

# I. Agreed conclusions

## A. Investment and enterprise for development

(Agenda item 4)

*The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission,*

Acknowledging the contribution of the UNCTAD programmes on investment and enterprise and on science, technology and innovation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat of the most recent global trends and policies in the area of investment for development, in particular through its Sustainable Development Goals investment trends monitor and its *Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on Contribution Towards Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*; and calls on the secretariat to continue reporting on and monitoring these trends and their impact on development;

2. *Notes with concern* that the underlying foreign direct investment trends remain weak, affecting the growth of global value chains, and the persistence of significant risk factors; and further notes that the levels of investment required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals remain insufficient and that progress, as well as monitoring capacity, remain uneven across the 10 Sustainable Development Goal-relevant sectors identified by UNCTAD;

3. *Stresses* the importance of both public and private investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the role of investment promotion agencies and outward investment agencies, in support of national investment strategies; and welcomes new forms of partnership, innovative financing models, corporate behaviour and business mindsets that are conducive to development;

4. *Commends* the in-depth policy research and analysis conducted by the UNCTAD secretariat on investment and enterprise development and its innovative work on emerging issues, including the *World Investment Report*; and looks forward to the report in 2020, which will mark its thirtieth anniversary, and its widest dissemination;

5. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its support for capacity-building on strategies, policies, tools and practices to promote investment and enterprise for development, including through the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and other UNCTAD policy packages, and to report to member States at its next session on the progress achieved;

6. *Acknowledges* the importance of the investment policy reviews, including regional reviews, and the follow-up and review of implementation as an essential tool to support countries' progress towards sustainable development; congratulates Armenia and Chad for the successful presentation of their investment policy reviews; and welcomes participation by the private sector in these presentations;

7. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue presenting the investment policy reviews in an intergovernmental context to further the exchange of best practices; and calls on partner countries to financially support this programme;

8. *Commends* the UNCTAD programme on international investment agreements for its assistance and valuable work in the context of a sustainable development-oriented reform; and requests UNCTAD to continue monitoring phase 2 of international investment agreement reform, working towards coherence in the modernization process of the international investment regime, and to further develop tools and guidelines to operationalize policy options for international investment agreement reform in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Recognizes* the rapid development taking place in the way international investment agreements are drafted; recognizes the role played by UNCTAD and the Division

on Investment and Enterprise; and reaffirms the right of States to regulate within their territory to achieve legitimate policy objectives subject to international obligations;

10. *Underscores* the important role of the ambassadors round table on investing in the Sustainable Development Goals as a platform for connecting all Geneva-based international organizations, the private sector and civil society on the matter of Sustainable Development Goals financing and investment; and encourages UNCTAD to continue to hold round tables in future;

11. *Encourages* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue to support the exchange and dissemination of best practices in investment promotion, including through the awards for promoting investment in the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Commends* UNCTAD for the support to the negotiations of phase 2 of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, in particular regarding the protocol on investment; and encourages the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its work in this context;

13. *Acknowledges* the relevance of the work of UNCTAD on enterprise development and entrepreneurship policies in pursuit of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the policy packages on entrepreneurship policies; and recommends their widest dissemination as a contribution to policy formulation and capacity-building, including through the Empretec programme;

14. *Congratulates* the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its thirty-sixth session; and invites the UNCTAD secretariat to continue the good practices of the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts as a useful forum for organizations to provide comparable baseline data on their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **B. Structural transformation, Industry 4.0 and inequality: Science, technology and innovation policy challenges**

(Agenda item 5)

### *The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission,*

1. *Reaffirms* the critical role of technology, including information and communications technology, and innovation in trade and development, including through their essential contribution to structural transformation, productive capacities, competitiveness and the diversification of production and exports and integration into global value chains and as a key means of implementation and a component of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Acknowledges* the huge potential of digital technologies to bring economic and social development benefits to developing countries; acknowledges that implementation and deployment of these technologies pose significant challenges for exacerbating economic and social divides and disrupting labour markets and could also lead to widening of the digital and productivity divide, in particular in developing countries and the least developed countries; and, in this regard, requests UNCTAD to conduct research and analysis work on potential policy considerations for mitigating these risks and taking advantage of the opportunities and to encourage cooperation in this area;

3. *Recognizes* the increased digitalization of societies and fast-increasing importance of the digital economy; and stresses the need for countries to strengthen their capacities to promote digital entrepreneurship and to design, implement, monitor and assess evidence-based policies in this field;

4. *Stresses* the importance of building national and regional capacities to facilitate the development, dissemination, adoption and use of frontier technologies and innovative solutions for achieving global and national development goals;

5. *Recognizes* the need to facilitate access by women and youth, as well as rural and vulnerable communities, to science and technology and their participation in the

definition of science, technology and innovation agendas, policy decisions and priority-setting; and encourages UNCTAD to consider this in their deliberations;

6. *Welcomes* the contribution of UNCTAD to the digitalization process through research (*Digital Economy Report 2019*), capacity-building (rapid eTrade readiness assessments, electronic commerce (e-commerce) strategies and eTrade for all) and global and regional e-commerce weeks; and reiterates its call for UNCTAD to strengthen its work on enhancing development gains from the digital economy and e-commerce;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the research work of UNCTAD supporting developing countries in their understanding of policy options to steer innovation in ways that leave no one behind; and looks forward to continued work in this area, including through supporting strategic foresight and technological assessment initiatives in developing countries, to improve their understanding of the socioeconomic and environmental implications of new technologies;

8. *Commends* UNCTAD for its guidance in designing effective policies for science, technology and innovation; and notes the recent science, technology and innovation policy review of Panama and the ongoing reviews in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia;

9. *Invites* the UNCTAD secretariat to explore ways to mobilize additional resources to further its work in science, technology and innovation policies and the digital economy, including science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

10. *Invites* UNCTAD to continue its important role in supporting developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to be part of the international debate on frontier technologies, which are expected to critically affect their development trajectories.

*Closing plenary meeting  
15 November 2019*