (n) Conducted parliamentary and stakeholders workshops on the Competition Bill in Angola;
- (o) Facilitated a study tour to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for officials from Bhutan, and conducted a workshop on Competition and Consumer's laws and Policies;
- (p) Presented the Draft Competition Bill of Lesotho for consideration of stakeholders and the Government;

- (q) Organized a workshop on Consumer Law and Policy for civil society and sector regulators of Malawi;
 - (r) Conducted a national seminar on Competition Law and Policy in Sao Tome and Principe, followed by a national workshop on the draft Completion Bill;
 - (s) Facilitated consultations on the Consumer Protection Law and a Seminar on Consumer Protection and Fair Trading in the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
 - (t) Supported Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda on organic agriculture policies and plans.
-