UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

2026
Results and impact report

Division on investment and enterprise

Investment for sustainable and inclusive development

This document has not been formally edited.

UNCTAD/DIAE/INF/2026/1

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The Division at a Glance in 2025

Research and Analysis

13 publications **15** technical materials downloaded

+1 million times

39% increase year on year

306 policy recommendations contained in reports: 243 global and 63 subnational, national and regional

126 countries benefited from technical cooperation including

40 LDCs 29 LLDCs 11 SIDS

195 requests for services and information

Capacity-building

13,587 participants benefited

online & in-person

51% women

95% of surveyed participants were **satisfied** or **highly satisfied** with the training

191 days of seminars, workshops and training events

16 databases on foreign direct investment, national policies, international investment agreements, sustainable finance, and gender equality

1.5 million views of the Investment Policy Hub attracted **492,000** visitors


VietinBank
Keppel

Introduction

Geopolitical tensions, trade policy uncertainty, weakening multilateral disciplines and growing economic security concerns are reshaping the landscape for cross-border investment. Increasingly, investment decisions are influenced not only by commercial considerations but also by efforts to manage geopolitical risk, strengthen supply-chain resilience, secure access to strategic technologies and safeguard market access. For developing countries and economies in transition, these shifts present both new opportunities and significant challenges. In this evolving environment, attracting investment that supports sustainable development, builds productive capacities and enables participation in industries and technologies shaping the future has become more important than ever.

Against this backdrop, the Division on Investment and Enterprise continued to support member States through its integrated work on research and analysis, policy advice, consensus-building and technical cooperation. Guided by the principles of collaboration, communication, strategic positioning, and respect and empowerment, the Division worked closely with governments, international organizations, development partners and the private sector to deliver practical and impactful solutions.

A highlight of our work in 2025 was international investment in the digital economy. The World Investment Report 2025 underscored the growing role of the digital economy as an engine of growth, innovation and structural transformation, while noting that such investment remains highly concentrated, leaving many developing countries at risk of being left behind. The report sets out concrete policy options and practical pathways to help bridge this gap and enable broader participation in the digital economy.

The Division translated its analytical work into action through a comprehensive package of policy guidance and implementation support. In partnership with the International Telecommunication Union, we launched the Digital Investment Infrastructure Catalyzer at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to help mobilize investment and partnerships for digital infrastructure. To further support policymakers, we published a toolkit which provides practical, action-oriented guidance for designing and implementing effective investment policies for the digital economy. Complementing these efforts, the Division advanced digital business and investment facilitation across 16 countries and territories through the development and enhancement of online single windows, digital licensing systems and investment portals, improving the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of business registration and licensing processes.

In the area of entrepreneurship, our network of enterprise development centres (Empretec) began implementing updated UNCTAD training modules on artificial intelligence (AI) and fundraising. This new content strengthens entrepreneurs' capacity to innovate, access finance and scale their businesses, while reflecting the Division's broader integration of emerging technologies into its capacity-building work.

The Division expanded the use of AI across its technical assistance and knowledge tools. In particular, the IIA Learning Assistant, an AI-based chatbot, was launched to help users navigate complex international investment agreement concepts and delivers expert-backed insights into the reform of the IIA regime through a sustainable development lens. By guiding users to authoritative sources, it enhances the accessibility of UNCTAD's analytical work and supports more evidence-based policymaking.

Beyond this, the Division advanced its work on other key areas including climate change and sustainable investment. Through a project supporting beneficiaries in Africa, it strengthened the capacity of investment promotion agencies to attract and facilitate investment in the energy transition and to develop bankable investment projects in the sector. Complementing these efforts, the Division developed a guide on Leveraging Foreign Direct Investment to Advance National Climate Plans providing practical recommendations for aligning investment promotion efforts with national climate priorities and broader sustainable development objectives.

The Division further leveraged its broad network of investment and enterprise development stakeholders to advance sustainable development outcomes (Figure 1). Through platforms and networks including the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative, the Sustainable Finance Observatory, the Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ), the Empretec Network and Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), it facilitated knowledge exchange, strengthened capacities and promoted the adoption of good practices in sustainable finance, investment promotion, entrepreneurship and sustainability reporting.

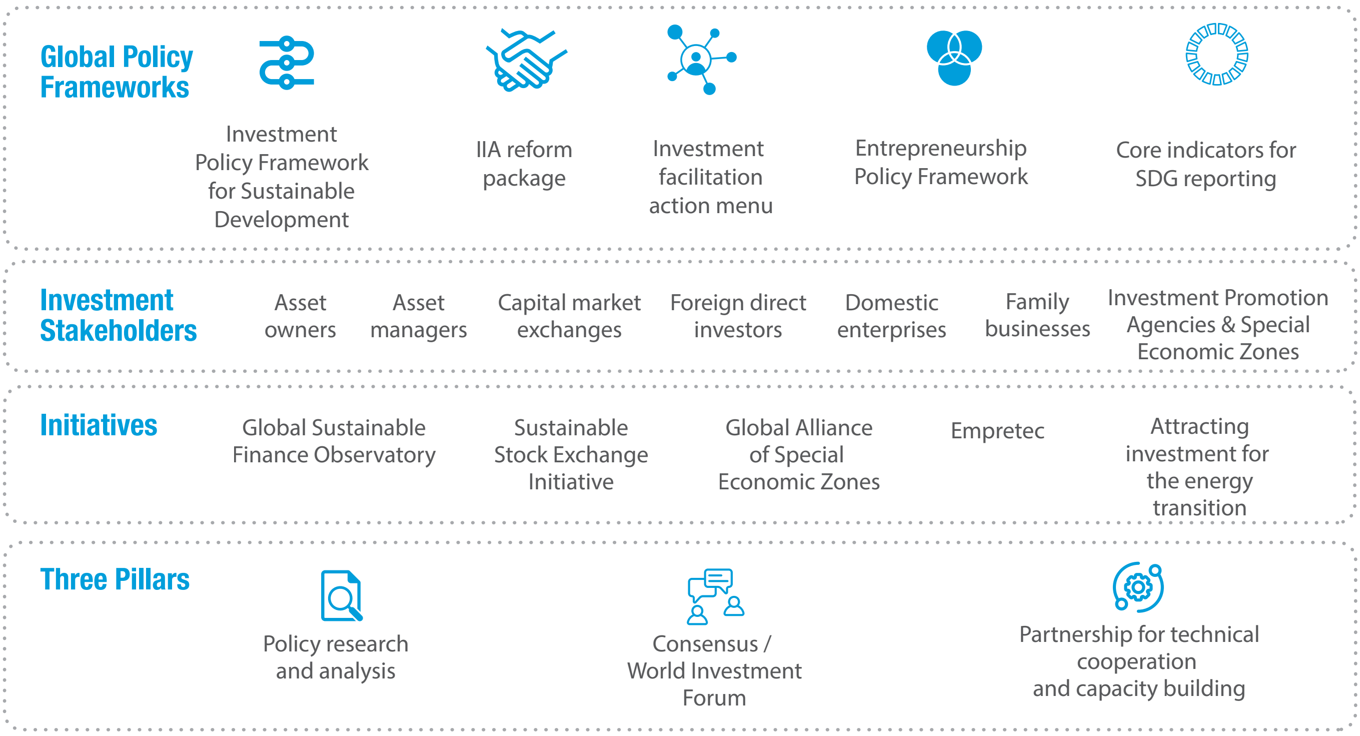
These achievements were delivered in an environment of growing demand for support and constrained resources across the multilateral system. Through innovation, partnerships and targeted interventions, the Division continued to maximize its impact and respond effectively to the evolving needs of member States.

From October 2025, the Division's work was guided by the priorities set out by member States at the sixteenth UNCTAD Ministerial Conference and the Geneva Consensus. These priorities will continue to shape the Division's efforts to support sustainable investment, enterprise development and economic transformation.

Looking ahead, the Division remains committed to delivering evidence-based and forward-looking support that helps countries navigate uncertainty, seize new opportunities and advance sustainable and inclusive development.

Nan Li Collins
Head, World Investment Forum
Chair, UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative
Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise

Figure 1.
Investment chain for development



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DIAE: Core services, tools and global policy frameworks

The UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise is a global centre of excellence for all issues related to investment and enterprise development.

Two flagship products

World Investment Forum

World Investment Report

Seven core services

Global investment information and research

Core data products and services

Global Investment Trends Monitor

SDG Investment Trends Monitor

Investment policies and treaties

Investment Policy Reviews

International Investment Agreements

Investment policy hub

Intellectual Property for Development

Investment promotion and facilitation

Investment Promotion Agency advisory

Business Facilitation Programme

Investment facilitation capacity-building

Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones

Sustainable finance

Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative

Sustainable Institutional Investment

International partnerships

Global Sustainable Finance Observatory

Enterprise development

Entrepreneurship policy development

Entrepreneurship skills development (Empretec)

Accounting and reporting

International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

World Investment Network

Five global policy frameworks

- Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD)
- Reform Package for the International Investment Regime
- Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation
- Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF)
- Guidance on Core Indicators for SDG Reporting by Companies

The 16th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16)

The sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16), held from 20–23 October 2025 in Geneva under the theme "Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development", marked the highest level of participation in UNCTAD's 60-year history, bringing together delegations from 170 countries, including more than 80 ministers and vice ministers.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Geneva Consensus and a political declaration reaffirming UNCTAD's central role in advancing multilateral cooperation and inclusive economic transformation.

As part of the programme, the Division organized several high-level events:

- Ministerial roundtable: Strategic priorities and emerging directions for investment and entrepreneurship policy

  Ministers discussed concrete policy options and strategic responses to today's shifting global investment landscape, including declining productive investment, geopolitical tensions and global value chain shifts. The panelists agreed on the importance of coherent policies, innovation, trust and multilateral cooperation to mobilize investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development. They underscored the continued role of UNCTAD as a platform for dialogue and policy support on investment for development.

  Panelists included senior government representatives, including ministers, vice ministers and secretaries of State **Botswana**, **Colombia**, **The Gambia**, **Croatia**, **Indonesia**, the **Netherlands**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Spain**.

- Business leaders dialogue: Investing in the future

  In this high-level dialogue, leaders converged on a shared vision of rebuilding trust, fostering partnerships and mobilizing innovative finance, to channel investment towards sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient growth. The discussion helped shaped the agenda of the forthcoming World Investment Forum, and the Government of **Qatar** announced that it will host the 2026 edition in Doha.

  Panelists included a minister from **Panama**; heads of international organizations, including UN Tourism; and private sector representatives from COFIDES, Temasek Foundation, Hong Kong and China Gas Company, Cobega and the World Economic Forum.

- Investment facilitation: Progress, prospects and policy options

  The event highlighted global momentum on investment facilitation reforms, including the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, and explored strategies to mobilize private capital for sustainable development. The meeting informed the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference.

  Panelists included government ministers from **Germany**, **Nigeria**, **Panama**, **Qatar**, as well as a representative from the **Republic of Korea**, the WTO and the European Commission.

UNCTAD
16 GENEVA
20–23 OCTOBER 2025

- Igniting entrepreneurial potential – UNCTAD Empretec in the age of transformation

  The meeting showcased the achievements of UNCTAD's flagship entrepreneurship development programme - Empretec which has supported over 550,000 entrepreneurs globally. The programme's transformation agenda was presented and discussed, focusing on innovation, digital readiness and startup support.

  Panelists included senior government representatives, including ministers and secretaries of State, from **Curaçao**, **Portugal**, and **Uganda**, as well as entrepreneurs from AdagioVR, i2Cool, Mata Logistic, Klasha, China Carbon Neutrality Development Group Limited, Microsoft, Social Development Bank, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency.

- 5th UNCTAD youth forum

  With the participation of more than 300 youth from 60+ countries, a key outcome of the UNCTAD Youth Forum was the adoption of the Youth Declaration. The Declaration highlights the need for youth-focused entrepreneurship investment, skills development and access to technology as well as youth as gamechangers for the digital and green transitions, and the importance of inclusive business ecosystems.

  In addition, the Government of **Malaysia**, which held the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, organized a side event entitled *Driving economic transformation: ASEAN's strength in digital innovation and investment resilience for sustainable development*. The event explored ASEAN's experience in digital transformation, investment facilitation and sustainable development, highlighting regional frameworks that support resilient and inclusive growth.

Spain recognizes the importance of UNCTAD as an essential multilateral forum for advancing people-centered development...We welcome the adoption of the Geneva Consensus...Spain [is] commit[ed] to continue working closely with UNCTAD to promote…investment as drivers of inclusive and sustainable development.

Ms. Amparo López Senovilla, Secretary of State for Trade, Spain, letter dated 12 December 2025

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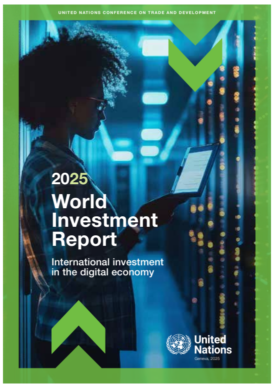
World Investment Report (WIR)

UNCTAD's flagship World Investment Report (WIR) is an authoritative source of data on global investment flows and investment policy trends. It equips member States, particularly developing countries, with critical insights and practical guidance to respond to evolving investment-related developments and formulate evidence-based investment policies. Each year, the report examines an emerging theme and provides policy recommendations to address related challenges. As such, the WIR serves as a key analytical and capacity-building tool underpinning UNCTAD's technical assistance and policy advisory work in investment and enterprise development.

Results and impact at a glance

WIR 2025: International investment in the digital economy



The WIR 2025: International Investment in the Digital Economy examined global trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) and highlighted the growing importance of the digital economy as a driver of development. The report shows that while global FDI declined for the second consecutive year, investment in digital sectors continued to expand, though concentrated in a small number of economies. It warns that many developing countries remain excluded from the benefits of digital transformation due to gaps in infrastructure, digital skills, financing and regulatory readiness. The report calls for coordinated international action and targeted policy reforms to mobilize investment in digital infrastructure and innovation, strengthen enabling regulatory frameworks and support more inclusive and sustainable digital development. It also introduces practical tools and policy guidance to help governments attract and leverage digital economy investment in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Digital Compact.

…this important analysis and report [World Investment Report 2025] … gives us important reference points in charting the way forward.

Mr. Serkan Valandov, Secretary General, YASED International Investors Association, 2025

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraph 80.19), United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/RES/80/127)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
All member States, particularly developing economies

WEBSITE
unctad.org/wir

…the World Investment Report [is] the main global reference on FDI trends and polices.

Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning Economic Development of Egypt, 2025

Policy impact and intergovernmental uptake

The report informed discussion on investment for sustainable development at the highest intergovernmental level. In 2025, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/80/127 on investment for sustainable development, taking note of the World Investment Report 2025, inviting consideration of its policy proposals and requesting UNCTAD "to inform the eighty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution…through a dedicated section of the WIR, with a special focus on promoting investments for sustainable development as well as concrete recommendations, including on strategic sectors to invest for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda…"

At its fifteenth session, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission discussed WIR 2025 findings and policy recommendations, strengthening the link between UNCTAD's analytical work and the intergovernmental process, and reinforcing the WIR's role as a platform for policy dialogue and consensus-building on international investment issues.

Global reach and engagement

UNCTAD implemented a broad dissemination programme. High-impact engagements were held across multiple regions, including **Algeria**, **Bahrain**, **Egypt**, **Maputo**, **Panama**, **Seoul**, **Thailand** and **Türkiye**, thereby extending the report's global reach and policy relevance. This was complemented by regional online briefings for Africa and the Eurasian Economic Union, further strengthening outreach to policymakers and stakeholders in key regional groupings.

> *The comprehensive analysis and policy guidance provided by UNCTAD...through its annual World Investment Report, Global Investment Trends Monitor...provide critical insights that enable our countries to navigate complex global investment trends and align our national strategies towards achieving the SDGs.*
>
> ***Representative of the Asia Pacific Group, 15th session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, 5 May 2025***

© UNCTAD | Presentation of the World Investment Report 2025. 19 June 2025 - Cairo, Egypt. L-R: H.E. Ms. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation of Egypt; H.E. Eng. Hassan El Khatib, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; Dr. Ashraf Abd Elaal, UNCTAD.

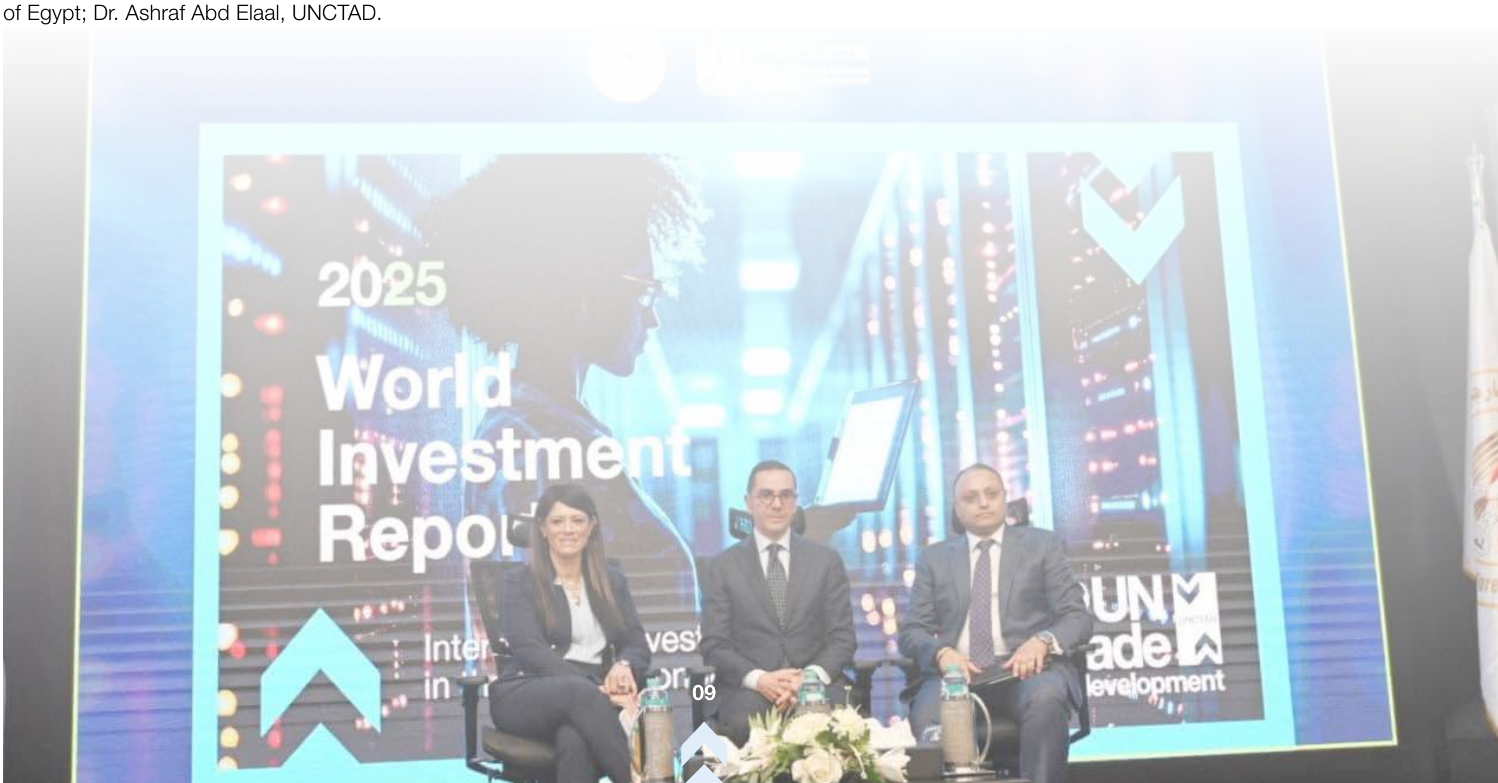


Figure 2.
World Investment Report 2025

Launch

by Secretary-General Grynspan on **19 June** in Geneva

Reach

almost **133,000 downloads** within the first six months

Minisite

almost **110,000 views** of the WIR minisite - the **most visited** UNCTAD minisite in 2025

News

2* WIR launch articles ranked among UNCTAD's **top 5** most-read stories of 2025

Media

covered by **819 media outlets** in **17 languages** including The Wall Street Journal (USA), InfoBae (Argentina), CNBC (USA), France 24 (France) and The Hindu (India)

Social media

UNCTAD social media reached **710,000 people** (**+ 73%** compared with 2024)

Video

promotional video produced in **10 languages** (French, Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Swahili, Urdu and Hindi)

Downloads

WIR publications generated **941,000 total downloads** in 2025 (all editions)

Highlight

From global analysis to national policy reform in Thailand

Data and analysis from the WIR, showing the shift in international investment towards data centres, digital economy activities, high-tech manufacturing and services, informed policy discussion on investment reform in **Thailand**. In September 2025, the Thai Senate invited UNCTAD to present the report's findings during deliberations on reforms to the Foreign Business Act (FBA) aimed at attracting higher-value FDI.

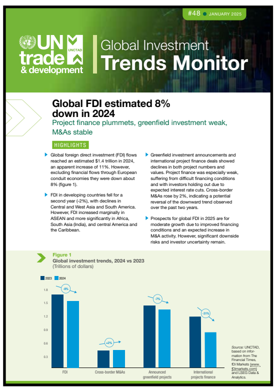
The reform process progressed in May 2026, when the Cabinet approved draft regulations removing FBA licensing requirements for several categories of business, demonstrating how UNCTAD's analytical work can inform national policy reforms and improve the investment climate.

* Global foreign direct investment falls for the second consecutive year, posing acute challenges to developing countries; and Africa: Foreign investment hit record high in 2024

Global Investment Information and Research: Providing authoritative data, analysis and intelligence for all investment stakeholders

Developing countries, particularly small and vulnerable economies, often face challenges in formulating evidence-based, development-oriented foreign direct investment (FDI) policies due to limited statistical capacity and underdeveloped data systems. UNCTAD addresses this gap through its global FDI statistics database—the most comprehensive international source on FDI flows and multinational enterprise (MNE) activity— while also supporting countries to strengthen their capacity to compile, disseminate, and analyse investment data in line with international standards. It further contributes to global methodological development through participation in key expert forums, ensuring that the perspectives of developing economies are reflected in international statistical frameworks. UNCTAD also supports member States through analytical and regional investment reports that provide evidence-based insights on FDI trends, sectoral developments, investment climate, and emerging opportunities. Overall, the programme strengthens data-driven policymaking to support more sustainable FDI flows to developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), while enhancing institutional capacity and peer learning among national investment authorities.

Results and impact at a glance


#48 JANUARY 2025
UN trade & development
Global Investment Trends Monitor
Global FDI estimated 8% down in 2024
Project finance plummets, greenfield investment weak, M&As stable

Advancing global statistical standards

UNCTAD's FDI data resources underpin analysis of emerging global economic trends and support policymaking, international benchmarking, and broader investment analysis.

Building on this evidence base, UNCTAD published two editions of the Global Investment Trends Monitor (GITM), providing timely analysis of key FDI developments to support development-oriented investment policymaking.

- GITM, No. 48
- GITM, No. 49

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraph 80.19)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member States, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member States, other developing countries

WEBSITE
unctad.org/topic/investment/investment-statistics-and-trends

Strengthened FDI data systems and capacity

UNCTAD continued to strengthen global standards and country capacity for high-quality, comparable FDI data.

- Improved global methodologies and standards through engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and International Monetary Fund processes on investment definitions and balance of payments revisions, ensuring development perspectives are reflected in international frameworks.

- Enhanced country capacity for FDI data collection via technical assistance to central banks and national statistical authorities, supporting better reporting and alignment with international standards, including directional FDI data.
- Expanded partnerships and thematic coverage by working with World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and selected investment authorities and promotion agencies on MNE and FDI data collection, and presenting climate-related FDI statistics at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Standing Committee on Finance.

FDI flows & stocks continue to be the most visited datasets in UNCTADStat accounting for **13.3%** of all views up from 12.2% in 2024

Expanding analysis on sustainable investment

A new report, International Investment in Sustainable Infrastructure: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships, examined barriers to FDI and the role of international institutions in mobilizing SDG-aligned infrastructure finance. The report strengthened engagement with external partners, including multilateral development banks and the World Association of PPP Units and Professionals (WAPPP), and informed UNCTAD's contributions at Conference of the Parties (COP) discussions.

Support to regional investment cooperation

UNCTAD supported the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in preparing the inaugural COMESA Investment Report 2025.

- Provided comprehensive analysis of FDI trends, sectoral developments, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), project finance, and sustainable development-related investment across Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Supported evidence-based investment policymaking and implementation of the COMESA Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2026–2030.
- Prompted a request by the COMESA Secretariat to institutionalize the report as an annual flagship publication.

Support to the ASEAN Secretariat continued through the publication of the ASEAN Investment Report 2025: Foreign Direct Investment and Supply Chain Development.

- Analysed regional FDI and supply chain trends, including resilience priorities and gender dimensions.
- Informed discussions among ASEAN committees and ministers and was launched at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.
- Continued to serve as a key reference for regional investment policymaking.

…the recommendations contained in the ASEAN Investment Report (AIR) 2025 have been immensely useful, and officials shall refer to it as a reference in their deliberations. We underscore the important role of the AIR as a vital reference for ASEAN policymakers, think tanks, academia, and the wider public, not only in showcasing the progress of investment integration across ASEAN but also in charting the course of investment integration in ASEAN towards the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN, 23 September 2025

Figure 3.
Beneficiaries

COMESA Investment Report

Beneficiaries
COMESA member States

Members: 21

- Burundi
- Comoros
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

ASEAN Investment Report

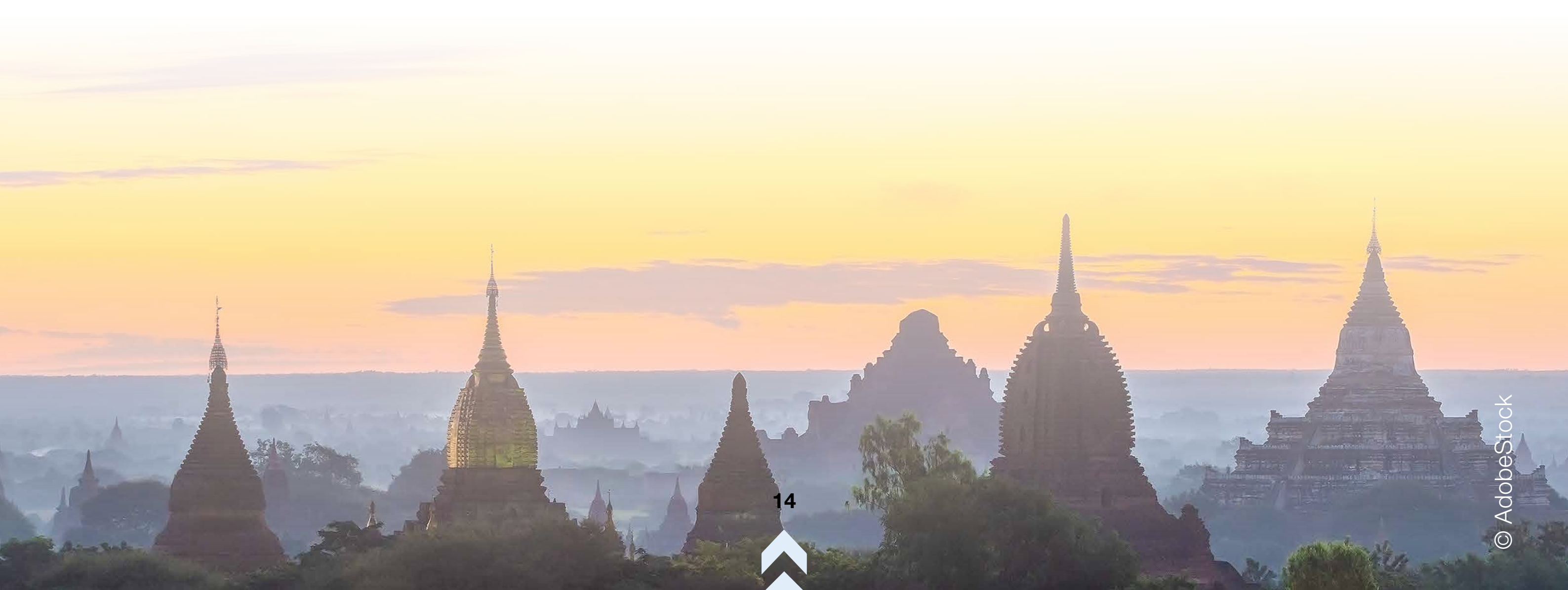
Beneficiaries
ASEAN member States

Members: 11

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam

Including LDCs and LLDCs

UNCTAD is expanding its support to regional economic integration organizations including the Eurasian Economic Union (with the first informal report piloted in 2025), Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the members of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.



Highlight

From analysis to action: Regional investment reports shaping policy reform

The inaugural COMESA Investment Report 2025 was presented to the COMESA council of Ministers, which recognized it as an important tool for evidence-based policymaking and advancing the region's investment agenda. Member States requested that the report be institutionalized as an annual flagship publication and agreed that the next edition should focus on investment facilitation, as part of broader efforts of the secretariat and the regional investment agency, together with UNCTAD, to enhance investment facilitation across the region.

The ASEAN Investment Report forms part of a broader capacity-building programme with the ASEAN Secretariat and member States. Through consultation workshops with investment authorities and promotion agencies across the region, the programme supports the alignment of investment policies and the sharing of good practices. Following discussion of the report's findings at the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and presentation of the report to the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, member States participated in a dissemination workshop in Kuala Lumpur to identify approaches for implementing the report's recommendations.

The report [COMESA Investment Report 2025] was warmly welcomed by all Member States for its in-depth analysis, policy relevance, and the clear roadmap it sets out for advancing the region's investment agenda…The insights provided…establish well-defined targets and objectives that are fully aligned with COMESA's Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2026–2030…it is not merely a report, but a guideline and a road map for the years ahead.

Ms. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary General of COMESA, December 2025

Investment Policies: Monitoring policy, promoting development, improving the investment climate

Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs)

UNCTAD's IPRs assess a country or region's strategic, legal and institutional environment for investment, in line with its development strategy. They provide concrete recommendations to improve the investment climate and encourage greater—and higher quality—investment inflows, supporting sustainable development goals (SDG)-oriented policymaking and leveraging investor impact.

Each Review is conducted in phases and initiated at the request of a government or regional entity. A designated national counterpart—typically a ministry or government agency—is engaged throughout, ensuring strong ownership and contributing to policy recommendations. The process also promotes peer learning through the exchange of experiences and best practices.

Each IPR includes a tailored action plan and is part of a broader process that supports implementation through consensus-building. It may be followed by targeted technical assistance, and beneficiaries can request a follow-up report to assess progress, identify challenges, and define further actions and support needs. Since the introduction of UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, all IPRs have been guided by its core principles and policy guidelines.

This validation [of the Investment Policy Review of CEMAC] marks the conclusion of a crucial technical phase leading to the revision of the CEMAC Investment Charter, paving the way for a major reform ahead.

CEMAC Commission, Douala, October 2025

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.16, 80.21, 80.24, 80.47)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

WEBSITE
unctad.org/ipr

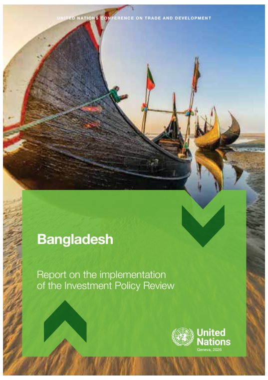
…the review of our investment policy framework that came with numerous recommendations… gave us the opportunity to know the areas we need to focus on as a country to bring in the much-needed investment. The Investment Policy Review was critical in terms of support we got from UNCTAD.

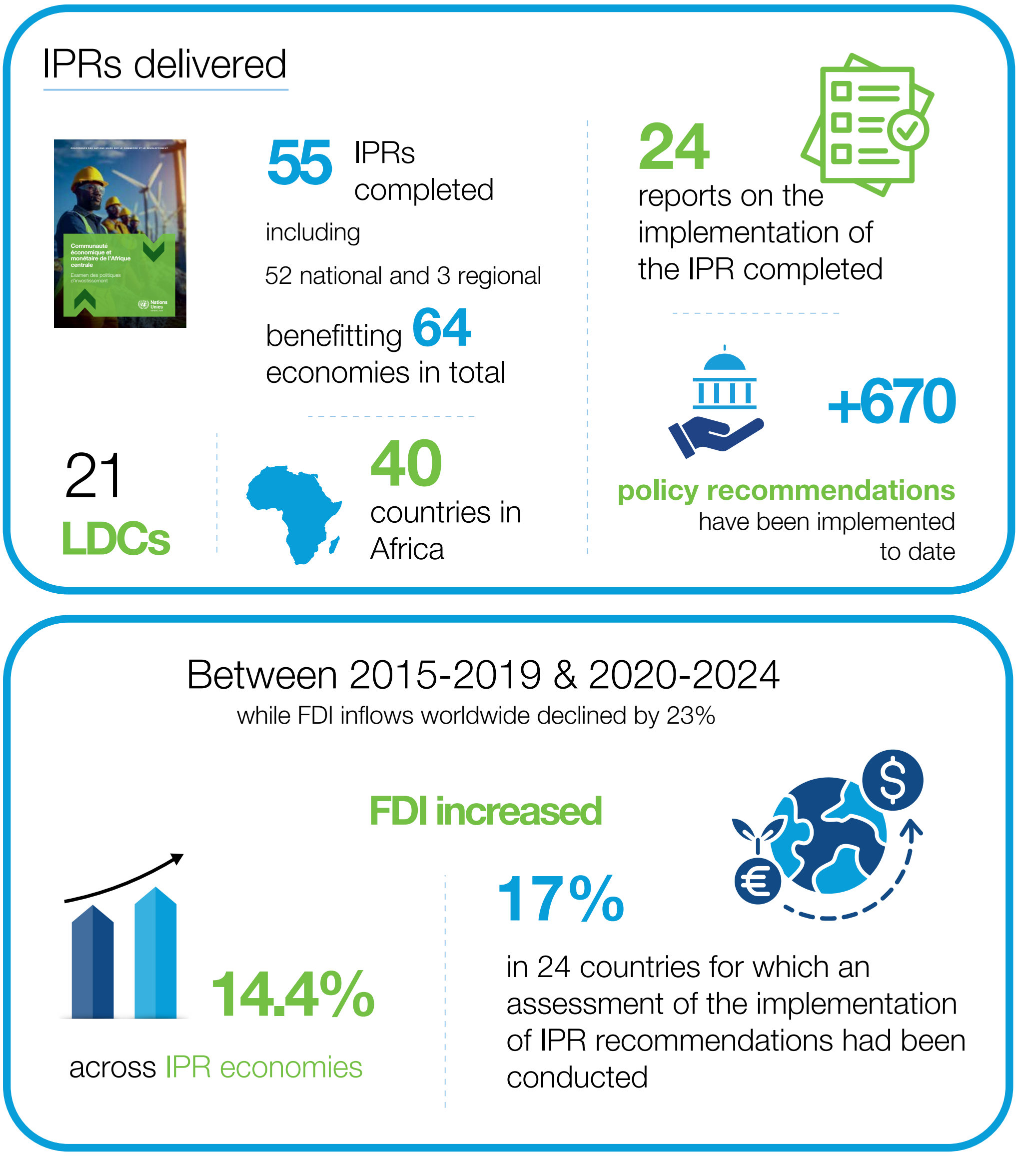
H.E. Mr. Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, The Gambia, October 2025

Results and impact at glance

Key outputs in 2025 included the Investment Policy Review (IPR) of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), which provides, among others, policy options for reforming the region's Investment Charter, and the Implementation Report of Bangladesh, aimed at supporting the country's development objectives, including graduation from least developed country (LDC) status.

Figure 4.
IPR completion and impact review (1999-2025)





At the country level, follow-up activities were carried with **Chad**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Tunisia** and the **WAEMU**. UNCTAD also continued its cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinators Office of **Cabo Verde**, notably contributing inputs for the 2025 UN Country Analysis update.

Figure 5.
IPR activities in 2025

Country-level Activities

Bangladesh
- Fact-finding mission to Dhaka (Oct 2025)
- Updated recommendations for sustainable development
- Capacity-building workshop for trade and investment negotiators
- IPR Implementation Report finalized (Dec 2025)
- Stronger policies and readiness for LDC graduation

Cabo Verde
- Contribution to UN country analysis 2025 update
- Support to UN system wide planning
- Better informed national planning

Chad
- Training on investment policy and promotion in special economic zones
- 8 Policymakers from AAZES benefitted
- Enhanced capacity for investment attraction and SEZ development

Côte d'Ivoire
- Series of training events for CEPICI staff
- 4 Training sessions
- 66 Staff trained (30 women)
- Focus: sustainable and inclusive investment policies and digital economy
- Stronger institutional capacity for investment attraction

Tunisia
- 3 Dissemination events on IPR findings and recommendations
- Engagement with national and international stakeholders (UN country team, economists' group, EU partners)
- Focus: investment promotion and sustainable development impact
- Increased awareness and policy dialogue on investment reforms

Regional Activities

CEMAC (6 member States)
- Regional IPR prepared and finalized
- Participatory process with stakeholders
- Regional validation workshop (27-29 Oct 2025)
- Engagement of CEMAC Commission and member States
- Improved policy harmonization and roadmap for investment policy reforms

WAEMU (8 member States)
- Follow-up to regional IPR (published 2024)
- Presentation at launch of regional investment guide (7 May 2025)
- Engagement with development partners (World Bank, IISD)
- Participation in annual meeting of investment promotion agencies
- Presentation of FDI trends and policy framework for investment in the digital economy (World Investment Report 2025)
- Stronger regional coordination and policy alignment for investment

CAIPA
- Participation at Annual Meeting (26 Nov 2025)
- Key insights from World Investment Report 2025
- Focus: FDI trends and investment policies for the digital economy
- Enhanced knowledge-sharing and investment strategies

Our Impact Pathway

Policy Advice → Evidence-based analysis and tailored recommendations

Capacity-building → Training and knowledge transfer for institutions and policymakers

Implementation & Coordination → Better policies, stronger institutions and aligned frameworks

Investment Impact → Increased, higher-quality and more sustainable investment

Stronger Policies | Better Institutions | Aligned Frameworks | Sustainable Development | Inclusive Growth

Targeted support in investment in the digital economy

UNCTAD developed the International Investment in the Digital Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers, which serves as a foundation for advancing investment in the digital economy.

- It strengthens member States' capacity to address key emerging investment challenges, based on the World Investment Report 2025 and its policy recommendations.
- The toolkit provides action-oriented tools to support governments in designing, implementing and strengthening investment policies and regulatory frameworks for the digital economy.
- It underpins contributions to the Digital Infrastructure Investment Catalyzer (launched by International Telecommunication Union and UNCTAD and endorsed by the Sevilla Platform, Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)), supporting investment mobilization and enhancing regulatory and institutional readiness.
- The toolkit is being operationalized through a Development Account project (2026–2029), supporting country-level implementation in four African least developed countries (LDCs): **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Mauritania**, **Senegal** and **Sierra Leone**.

Highlight

Tunisia advances investment reform to support inclusive and sustainable growth

Tunisia has embarked on key structural reforms, including the revision of its investment law and the institutional framework for investment promotion. These reforms are aligned with the government's broader strategy to advance a development model based on social justice, equity and balanced regional growth. The focus is on simplifying procedures, improving the business climate, fostering entrepreneurship and directing investment towards high value-added, export-oriented and technologically advanced sectors, while supporting youth employment and environmental sustainability. These priorities closely reflect the main recommendations of the UNCTAD IPR of **Tunisia** (2024), particularly its emphasis on investment facilitation, digitalization and institutional coordination to foster a more efficient, transparent and competitive investment framework.

312 participants benefitted from capacity-building training including 118 women

This report comes at the right moment for Bangladesh. The global investment outlook remains challenging amid geopolitical tensions, but we are using this period to strengthen our readiness so that when the global tide turns, Bangladesh is better placed to welcome investors.

Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), April 2026

International Investment Agreement (IIA) Programme

As the focal point for all matters related to IIAs, UNCTAD provides evidence-based policy guidance, strengthens the capacities of policymakers and negotiators, and convenes stakeholders to advance reform of the IIA regime. Its work supports member States in aligning their IIA frameworks with sustainable development objectives, including advancing public policy priorities and addressing climate change.

IIAs expanded rapidly in the 1990s but are widely recognized as requiring reform, as many reflect outdated approaches and have generated a growing number of investor–State dispute settlement (ISDS) cases. Emerging global challenges such as climate change, the energy transition, sustainable investment in critical minerals, and geopolitical tensions, have further underscored the need for a modern, balanced regime that supports sustainable development while safeguarding the right to regulate in the public interest.

UNCTAD supports this reform agenda through its Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the Reform Package, and the Reform Accelerator, which provide principles, guidance and model provisions for modernising IIAs and improving policy coherence. These tools underpin all advisory and capacity-building work on IIAs. Support to countries is demand-driven and includes legal and policy advisory services, capacity-building and training at national, regional and interregional levels, evidence-based research and tailored studies, and comprehensive databases on IIAs and ISDS cases. This is complemented by multi-stakeholder platforms, including the annual IIA Conference and Reform Platform, which foster dialogue, peer learning and the advancement of reform efforts.

Results and impact at glance

UNCTAD's policy guidance, analytical work and technical assistance contributed to advancing IIA reform efforts at national, regional and multilateral levels. From 2012 to 2025, over 117 countries benefited from UNCTAD's work programme on IIAs.

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.19, 80.20, 80.24)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), BRICS member countries, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Group of Twenty (G20), League of Arab States (LAS), Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and individual countries including the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria, Egypt, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates

WEBSITE
unctad.org/iia

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the comprehensive and insightful analysis report of Tanzania's network of existing International Agreements, including BITs and regional agreements. (…). It not only highlights key performance indicators and trends but also provides actionable recommendations that reflect a deep understanding of the subject matter.

Permanent Secretary, President's Office – Planning and Investment, United Republic of Tanzania, July 2025

Strengthening policy frameworks and reform processes

In 2025, Issue notes on reform convergence, trends in Investor–State Arbitration Cases, and the evolving state of IIAs provided policymakers with timely insights on emerging risks, reform options and good practices. The International Investment Agreements Toolbox on Clean Energy, Digital Transformation and Public Health further enabled policymakers—particularly in G20 and partner countries—to translate recent treaty practice into concrete negotiating options. This supported efforts to align IIAs with national development priorities while preserving regulatory space.

Capacity-building and advisory services

Through targeted advisory services and capacity-building activities, UNCTAD strengthened the ability of countries and regional organizations to engage effectively in the negotiation, implementation and reform of IIAs.

In 2025, UNCTAD supported regional IIA negotiations for the **LAS**, **COMESA** and the **AfCFTA**. It also provided support on IIA reform through technical assistance and capacity building to several countries and entities including **Tanzania**, **Egypt**, the **United Arab Emirates**, **Nigeria**, **Qatar**, countries members of the **UFM**, **BRICs**, **ASEAN** and **ECOWAS** (*see infographic for participation figures*). These engagements focused on key reform priorities—such as investment facilitation, sustainable development-oriented treaty design and the implementation of new-generation IIAs—and supported ongoing national and regional reform processes. These combined efforts contributed to strengthened institutional and technical capacities, enhanced policy coherence, and more informed engagement in IIA reform processes across beneficiary countries.

In addition, UNCTAD contributed to international training and policy dialogue platforms, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Committee on Trade and Investment session on investment facilitation in international investment agreements, as well as the 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum of African and Asian Investment Promotion Agencies of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), organized by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Morocco. These engagements enhanced peer learning and the exchange of good practices on investment facilitation, IIA reform, and the role of investment promotion agencies in strengthening policy dialogue and regional cooperation.

In 2025

1,264 stakeholders benefitted from training and capacity building on IIAs

54%

46%

98%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the sessions enhanced their knowledge of the key issues related to IIAs

98%

stated that the UNCTAD workshop was highly useful to the needs of their country

Today marks an important milestone in our joint partnership, as we have finally validated the revised CCIA text. Looking back at how much this specific endeavour has been demanding and challenging at times, we can't but express our deep gratitude to UNCTAD for the invaluable support provided from the very beginning. Your radiant skill and deep knowledge of the subject matter were instrumental in reaching this important milestone.

H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA Secretariat

Enhancing transparency and evidence-based policymaking

UNCTAD strengthened transparency and evidence-based investment policymaking through its Investment Policy Hub. The platform provides policymakers with comprehensive treaty data, analytical tools and AI-enabled resources to support informed investment policy decisions.

- The IIA Navigator provides public access to more than 3,163 IIAs, strengthening countries' capacity to monitor, analyse and implement investment agreements.
- The IIA Content Mapping database was upgraded to cover more than 2,800 IIAs, with enhanced classifications of key treaty provisions and broader coverage of investment protection provisions, improving the transparency and comparability of treaty practice.
- In 2025, UNCTAD launched the IIA Facilitation Mapping database, covering over 400 IIAs concluded since 2010, including the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement. The database enables policymakers to identify convergence and divergence in treaty practice and has been used to inform policy analysis and support the implementation of investment facilitation commitments.
- The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator was expanded to cover more than 1,460 arbitration cases. The data is used for UNCTAD's research on trends in ISDS cases.
- UNCTAD also launched an IIA Learning Assistant, an AI-powered chatbot, that helps users navigate complex IIA concepts and delivers expert-backed insights into the reform of the IIA regime through a sustainable development lens. By guiding users to authoritative sources, it supports wider use of UNCTAD's analytical work and strengthens evidence-based policymaking.

Together, these tools provide an integrated investment policy knowledge ecosystem that enables policymakers to track treaty developments, compare legal frameworks and make more informed policy decisions.

IIA Navigator
information on **+3,350** BITs and TIPs
546,449 views of its IIA treaty pages

Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator
information on **+1,400** publicly known international investor-State arbitration cases pursuant to IIAs

450,412 views of its ISDS case pages

Support to the G20 trade and investment workstream

UNCTAD took the lead in supporting the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) of the South African G20 Presidency. At the request of the Presidency, UNCTAD prepared a report (with inputs from the OECD) on, Harnessing Investment Policies for Clean Energy, Digital Transformation, and Public Health. The report was endorsed in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement of 10 October 2025 (Gqeberha, South Africa) and the accompanying Chair's summary.

UNCTAD's analytical contributions supported the identification of policy options and good practices, contributing to more informed discussions and greater convergence among G20 members and partners on the role of investment policy in advancing sustainable development priorities.

© UNCTAD | G20 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting. 10 October 2025 - Gqeberha, South Africa

Highlight

UNCTAD shapes regional investment treaty reform and sustainable investment rulemaking

As part of its backstopping and technical support to regional economic groupings on the negotiations on investment agreements - such as those under the AfCFTA Investment Protocol, COMESA Common Investment Area (CCIA), and the League of Arab States - countries have chosen to reference UNCTAD's work on international investment agreements (IIAs) in the preambles of these binding instruments. In total, 66 countries have agreed to reference UNCTAD directly in their regional investment treaties. Furthermore, within UNCTAD's IIA Reform Platform, stakeholders from governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector have called on UNCTAD to develop Guiding Principles for IIA Reform to advance sustainable development objectives. These developments demonstrate that UNCTAD's work has a tangible impact on both the formulation of investment treaties and the evolution of soft law principles shaping international investment rulemaking.

We really appreciate the leadership that UNCTAD (…) has been providing on the investment issues in the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group. (…) The Toolbox on Investment Policies is comprehensive and takes forward the ideas we shared with you for the investment priorities under our G20 Presidency.

Chief Director of Trade Policy and Negotiations, Trade Branch, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa, June 2025

 | AfCFTA Public-Private-Press (P3) Summit. 24 November 2025 - Abuja, Nigeria

Investment Policy Research

The programme leads UNCTAD's work on national investment policy trends and analysis, with a focus on the implications of the evolving policy landscape for sustainable development. Through the Investment Policy Monitors (IPM), the World Investment Report and targeted outputs for specific member State groupings (e.g. the G20), the programme provides in-depth assessments of key policy developments shaping the global investment environment. The programme further contributes to global monitoring of SDG-related investment policy developments, including indicator 17.5.1. on outward foreign direct investment (FDI) promotion regimes, through analytical inputs to the SDG Reports and UNCTAD's SDG Pulse. Beyond research and analysis, the team provides technical assistance and advisory services to help member States design and implement effective national investment laws and policies.

Results and impact at a glance

The investment policy research team continued to support evidence-based policymaking through analytical work and the maintenance of two public databases:

Investment Law Navigator

A comprehensive database of national investment laws (including investment codes, screening laws and investment policy documents), providing full legal texts and user-friendly search tools for identifying and comparing provisions relevant to the regulation and promotion of FDI.

Through its monitoring and analysis of investment laws, UNCTAD contributes to international investment policy discussions while supporting countries in reviewing and reforming their investment frameworks through advisory services and technical assistance.

Investment Laws Navigator
containing
216 national investment laws
105,034 views of its law pages

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.19 and 80.51)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Southern African Customs Union member States and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa member States

WEBSITE
investmentpolicy.unctad.org/

...your recent [Investment Policy Monitor] on Investor-State arbitration under investment laws...is timely and extremely important. We often struggle to demonstrate to the governments we work with that national-based ISDS is real and likely to increase, so it is extremely helpful to now have an UNCTAD publication we can reference.

Dr. Nikièma H. Suzy, Director, Sustainable Investment, Economic Law and Policy Programme, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), 9 December 2025

Investment Policy Monitor Database
up-to-date, country-specific information on **2,066** policy developments affecting FDI
238,366 page views

Investment Policy Monitor (IPM) Database

A global database providing timely, country-specific information on policy developments affecting FDI.

By continuously monitoring investment policy changes worldwide, UNCTAD informs evidence-based policymaking, contributes to international investment policy discussions, and supports analysis in the World Investment Report and other flagship publications.

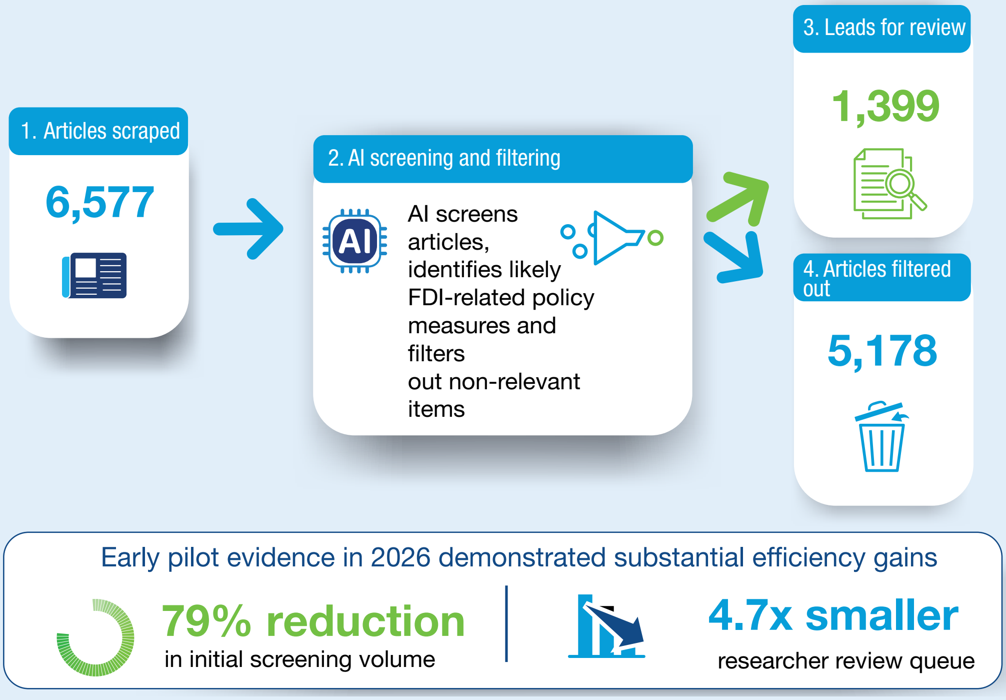
AI integration strengthens investment policy monitoring and transparency

In 2025, an artificial intelligence (AI)-supported workflow was developed to enhance the timeliness, sustainability, and coverage of the IPM database.

The system screens scraped articles, identifies likely FDI-related policy measures, and presents candidate leads for expert validation. Researchers remain responsible for verification and classification, ensuring expert oversight while improving screening efficiency.

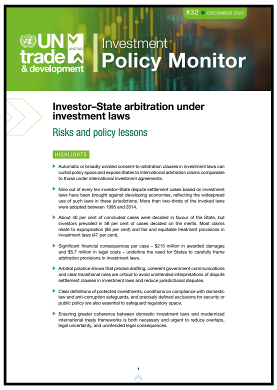
By year-end, the phase-one solution was ready for piloting following iterative development including curated source crawling, prompt engineering, labelled testing, backend integration, and performance optimization.

Box figure 1.
AI supported workflow reduced the manual review queue



Early pilot evidence in 2026 demonstrated substantial efficiency gains while maintaining expert oversight and quality control. The integration of AI improves the efficiency, timeliness and coverage of global investment policy tracking, enabling policymakers to access more up-to-date information and respond more rapidly to changes affecting foreign investment flows.

Knowledge products and policy research outputs



The Division also advanced its work programme on national investment policy research through the publication of three IPM issues, providing timely analysis of emerging trends and developments in investment policymaking. The following issues were released:

- FDI derisking: Political risk insurance - Issue No 30
- The investment dimension of digital strategies - Issue No 31
- Investor–State arbitration under investment laws: Risks and policy lessons - Issue No 32

A guide for policymakers on Leveraging Foreign Direct Investment to Advance National Climate Plans was developed to support the implementation of national climate plans and broader sustainable development objectives. Launched at United Nations Climate Change Conference 2025, the guide provides a roadmap to help policymakers:

- Integrate investment and FDI needs into nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- Align national investment policy frameworks with climate objectives
- Strengthen investment promotion efforts for bankable climate-aligned projects
- Mobilize long-term finance and technology in climate-strategic sectors

The guide complements broader international initiatives on climate investment planning and mobilization and reflects emerging country experiences and good practices.

UNCTAD published Derisking Investment for the SDGs: The Role of Political Risk Insurance, examining how political risk insurance (PRI) can help mobilize FDI to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). Drawing on survey data and interviews with PRI providers, the report:

- Examines the role of derisking tools in supporting SDG-related investment
- Analyses trends in PRI across regions and sectors
- Identifies challenges and opportunities in scaling investment into developing countries and LDCs
- Provides policy recommendations to strengthen the contribution of PRI to sustainable development objectives

The publication contributes to international policy discussions on mobilizing private investment and addressing the growing SDG financing gap.

derisking report downloaded **9,389** times from Apr-Dec 2025

© AdobeStock

Capacity-building and policy dialogue

Support to regional investment facilitation and digital infrastructure initiatives continued through targeted capacity-building and policy dialogue.

Key activities included:

- **Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Investment Facilitation Digital Monitor:** Virtual training sessions were delivered to focal points from **Botswana**, **Eswatini**, **Lesotho**, **Namibia** and **South Africa**
- **United Nations General Assembly 2025:** A joint side event was organized with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Bank on catalyzing investment in digital infrastructure.
- **Financing for Development (FfD4):** Two side events were held:
  - » Enhancing de-risking mechanisms for sustainable investment (with the Berne Union and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC))
  - » Investing in the digital future - strategies for financing a sustainable and inclusive connected world (with ITU, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Government of Brazil, the Government of South Africa, and the Government of Spain)

A key outcome of the FfD4 side event on investing in the digital future was the launch of the Digital Infrastructure Investment Catalyzer Initiative by UNCTAD and ITU. The initiative establishes a platform for information sharing and collaboration among United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, private sector and other key digital infrastructure investment stakeholders, and was endorsed by the Sevilla Platform for Action.

G20 investment monitoring

UNCTAD and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) continued their collaboration through the publication of the 32nd joint report on G20 Investment Measures, documenting measures taken by G20 governments between 16 October 2024 and 15 October 2025.

UNCTAD-OECD report on G20 investment measures downloaded **5,634** times in 2025

more than **7x** higher than in 2024

Highlight

Partnership with the Berne Union advances work on investment de-risking for sustainable development

UNCTAD established a partnership with the Berne Union to advance a new workstream on de-risking investment for the SDGs, with a focus on political risk insurance and the role of export credit agencies (ECAs). The collaboration helped translate UNCTAD's research into policy dialogue, including through a joint FfD4 side event with the Berne Union and ICC on enhancing de-risking mechanisms for sustainable investment. By bringing evidence on the role of ECAs and de-risking tools into financing for development discussions, UNCTAD contributed to increased policy attention to ECAs as actors in mobilizing finance for sustainable development, reflected in their recognition in the Sevilla Commitment. Follow-up to UNCTAD's report recommendations has also supported stronger cooperation between development finance institutions and ECAs, including through dedicated working groups. The partnership is further helping address limited awareness of political risk insurance and strengthen understanding of how de-risking tools can support sustainable investment.

Investment Promotion: Strengthening local institutions

Effective investment promotion institutions are essential for attracting, facilitating, and retaining sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI). The programme provides tailor-made training, advisory and networking services, and produces practical guidance and analytical publications on investment promotion and facilitation, aftercare services, institutional arrangements, good governance, and investor targeting and retention strategies.

The programme works directly with national and sub-national investment promotion agencies (IPAs), outward investment agencies (OIAs), special economic zones (SEZs) and their associations to build capacity, promote best practices and enhance investment facilitation. Particularly attention is given to least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS), helping them strengthen investment ecosystems and attract investment that contributes to sustainable development.

Results and impact at a glance

In 2025, the Programme generated impact at three levels: strengthening institutional capacities of IPAs and SEZ authorities; increasing investor engagement and project visibility for energy-transition projects in Africa; and providing advisory service and policy guidance for governments and zone authorities.

Strengthening investment promotion capacities for sustainable investment

Through targeted capacity-building initiatives, the Programme strengthened investment promotion capabilities across developing countries to promote sustainable investment, facilitate investment in priority sectors and integrate sustainability considerations into investment promotion strategies.

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.47, 80.51, 80.76, 80.78)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Dominican Republic and Kiribati, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

WEBSITE
https://unctad.org/topic/investment/investment-promotion-and-facilitation

WAIPA remains fully committed to deepening our partnership with UNCTAD, strengthening synergies, and advancing our shared mission of promoting Investment for Good and delivering meaningful value to our global IPA community.

Mr. Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director and CEO, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), 27 November 2025

Key results:

- In partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), UNCTAD trained investment promotion officials from 21 countries, including 7 LDCs on facilitating investment in the energy transition, designing sustainable FDI policies and assessing project bankability. Participants reported that the training supported stronger integration of sustainability and gender considerations into their investment promotion approaches.
- UNCTAD delivered an online workshop for 120 government officials in the COMESA region responsible for investment promotion, tourism, finance and commerce, strengthening their understanding of risk perception, risk mitigation and approaches to enhance investment attractiveness.
- Together with CAIPA, UNCTAD convened more than 100 Caribbean investment promotion officials and international experts to strengthen capacities for attracting investment in the digital economy. A follow-up online session on UNCTAD's digital economy policy framework expanded outreach and reinforced the framework as a reference tool for digital investment promotion.

653
people benefitted from capacity-building training

256
women

of those surveyed
95%
rated the activities as useful or very useful

From capacity-building to investor engagement: Financing Africa's energy transition

Through the United Nations Development Account Project Attracting Finance and Investment for the Energy Transition in Africa, UNCTAD supported **Ethiopia**, **Malawi**, **Namibia**, **Seychelles** and the United Republic of **Tanzania** along a complete results chain—from strengthening technical capacities and providing tools to facilitating direct engagement with investors and financiers.

National bankability workshops in **Namibia**, delivered with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), and in **Ethiopia**, delivered with the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), strengthened the capacity of national officials to structure and present investment-ready clean-energy projects to international investors and development finance institutions.

The workshops also piloted new UNCTAD training modules on the bankability of energy-transition projects. These modules complement United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s training programme on financing SDG projects and are now being delivered jointly, supporting their continued use within national institutions beyond the project lifecycle.

Beneficiary countries subsequently applied these strengthened capacities at two flagship platforms:

- The SDG Investment Fair: convened during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;
- A dedicated pitching session for **Ethiopia**, **Malawi**, and United Republic of **Tanzania** at the Future Investment Conference (FIC), during the 25th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT).

These engagements provided structured access to a global network of investors and development partners. They also enabled participating IPAs to apply investment-pitching methodologies that will serve as a replicable model for future UNCTAD support to African beneficiary countries.

Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones

The Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ) brings together SEZ stakeholders with a shared objective: advancing a new generation of zones that contribute to sustainable development.

SEZs are important platforms for attracting investment, creating jobs, expanding exports, and strengthening productive capacity. They also support countries in integrating into global value chains, upgrading their industries, and diversifying their economies. Realizing this potential at scale requires coordinated action.

GASEZ founding members[1] work together to strengthen global networking for trade and investment promotion, advance collective policy advocacy for SEZs, and implement programmes that share best practices and support SEZ modernization. Since its establishment in 2022, the Alliance has convened regular meetings and conferences to foster cooperation among stakeholders.

Highlight

From capacity-building to investment engagement

Through the Energy Transition Development Account project, UNCTAD supported beneficiary institutions in moving from capacity building to active engagement with international investors. By 2025, trained officials were participating in investor pitching activities. Projects such as Salima Solar Power Project (Malawi) and Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zone Authority (United Republic of Tanzania) reported tangible investor interest and follow up discussions, indicating increased investment readiness and progress towards financing opportunities.

> *The Salima Solar Power Project attracted attention from key investors and opened pathways for financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building partnerships.*
>
> ***Mr. Gift Chiwala, Chief Energy Officer, Ministry of Energy, Malawi, September 2025***

> *Your insights, experiences, and practical examples brought the agenda to life and provided CAIPA members with concrete pathways for advancing digital investment across the region.*
>
> ***Ms. Kaye Greenidge, President of CAIPA, 28 November 2025***

[1] Africa Economic Zones Organization, Free Trade Zones Association of the Americas, Green Partnership the Industrial Parks of China, International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones, UN Trade and Development, World Free and Special Economic Zones Federation, and the World Free Zones Organization.


Nasdaq
Is Proud to Celebrate the
WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY
with UN SSE, UNICEF and Finland
SSE
Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative
unicef
for every child
SUOMI
FINLAND
Nasdaq
Love is blind...
© UNCTAD

Sustainable Finance: Mainstreaming sustainable and inclusive principles

Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative

The SSE initiative is a United Nations partnership programme co-organized by UNCTAD, the United Nations Global Compact (UN Global Compact), United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The initiative provides a global platform through which stock exchanges, regulators, issuers and investors collaborate to strengthen sustainability practices and promote sustainable investment, including in developing countries.

UNCTAD advances sustainable finance and capital market development through research, consensus-building and technical assistance. Through the SSE initiative, UNCTAD supports capital market stakeholders in integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into market regulation, training and market practices; provides data and technical assistance to help markets respond to sustainability challenges; facilitates the exchange of experiences and peer learning across markets; and strengthens global networks that support sustainable and inclusive capital market development.

We are grateful to the UN SSE for facilitating this timely training…as we prepare to implement IFRS S1 and S2. It helped strengthen technical capacity…and [provided] the opportunity to engage directly with global experts from the UN SSE and IFRS Foundation, something we have limited access to in our region…For a region as climate vulnerable as the Pacific, such training is not only of professional value but also carries long-term significance for our communities and livelihoods.

Sheraj Obeyesekere, Chief Executive Officer, Fiji Stock Exchange, 2025

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.18 and 80.23)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Malaysia, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Türkiye, United Kingdom
Regional activities took place in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America.

WEBSITE
sseinitiative.org

The recent IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards workshop… provided practical insights and showed the strong commitment of our market to strengthen sustainability reporting. This initiative also aligns with Indonesia's efforts in adopting IFRS S1 and S2, ensuring our market is well prepared for the transition.

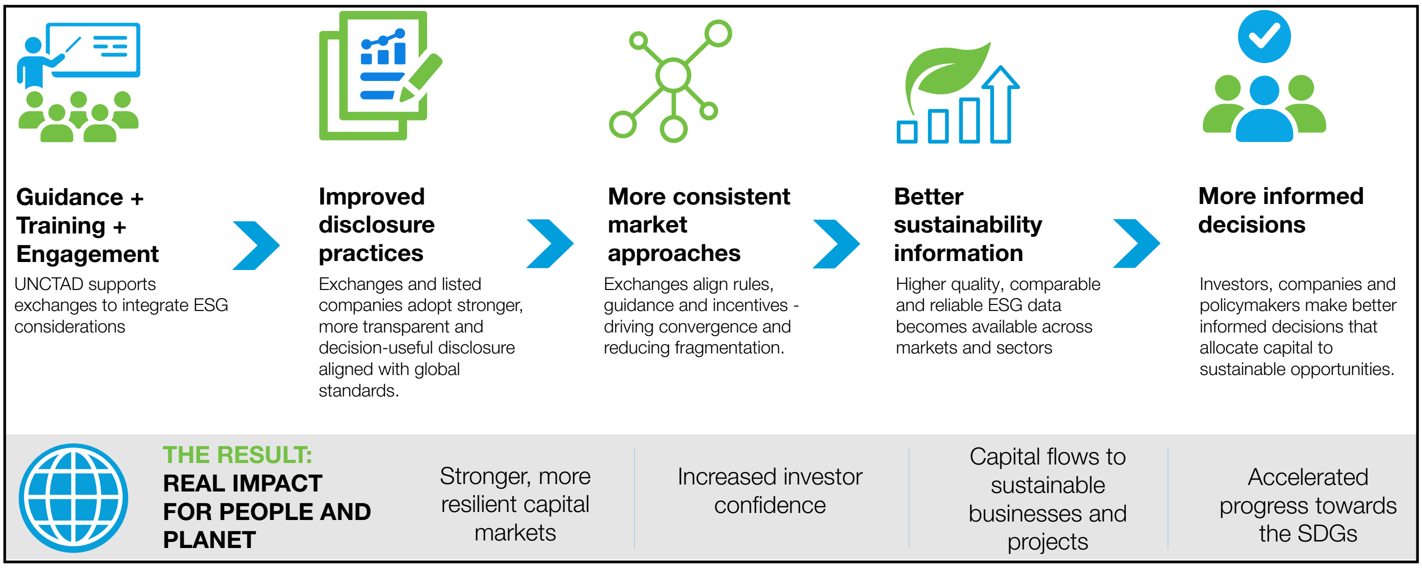
Iman Rachman, President Director (CEO), Indonesia Stock Exchange, 2025

Results and impact at a glance

The SSE initiative strengthened its role as a technical assistance platform supporting exchanges, regulators, investors and issuers in the implementation of sustainability standards and disclosure frameworks across climate, nature and social dimensions. Through evidence-based policy analysis, multi-stakeholder consensus building, technical guidance, advisory services, and training, the initiative expanded both the availability of practical market tools and stakeholders' capacity to apply them effectively.

SSE website traffic
375,000 page views
+72% publication page views
+82,000 file downloads
an increase of 59%

Figure 6.
How the SSE creates impact



Strengthened practical market guidance

Practical market guidance was expanded through the launch of four model guidance publications addressing modern slavery, nature-related financial disclosures, climate transition plans, and sustainable business practices for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These were developed with partners including the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Walk Free, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TFND), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Global Compact and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The initiative also published:

- an Action Plan on how exchanges can promote sustainable SMEs (with IFC); and
- two Market Monitors, developed with the IFC, World Bank and UN Women, covering gender-themed financial products and gender equality disclosure metrics.

Together, these tools supported exchanges, investors and market participants in strengthening sustainability-related disclosure practices and integrating climate, nature, social and gender considerations into capital markets.

© UNCTAD | London Climate Action Week. 24-26 June 2025 - London, UK

Expanded sustainability data infrastructure

Global sustainability data infrastructure was strengthened through integrated public databases tracking sustainability practices, disclosure guidance and climate commitments across capital markets.

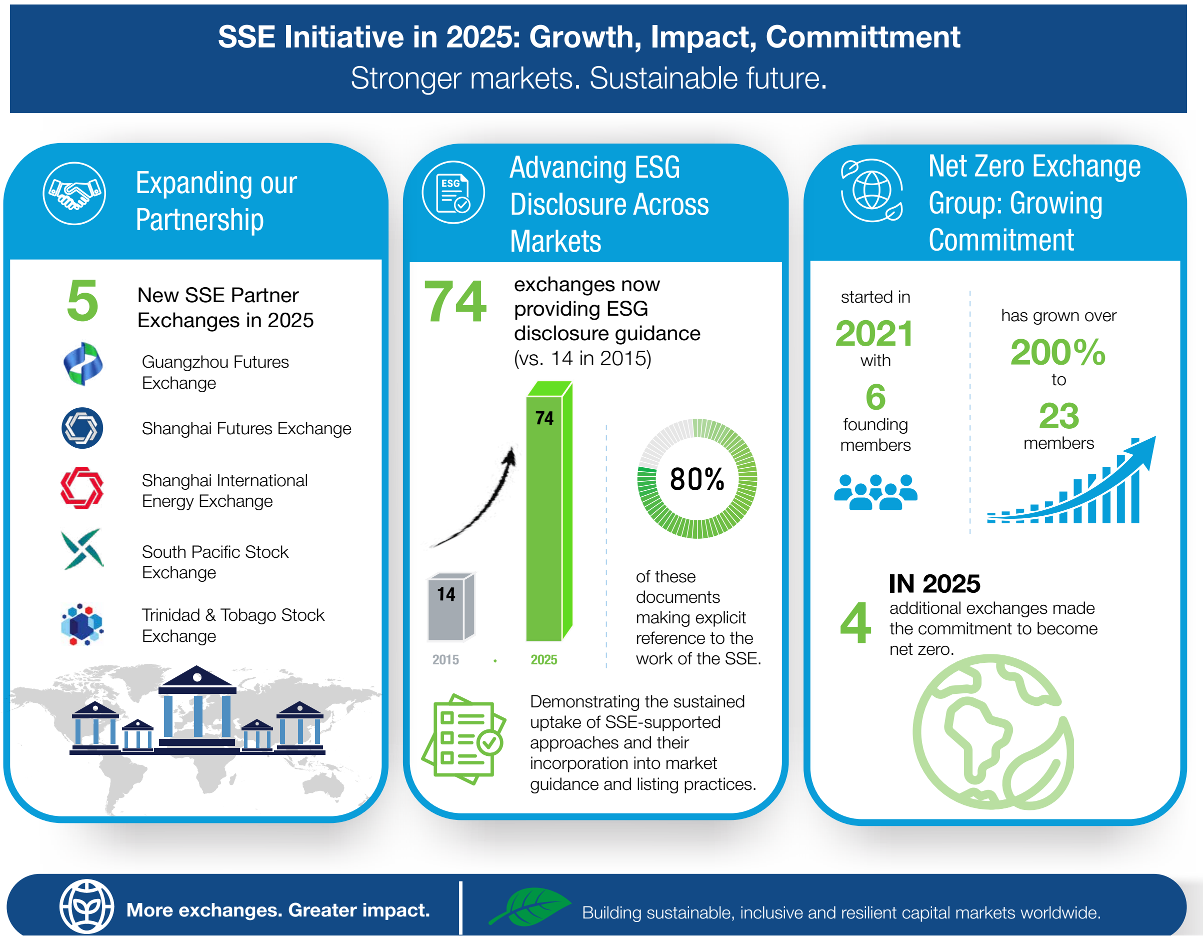
- Stock Exchange Database: covering sustainability practices of over 125 stock exchanges and 15 derivative exchanges worldwide, the most comprehensive publicly available dataset of its kind.
- Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) Disclosure Guidance Database: the only complete inventory of all stock exchange guidance documents.
- Gender Equality Database: providing data on boardroom gender balances in 39 markets.

In addition, the initiative launched two new databases:

- Exchange Carbon Market Database: detailing the activities of all exchanges worldwide involved in carbon markets.
- Net Zero Exchange Group Database: tracking the progress of leading exchanges towards their climate commitments. This database supports markets in transitioning to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, these databases strengthened the evidence base for sustainable finance by enabling regulators, stock exchanges, and policymakers to build more transparent, comparable, and accountable market systems.

Figure 7.
SSE growth



Strengthened implementation capacity

Implementation capacity was reinforced through global training and advisory support on IFRS sustainability standards, gender equality and climate transition planning, helping exchanges, regulators and listed companies apply disclosure requirements in practice and improve reporting readiness.

Figure 8.
The SSE Academy in 2025

Building knowledge. Driving sustainable markets.

Expanded peer learning and market engagement

Peer learning and market alignment were expanded through events, working groups and knowledge-sharing platforms, including quarterly SSE webinars, five Net Zero Exchange Group calls providing targeted peer-to-peer learning on net-zero implementation, and 130 "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" events worldwide.

The first "Ring the Bell for LGBTIQ+ Equality" campaign was launched in 2025, bringing together stock exchanges, businesses, civil society and LGBTIQ+ organizations to promote more inclusive market environments, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals' core principle of leaving no one behind and the UN Standards of Conduct for Business on Tackling Discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people.

Collectively, these activities strengthened the ability of stock exchanges, regulators and market participants to implement internationally aligned sustainability practices, improve disclosure quality and support more transparent and resilient capital markets. The initiative also expanded the availability of practical tools, peer learning opportunities and comparable sustainability data, particularly benefiting developing and transition economies.

14,885
LinkedIn followers
+55% growth

11,290
newsletter subscribers
+60% growth

Highlight

Integrating social risks into capital markets

The SSE programme strengthened the integration of social considerations into sustainable finance by developing practical guidance on preventing and addressing modern slavery risks in supply chains and investment portfolios, alongside a new collaboration with UNICEF to incorporate children's well-being into investment approaches.

These efforts provide exchanges and investors with practical tools to identify and address social risks within their disclosure and investment practices, complementing the existing focus on environmental issues. By supporting more consistent and comparable approaches to sustainability reporting, they responded to growing investor demand for decision-useful information on social risks. This contributes to a more balanced application of sustainability frameworks in capital markets and supports the integration of social considerations into investment decision-making.

…the 'Gender Equality and Global Markets' training…deepened our understanding of gender-responsive market practices and strengthened our capacity to engage issuers, investors, and other stakeholders on gender issues. These insights are informing our efforts to broaden market participation, improve products and services, and strengthen the pipeline of female talent, all of which contribute directly to a more resilient and inclusive capital market.

H.E. HONG Sok Hour, Royal Government Delegate in Charge as CEO, Cambodia Securities Exchange, 2025

© UNCTAD | Ring the Bell for Gender Equality. 28 March 2025 - New York, USA

Sustainable Institutional Investors (SII) Programme

Capital markets have the potential to significantly impact the level and direction of investment and can play a much greater role in financing sustainable development. The Sustainable Institutional Investors (SII) programme promotes the integration of sustainable development considerations into capital markets and facilitates long-term sustainable investment by institutional investors in sectors critical to sustainable development, particularly in developing economies. The programme advances this through policy advice, capacity-building, the dissemination of good practices and partnerships with investors addressing financial material sustainability risks.

The programme's core platform is the [Global Sustainable Finance Observatory (GSFO)], which provides a comprehensive mapping of sustainable finance regulations, funds and investor practices worldwide.

Figure 9.
The SII programme

1 Monitor
GSFO monitors sustainable finance policies, products and institutional investor practices worldwide

2 Analyse
Policy guidance and research informs national and international policy debates

3 Advise
Technical assistance helps central banks, finance ministries, regulators and IPAs in beneficiary countries design national sustainable-finance frameworks

4 Convene
Dialogue platforms bring policymakers and institutional investors together to align national frameworks with investor expectations and SDG priorities

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.18 and 80.23)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Ecuador, Peru, Philippines and Viet Nam;
Financial policymakers, regulators and standard setters; Public institutional investors (top 100 sovereign wealth funds, and public pension funds)

WEBSITE
gsfo.org/

UNCTAD can play a leading role in facilitating relevant connections … UNCTAD can foster intellectual innovation in investment models, advance energy transition, enhance the sharing of energy transition technologies and skills, secure investment for priority projects, seize opportunities, and achieve objectives across diverse markets.

Representative of the China Investment Corporation, Future Investment Conference, 2025

Results and impact at glance

Advancing market transparency

The programme updated the GSFO and its databases and continued monitoring the sustainable investment practices of the world's 100 largest sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and public pension funds. Together, these tools have strengthened the evidence base for policymakers, regulators and market participants seeking to align institutional capital with sustainable development objectives and improve the coherence of sustainable finance frameworks.

Generating policy insights

The programme produced targeted research and analytical publications to support policymakers, regulators and institutional investors in strengthening sustainable finance frameworks and mobilizing long-term investment for sustainable development.

- Leveraging the Potential of Sovereign Investors for Infrastructure Investment in Africa examined how SWFs and other public asset owners can help close infrastructure financing gaps and support energy transition investment in developing countries. The publication provided practical policy insights for countries and partners on attracting structuring and scaling long-term institutional investment in SDG-relevant sectors.
- The Role of Voluntary Carbon Markets in Global Climate Action, prepared as an input paper for the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, contributed to international policy discussions by assessing how voluntary carbon markets can support climate action while emphasizing the importance of market integrity, transparency and credible standards.

Building implementation capacity

Through a United Nations Development Account project, the programme supported **Ecuador**, **Peru**, the **Philippines** and **Cambodia** in integrating sustainable development considerations into institutional investors' decision-making, exploring sustainable finance opportunities, and advancing green and sustainable bond frameworks linked to national priorities.

The programme combined the GSFO with targeted technical cooperation to benchmark national sustainable finance frameworks against international practices. It also strengthened the capacity of domestic institutional investors to mobilize sustainable investment and deploy sustainable financial instruments, including sustainable bonds, to finance national development priorities.

© AdobeStock

Mobilizing institutional investors

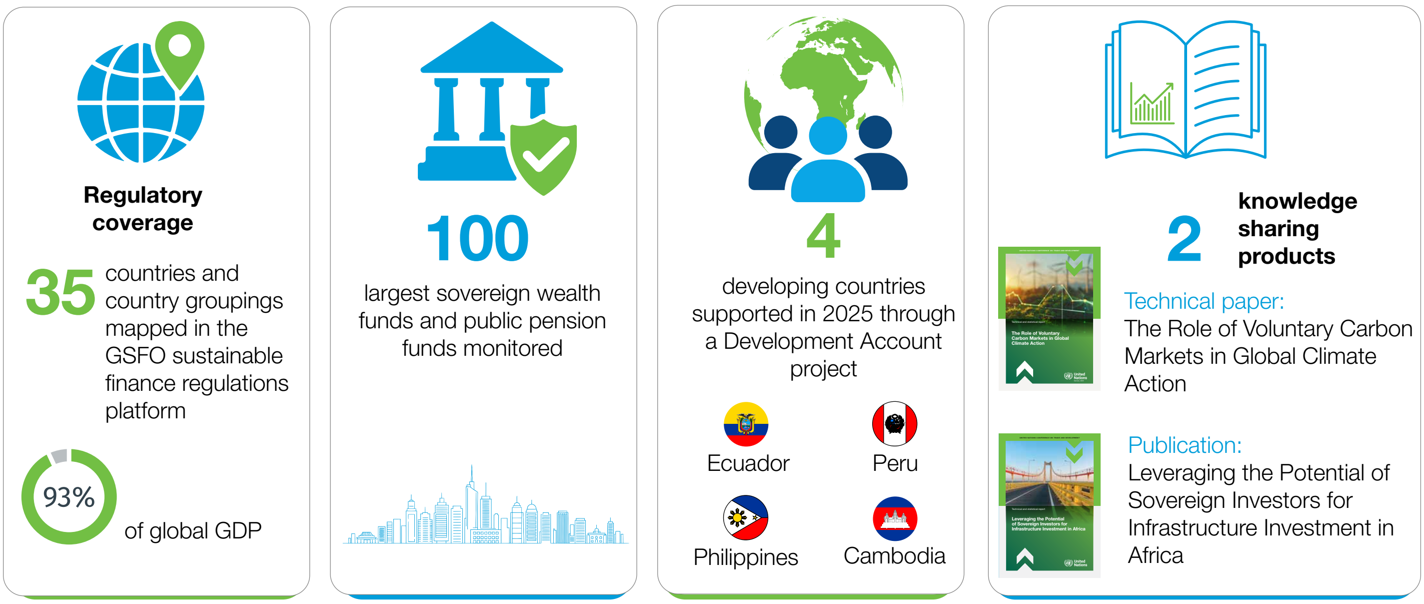
In 2025, the programme expanded strategic dialogue with institutional investors through high-level international platforms, strengthening engagement between public institutions and global capital providers.

At the inaugural Future Investment Conference (FIC) (Xiamen, China, 7-8 September 2025), the programme convened three connected events;

- Sovereign Wealth Funds Roundtable: gathering senior representatives of leading SWFs, public pension funds and development finance institutions (DFIs) to advance SWF and DFI partnerships, blended finance and harmonized standards for energy transition.
- High Level Panel on attracting private investment in Africa's Energy Transition: bringing together officials from industry associations, pension and infrastructure funds and a development finance institution to advise on mobilizing long-term capital for developing countries.
- Country Investment Showcase on Strategic Partnerships for Africa's Energy Transition: supporting beneficiary countries in presenting investment-ready energy transition projects to sovereign funds, pension funds and development finance actors.

In addition, UNCTAD co-organized the Africa Sustainability Forum in partnership with the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group and the South African Government, bringing together over 240 participants from 24 countries to discuss mechanisms to leverage sustainable finance for development.

Figure 10.
The SII programme in 2025



© UNCTAD | Future Investment Conference. 7-8 September 2025 - Xiamen, China

Highlight

From dialogue to partnerships: The Future Investment Conference

The inaugural FIC, launched by UNCTAD in partnership with the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), established a new global platform connecting institutional capital with sustainable development priorities. Bringing together sovereign wealth funds, public pension funds, development finance institutions and policymakers, the Conference secured a commitment from the China Investment Corporation (CIC) to continue collaboration with UNCTAD on financing the energy transition in developing countries. Participants aligned around concrete priorities—including SWF–DFI partnerships, blended finance, patient capital and common sustainability standards—and identified UNCTAD as a key convener of long-term investment for sustainable development. By positioning UNCTAD at the centre of a growing coalition of global investors, the Conference laid the foundation for stronger investment partnerships and greater capital mobilization for developing countries.

Family Business for Sustainable Development

The Family Business for Sustainable Development (FBSD) initiative, jointly developed by UNCTAD and the Family Business Network (FBN), aims to mobilize family-owned and family-managed businesses to integrate sustainability into their business strategies, operations and investments, and to contribute measurably to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Family businesses account for approximately two thirds of businesses worldwide, generating 70 per cent of global GDP and 60 per cent of employment. With their long-term, multi-generational perspective, they are uniquely positioned to drive sustainable development. Established through a formal partnership in 2019, the initiative provides family businesses with practical tools, guidance and measurement frameworks to embed sustainability into their business models and track their progress and impact.

Results and impact at glance

The FBSD initiative continued to expand its global reach in 2025, helping family businesses strengthen their sustainability commitments and improve the measurement and reporting of their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Family business sustainability pledge

The Family Business Sustainability Pledge serves as a global call to action for business-owning families, their firms and the wider family business ecosystem to embed sustainability into business decision-making and contribute to sustainable development.

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.18 and 80.23)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
The community of family businesses, especially micro, small and medium enterprises in developing countries.

WEBSITE
fbsd.unctad.org

Figure 11.
The family business sustainability pledge by the end of 2025

500 signatories committed to advancing sustainability

60% signed on behalf of family businesses

27% of family business signatories are large enterprises

46 countries represented

6 the pledge is available in six languages

Sustainability Indicators for Family Business

The Sustainability Indicators for Family Business (SIFB) framework enables family businesses of all sizes, sectors and geographies to assess, manage and improve their sustainability performance. Building on UNCTAD's Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on Contribution towards the Implementation of the SDGs, the framework combines 34 core SDG reporting indicators with 9 additional indicators tailored to the distinctive characteristics of family-owned businesses, covering governance, supply chain and community engagement practices.

To facilitate data collection, reporting, benchmarking and performance tracking, UNCTAD and FBN developed the SIFB online reporting platform. The platform also incorporates the UNCTAD ISAR Guidance on Core SDG Indicators and dedicated guidance on family business-specific indicators, complemented by tutorials and training resources to support sustainability reporting and transparent disclosure.

Figure 12.
The family business sustainability indicators by the end of 2025

333 user accounts registered on the SIFB platform

52 countries represented

43 sustainability indicators in the framework (34 core and 9 family business specific)

6 language versions (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, German, Italian)

Through the Sustainability Pledge, the SIFB framework and the online reporting platform, the FBSD initiative has mobilized a growing global community of family businesses committed to sustainable development. The initiative has strengthened the capacity of family enterprises to integrate sustainability into business strategies, measure and disclose their environmental, social and governance performance, and contribute to greater transparency regarding private sector contributions to the SDGs. In addition, FBSD provides multi-stakeholder networks and forums that facilitate peer learning, knowledge exchange and discussions on emerging sustainability issues, including strategic approaches to impact investing in SDG-related sectors.

© UNCTAD | Impact Week 2025. 15-19 September 2025 - Singapore

Highlight

Impact Week 2025: Strengthening partnerships for sustainable development

In partnership with the FBN and other stakeholders, UNCTAD contributed to IMPACT WEEK 2025 in Singapore, hosted by Tsao Pao Chee Group and NO.17 Foundation. The event convened more than 4,000 participants from business, government, philanthropy and academia to exchange ideas and forge partnerships for sustainable development. UNCTAD contributed to discussions on the well-being economy, sustainable finance, climate and nature restoration, and the nexus between human potential and technology. The event highlighted the growing role of family businesses as important partners in advancing sustainable development and accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

ICT STUDENTS
2026 FEBRUARY
Uganda eAccounting tool
uganda.easyaccounts.org
easy accounts
Transactions
Financial stateme
TRANSACTIONS
statements" section.
All months
2026
For more detailed guidance, please refer to the
SALES
Cash sales
Credit sales
Sales of the month
PURCHASES
Search the web and Windows

Business Facilitation Programme: Increasing transparency, simplifying rules, attracting investment

UNCTAD's digital single window solutions help governments deliver faster, more transparent and inclusive public services while advancing key policy objectives such as investment promotion, job creation, climate action, food security and public health. By replacing paper-based procedures with accessible online systems, governments improve institutional efficiency, strengthen policymaking through better data, and expand access to services for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and underserved groups, particularly women, youth and rural entrepreneurs. These reforms support business formalization, access to finance and employment opportunities, and greater economic resilience.

To support developing countries in facilitating business start-ups and expansion, the division develops eRegulations information portals and eRegistrations single windows. These e-government platforms clarify administrative requirements, make procedures available online and automate key services related to enterprise registration and business operations. By reducing administrative bottlenecks, costs and opportunities for discretionary decision-making, the systems promote transparency, good governance and the rule of law.

Table 1.
What digitalization using our system means

For governments	For businesses	For citizens
Governments use technology to deliver policy quickly and easily across all SDG sectors including climate, jobs, food and health	Businesses created and operating permits obtained in hours	Greater confidence in government delivery as they see change happen faster
Revenue growth from greater use of services with more fees, taxes and social security contributions	Digitized administrative processes reduce barriers to investment in the SDGs	More women and young people quickly get the documents they need and in digital format
Civil servants able to design digital services and increase productivity	Greater formalisation of economic activities and access to bank accounts and loans for entrepreneurs	More employees brought under social security cover
Access to data that can support better policy-making	Greater predictability for investment and business planning as getting permits becomes more predictable	Rural and remote regions connected to governmental services
Employee satisfaction as tasks shift from form-filling to client advice and problem solving		More young people opening businesses

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.17 (ii), 80.47, 80.76)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Palestine, Rwanda, Timor Leste, The Gambia, Zimbabwe

WEBSITE
https://digitalgovernment.world/digital-single-windows/

The portal is designed to improve the transparency, accessibility and efficiency of investment-related administrative procedures in Zimbabwe…It represents a significant step towards enhancing the ease of doing business and positioning our country as a competitive investment destination.

Mr. Tafadzwa Chinamo, CEO, Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency, September 2025

Results and impact at a glance

In 2025, the programme supported business facilitation and digital public service delivery across 16 countries and territories. Online single windows and digital services for business registration and licensing were developed, implemented or enhanced in **Angola**, **Argentina**, **Benin**, **Bhutan**, **Colombia**, **Cuba**, **Jamaica**, **Kenya**, **Lesotho**, **Mali**, **Nigeria**, **Palestine**, **Rwanda**, **Timor Leste**, **The Gambia** and **Zimbabwe**. These reforms streamlined administrative procedures through centralized electronic platforms that improve transparency, efficiency and accessibility for businesses. The programme also helped reduce procedural complexity, improve predictability for businesses and investors, and expand access to public services through integrated digital platforms.

Digitalizing special economic zone services

The Programme simplified the registration process for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developers in **Jamaica**[2] through the development of the Caribbean region's first digital SEZ registration system. The platform enables businesses to submit applications and obtain registration certificates entirely online.[1]

Key features of the new system include:

- Consolidation of 16 paper forms into a single digital application
- Integration of six departments through one workflow
- Real-time application tracking for applicants
- Training for government officials on system use and administration

The portal is expected to launch publicly in the first half of 2026.

This initiative expands the Programme's support to SEZs as a mechanism for investment facilitation, export promotion and economic diversification, while also helping governments pilot digitalization and administrative simplification reforms that can later be scaled across other sectors of the economy.

In **Kenya**, discussions are ongoing with the SEZ Authority to create a digital one stop centre for all SEZ licenses.

Selected country results and global investment facilitation platforms

Zimbabwe strengthened its investment climate through the launch of a new eRegulations investment portal developed by the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA), with the support from UNCTAD, UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) and the European Union.

Key results include:

- consolidation of 62 investment-related procedures across 21 government departments into a single digital platform
- improved transparency, reduced administrative complexity and simplified business establishment processes

The reform also enabled the Government to map and streamline investment procedures for the first time, laying the foundation for a future transactional single-window system and a more efficient, investor-friendly business environment.

[2] Jamaica SEZ registration portal (demo) https://jseza.eregistrations.dev/demo

In **Kenya**, UNCTAD is developing a digital one stop investment centre with the Kenya Investment Authority, funded by the Netherlands. The platform enables investors to complete all mandatory authorisations and licenses through a single portal.

It integrates:

- investor registration
- business registration
- tax and social security registration
- business licenses at national and provincial (county) level.

This initiative reduces administrative complexity, time, and uncertainty in investment procedures, with the aim of accelerating investment into the country.

UNCTAD also launched an updated version of its eOpportunities portal to strengthen investment facilitation and increase the global visibility of investment-ready projects.

The enhanced portal enables countries to showcase bankable projects through a modern, standardized and user-friendly interface that improves transparency and facilitates connections between project promoters and potential investors.

With improved navigation, richer project profiling features, and enhanced matchmaking capabilities, the portal helps governments, private sector actors, and development finance institutions identify and engage more effectively with opportunities across key sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and digital services.

As of 2025:

107 platforms implemented

65 economies served

up to **80%** reduction in registration requirements

© UNCTAD | UNCTAD's business registration system being tested in Lesotho.

Figure 13.
Business facilitation impact

Impact on Women

Digital single windows are increasing women’s participaton in business by making registration simpler, faster and accessible online.

Benin
1/3
of business owners registering online are women

Bhutan
52%
of those applying to register their companies are women.

Iraq
14%
increase in women business owners

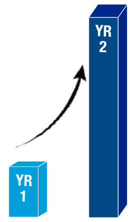
Lesotho
before online registration
26%
after online registration
34%
of business permits were held by women

Impact on Young People

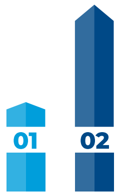
Digital solutions are inspiring more young entrepreneurs to formalize their businesses and build their futures.

Registration by young people (age 18-30) increased:

Benin
181%
in the first two years of operation



Mali
263%
in the first two years of operation



Highlight

Embedding AI in digital public services

The eRegulations and eRegistrations now embed four AI-powered tools that transform online public services from simple registration forms into intelligent, citizen-centred channels.

These include:

- **Regulation-aware virtual assistant:** answers applicants' questions directly in each service, grounded in the agency's own laws and regulations.
- **Voice-driven single window copilot:** greets users at the portal, identifies the relevant service based on a spoken request, and completed forms through natural conversation, improving accessibility for users with limited literacy or digital skills.
- **Document-to-form extractor:** automatically populates forms from uploaded documents, enabling consent-based data reuse across agencies.
- **Inter-agency data exchange API:** allows agencies to retrieve authoritative records from one another in real time, operationalizing the **Once-Only Principle**[3].

Together, these tools strengthen trust, accessibility and interoperability, providing the foundation for more integrated whole-of-government digital service delivery.

3 The Once-Only Principle is a public-administration standard under which citizens and businesses provide a given piece of information to the State only once; public agencies then share and reuse that data among themselves, with the user's consent where required. Formally adopted by the EU in the Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment (2017) and promoted by the OECD as a core element of digital-government maturity.

Enterprise Development: Building capacities of entrepreneurs and supporting MSMEs

Entrepreneurship and enterprise development are powerful drivers of inclusive economic growth, job creation and sustainable development. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups form the backbone of economic activity, creating employment opportunities, fostering innovation and supporting trade.

Through its enterprise development programme, UNCTAD helps countries strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems, enhance the policy and institutional environment for enterprise development, and build capacities of entrepreneurs and MSMEs to grow and internationalize. These efforts boost enterprise competitiveness and resilience, promote stronger participation in value chains, and contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic transformation in support of the sustainable development goals.

Results and impact at a glance

Stronger entrepreneurship policies and support frameworks

UNCTAD continued to support national efforts to strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems and improve the business environment for MSMEs and start-ups. In **Angola**, UNCTAD contributed to consultations on the proposed Start-up Law, while in **South Africa** it provided technical input to the final draft of the National Entrepreneurship Strategy and Implementation Plan. These contributions helped inform national policy processes aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth.

Global and regional platforms advancing entrepreneurship agendas

Through its participation in major international and regional forums, UNCTAD promoted policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and cooperation on entrepreneurship development, financial inclusion and MSME support.

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraph 80.17 (i) and (iii), 80.22, 80.27, 80.41, 80.82), United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/RES 79/201)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Angola, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda

WEBSITE
unctad.org/topic/enterprise-development

GRULAC also acknowledges the contribution of UNCTAD's Empretec programme to strengthen MSMEs and women-led enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean, including through the Empretec Women in Business Awards.

Statement on behalf of GRULAC, delivered by Guatemala, 5 May 2025

- **International MSME Day**: UNCTAD participated in an online panel discussion organized by the International Labour Organization New York Office, where policymakers, MSME representatives and business support organizations highlighted the importance of coherent policies, access to finance, skills development and innovation support in strengthening the contribution of MSMEs to sustainable development.
- **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development**: UNCTAD and the International Organisation of Employers convened a session on financial inclusion for entrepreneurship development, bringing together experts and entrepreneurs to identify policy recommendations and innovative financial solutions for entrepreneurs, including those operating in the informal economy.
- **Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) Ministerial Roundtable**: UNCTAD shared lessons from its work on national entrepreneurship strategies and presenting findings from its publication on artificial intelligence (AI), highlighting the skills and learning conditions needed for entrepreneurs to adopt AI effectively and responsibly. The publication is now informing national strategies.

- **KOSGEB (SME development Organization of Türkiye) Regional Workshop**: Representatives of SME development institutions from **Egypt**, **Malaysia**, **Pakistan**, **Senegal** and **Türkiye** exchanged experiences on strengthening institutional capacities and developing cross-border SME networks. UNCTAD highlighted the role of partnerships and entrepreneurship support programmes in fostering SME internationalization.
- **ECLAC (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) Workshop on Innovative Entrepreneurship**: The workshop enhanced policymakers' understanding of policies and instruments that support innovative entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems. As a direct result, **Ecuador**'s Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture engaged with UNCTAD to explore support for developing a policy on innovation ecosystems and technology-based entrepreneurship, opening a pathway for future technical cooperation.

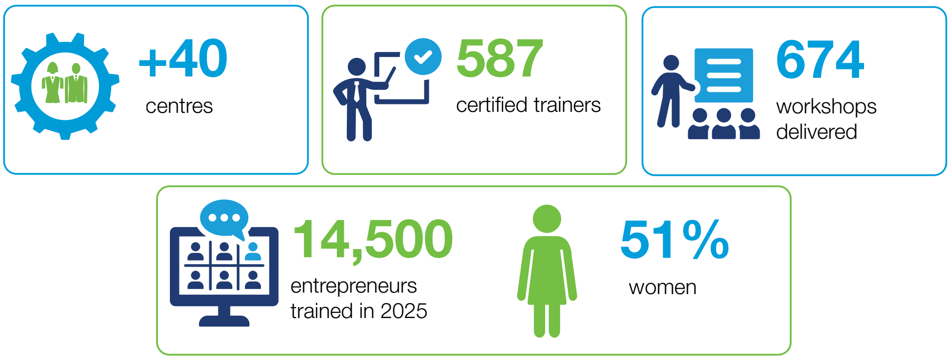
Collectively, these engagements strengthened policy dialogue, facilitated peer learning across regions, and expanded opportunities for collaboration among entrepreneurship policymakers, support institutions and entrepreneurs.

Empretec

Empretec, UNCTAD's flagship programme for entrepreneurship development and MSME support, continued to generate measurable impact in 2025. Through entrepreneurship training workshops, business development services and ecosystem partnerships, the programme empowered entrepreneurs to strengthen their business capabilities, access new opportunities and enhance enterprise performance. These efforts contributed to more resilient MSMEs, increased economic participation and stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems in countries around the world.

© UNCTAD | Empretec training in Uganda.

Figure 14.
The global Empretec network (as of 2025)



Empretec 2.0: From curriculum development to implementation

Empretec centres advanced the implementation of the Empretec 2.0 programme, delivering the updated training offer across the network and expanding support to entrepreneurs at different stages of business development. The new curricula combine the Empretec behavioural methodology with specialized technical modules tailored to different business needs and growth stages. Courses on fundraising and AI, complemented by mentoring and study tours, further strengthened entrepreneurs' capacities to innovate, access new opportunities and scale their businesses, contributing to more resilient and competitive enterprises.

Empretec's Square for Global Goals, the programme's peer-to-peer networking and learning platform, was further enhanced through mentoring services provided by international business development partners. Selected entrepreneurs gained access to international start-up support programmes, mentoring opportunities and peer-learning networks across the Empretec community.

Support to Empretec activities

UNCTAD strengthened its partnership with **Saudi Arabia** through the Social Development Bank (SDB), extending cooperation until 2030 and supporting the expansion of Empretec activities. Aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, the partnership has mobilized key entrepreneurship ecosystem actors and enhanced support for innovation, private sector development, and entrepreneurial growth across the country.


© UNCTAD | Empretec training in South Africa.

MSMEs are central to employment generation and to the strengthening of productive capacities across CARICOM Member States; UNCTAD's enterprise development support remains highly relevant to our region.

Statement on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), 5 May 2025

Figure 15.
2025 results in Saudi Arabia

13
Empretec training workshops delivered

428
Entrepreneurs trained
(168 women)

20
Certified national trainers

389
Participants engaged in advisory & peer-learning activities

new
Crash course on entrepreneurship and AI

Fellowship programme launched
aimed at enriching knowledge sharing and capacity building development

4
Specialized entrepreneurship tracks delivered
(industry, fintech, logistics, fundraising)

Building on the Saudi Arabia experience, UNCTAD implemented Empretec LogiHub Pre-accelerator pilots in **Uganda** and **South Africa** in partnership with the Kühne Foundation. The pilots strengthened early-stage entrepreneurship in logistics and supply chains while fostering collaboration between Empretec centres, innovation hubs, investors and industry stakeholders, contributing to more resilient and diversified national entrepreneurship ecosystems.

© UNCTAD | Empretec training in Saudi Arabia.

Highlight

Costa Rica - Job creation and business formalization

In 2025, the Empretec centre hosted within the Latin American Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CELIEM) supported 114 MSMEs and mobilized USD 65,700 in seed capital, enabling entrepreneurs to upgrade and expand their service offerings. These efforts contributed to the creation of 537 formal jobs and a 26 per cent increase in formal business registrations. These results demonstrate strong enterprise performance, enhanced growth prospects and greater participation in the formal economy.

Figure 16.
Highlights from Empretec centres in 2025

Angola
Expanded Empretec workshops in Zaire and Cuanza Sul and strengthened partnerships, including an agreement with Instituto Nacional de Apoio às Micro, Pequenas e Médias Empresas to establish a "One Stop Shop" for integrated MSME services (business creation, legal support, branding, mentoring and training).

Argentina
Delivered nationwide workshops and expanded open/virtual training reaching **10,000+ participants (53% women)**. Produced learning content including the "Caja de Herramientas" podcast and "Innovación" digital magazine, and strengthened ecosystem partnerships through roundtables and competitions.

Benin
Delivered **5 workshops (119 entrepreneurs, 45 women)** and over **20 capacity-building sessions reaching 1,400+ entrepreneurs**, covering accounting, taxation, financial education and market access.

Brazil
Implemented **525 Empretec workshops**, redesigned the training format (6 to 5 days), piloted a digital platform, trained trainers nationwide, and engaged **640+ entrepreneurs** in alumni activities.

Cameroon
Supported **72 entrepreneurs** through certification and standardization initiatives, and prepared a school-based entrepreneurship programme for 2026, alongside workshops on fiscal law and the African Continental Free Trade Area opportunities.

Dominican Republic
Delivered **3 workshops (74 entrepreneurs, 24 women)** and advanced trainer certification processes, selecting **5 candidates** for certification in 2026.

Ecuador
Delivered **8 workshops (170+ entrepreneurs, 101 women)** with training, seed capital, incubation support and university partnershipso strengthen business development.

Ethiopia
Delivered **53 workshops (1,800 entrepreneurs, 742 women)** and extensive national business development services, incubation support and engagement in national entrepreneurship initiatives.

Guyana
Delivered business planning workshops, a business plan competition, and facilitated access to finance in partnership with the Guyana Economic Development Trust.

Jordan
Delivered **11 workshops (186 entrepreneurs, 82 women)** and implemented national programmes including "Inhad" and "Iqlaa," supporting youth self-employment, access to finance and enterprise upgrading.

Malaysia
Supported MSME empowerment and women entrepreneurship, including the "Igniting MSMEs Growth" finance expo and Women Entrepreneurs Conference at the International Council for Small Business World Forum.

Mauritius
Reached **650+ beneficiaries (342 women)** through access to finance initiatives and led ecosystem-wide activities during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2025.

Mozambique
Delivered **2 workshops (40 entrepreneurs, 14 women)** and provided business diagnostics, advisory services, planning support and financial literacy programmes.

Nigeria
Delivered **7 workshops (222 entrepreneurs, 112 women)** and trained **100 women entrepreneurs** in oil and gas, strengthening participation in the energy value chain.

Panama
Delivered **4 workshops (71 entrepreneurs, 42 women)** and implemented bootcamps, student programmes, design thinking sessions and corporate training initiatives.

South Africa
Delivered **20 workshops (500 entrepreneurs: 200 men, 300 women)** and implemented national MSME support programmes through a network of **24 certified trainers**.

Uganda
Delivered **7 workshops (200+ entrepreneurs, 127 women)** and reached **20,000+ MSMEs** through business development services, including a new Small Enterprise Accelerator for **331 entrepreneurs**.

Zimbabwe
Advanced the OYE+ youth employment project targeting **11,000 youth**, alongside business plan reviews for persons with disabilities and support to agriculture and leather value chains.

Accounting and Reporting: Promoting better financial and sustainability reporting

Robust accounting and reporting systems are essential for financial stability, informed investment decisions and sustainable development. Through the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), UNCTAD supports member States in advancing high-quality financial and sustainability reporting practices, including the measurement and disclosure of companies' contribution to the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

By combining research, consensus-building and technical cooperation, UNCTAD supports developing countries and economies in transition strengthen their accounting and sustainability reporting infrastructure, align with international best practices, and enhance transparency, accountability and sustainable business practices.

UNCTAD sustainability reporting toolkit

To support countries in strengthening sustainability reporting systems and implementing international standards, UNCTAD has developed a suite of practical guidance, training and capacity-building resources:

- Guidance on Core Indicators for Sustainability and SDG Impact Reporting
- Practical Implementation of Core Indicators for Sustainable Development Reporting
- Core SDG Indicators for Entity Reporting: Training manual
- E-learning courses – International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
- Tackling the Sustainability Reporting Challenge – A Policy Guide

CORE MANDATE
Geneva Consensus (paragraphs 80.18 and 80.23)

KEY BENEFICIARIES IN 2025
Cambodia, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines; members of the Regional Partnership: Africa, Asia (Afghanistan, Fiji, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore), Eurasia, Gulf States (Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), Latin America

WEBSITE
unctad.org/isar

The Accounting Development Tool…provides a comprehensive diagnostic and a roadmap to strengthen the national corporate reporting system — a key element for positioning Ecuador as a transparent, trustworthy country aligned with international standards.

Her Excellency Ms. Sariha Belen Moya Angulo, Minister of Economy and Finance of Ecuador, 25 November 2025

Results and impact at a glance

Shaping the global sustainability reporting agenda

The forty-second session of ISAR reinforced UNCTAD's role as the leading intergovernmental platform helping developing countries navigate the rapidly evolving sustainability reporting landscape. Through its analytical work and consensus-building process, ISAR provided policymakers with practical guidance on emerging sustainability reporting requirements through two key documents:

- Review of developments in the harmonization of sustainability reporting requirements and their practical implementation: providing an assessment of emerging sustainability disclosure requirements and their implications for developing countries.
- Integrating biodiversity and human capital considerations into sustainability reporting: examining evolving reporting practices and offering practical guidance on incorporating these increasingly important sustainability issues into corporate reporting frameworks.

These outputs helped policymakers better understand evolving reporting requirements and supported developing countries in engaging with evolving sustainability disclosure frameworks.

The session also generated a clear mandate for future work. Member States called on UNCTAD to:

- Deepen research on how sustainability issues translate into financial risks and opportunities.
- Continue monitoring developments in biodiversity and human capital disclosure requirements.
- Expand technical cooperation to support developing countries in implementing new sustainability reporting standards.
- Facilitate the establishment of a consultative group on future advisory arrangements.

Beyond the intergovernmental deliberations, the ISAR Honours 2025 recognized six national and international initiatives, selected from 60 nominees, for excellence in sustainability and SDG reporting, showcasing good practices in corporate sustainability reporting.

ISAR also expanded its engagement with the public accountability community through a joint event with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), helping build awareness and capacity on the role of Supreme Audit institutions in auditing sustainability disclosures.

42nd session of ISAR

314 participants

78 countries

96% of surveyed participants rated it satisfactory

Regional partnerships for sustainability reporting

Regional partnerships help countries strengthen sustainability reporting systems, build institutional capacity and accelerate the adoption of sustainability reporting standards. By facilitating peer learning and the exchange of practical experiences, they enable countries to translate global reporting developments into national and regional action.

> *Through this collaboration, we successfully assessed the national reporting infrastructure using the UNCTAD Accounting Development Tool. This exercise identified critical gaps and delivered actionable recommendations to strengthen Nigeria's financial reporting systems, particularly for MSMEs.*
>
> ***Dr. Rabiu Olowo, Chief Executive Officer, Financial Reporting Council, Nigeria, 29 January 2025***

Figure 17.
ISAR regional partnerships initiative

137 member institutions by the end of 2025

63 countries represented across all partnerships

5 active regional partnerships in 2025

founded in 2021, **4 new regions** added since launch

Growth journey

2021
- Latin America launch
- 11 members
- 6 countries
- 1 region

2022
- Africa partnership added
- 2 regions

2024

Three partnerships launched:
- Eurasia
- Gulf States
- Asia
- 5 regions

2025
- 137 members
- 63 countries

External validation

Independent external evaluation identified the Regional Partnerships initiative as a **good practice** that should be replicated

At the 42nd ISAR session, member States formally **commended** UNCTAD for support provided through the partnerships

In 2025, regional partnerships advanced the implementation of sustainability and SDG reporting standards by translating global frameworks into practical regional and national action:

- **African partnership:** Supported International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) adoption through workshops with Pan African Federation of Accountants and the Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa, helping translate global standards into continental strategies.
- **Latin American partnership:** Facilitated peer exchange of national roadmaps from Mexico, Costa Rica, and Uruguay.
- **Gulf States partnership:** Advanced discussions on assurance and ethics standards at its second in-person meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- **Eurasian partnership:** Established its governance structure and elected working-group leadership, strengthening institutional coordination and accelerating implementation efforts.

These efforts strengthened regional coherence in sustainability reporting and supported countries in transitioning from standard-setting to practical implementation.

Strengthening sustainability reporting for sustainable finance and investment

Through the UN Development Account Project Strengthening Sustainability Reporting to Foster Sustainable Finance and Investment in Selected Developing Countries in Asia and Latin America, UNCTAD supported **Cambodia**, **Ecuador**, **Peru**, and the **Philippines** in strengthening assessing their sustainability reporting infrastructure to promote sustainable finance, enterprise sustainability and investment aligned with the SDGs.

Key achievements in 2025 included:

- **Cambodia**: Joined the project and designated the Accounting and Auditing Regulator of Cambodia as the counterpart institution, laying the foundation for future implementation.
- **Ecuador**: Launched a national assessment process to identify gaps and priorities for strengthening the country's sustainability reporting ecosystem.
- **Peru**: Supported the development of a national roadmap for sustainability reporting aligned with international standards, providing recommendations on disclosure requirements, assurance, implementation timelines and capacity-building.
- **Philippines**: Initiated project implementation following the designation of the Securities and Exchange Commission as the national focal point.

These efforts are helping countries strengthen the regulatory, institutional and human capacity needed to improve sustainability reporting and support sustainable finance and investment.

A key project milestone in 2025 was the revision of the Accounting Development Tool (ADT), which was updated to incorporate new sustainability reporting standards, expanded public reporting assessment, and additional considerations for institutional investors and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The enhanced tool gives countries a more comprehensive and actionable assessment of their reporting ecosystem.

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Highlight

From global guidance to a national roadmap in Peru: How UNCTAD helped Peru design its first sustainability reporting roadmap

At the request of the National Accounting Council in **Peru**, UNCTAD developed a Roadmap for the implementation of a Sustainability Reporting Framework in **Peru** aligned with international standards. The Roadmap contains recommendations to implement a high-quality sustainability reporting framework for public interest entities, non-listed companies (including MSMEs) and public sector entities. It also comprises policy recommendations on the implementation timeline, the type of sustainability disclosure requirements by category of entity, the establishment of assurance requirements in stages, human capacity building activities to ensure high quality information, incentives to promote and accelerate adoption, transitional reliefs to facilitate implementation, etc.

Following this work, national authorities issued a resolution to adopt international sustainability reporting standards. The resolution cites the recommendations of UNCTAD's Roadmap and is a key step towards improving the credibility, comparability and investment attractiveness of **Peru**'s reporting framework.

Peru's experience demonstrates how ISAR's normative work and UNCTAD's tools enable country-led reform, helping national institutions identify gaps, build consensus and move towards alignment with international sustainability reporting standards.

...with a view to maintain a reliable, competitive and transparent financial environment, the CNC approved the IFRS on Sustainability Reporting issued by the ISSB...this approval could not have been possible without the support of UNCTAD, who provided their expertise and teams of specialists to propose an implementation plan according to our reality and needs...

Mr. Óscar Núñez del Arco, President of the National Accounting Council of Peru (CNC), 28 April 2026

© UNCTAD | Meeting as part of the Development Account project "Strengthening sustainability reporting to foster sustainable finance and investment in selected developing countries in Asia and Latin America". 21-22 October - Lima, Peru

Annex
Key partners in 2025

- Academy of International Business (AIB)
- Accounting and Auditing Regulator of Cambodia (ACAR)
- Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO)
- Africa Sovereign Investors Forum (ASIF)
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Society of International Law
- African Union (AU)
- Agence de Développement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (ADPME)
- Agence de Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations (APIEX)
- Agence de promotion des PME du Cameroun (APME)
- Agency for the Administration of Economic and Special Zones (AAZES)
- Annual Investment Meeting (AIM)
- Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Asociación de Zonas Francas de las Américas (AZFA)
- Asociación Empretec Uruguay
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Instituciones Financieras para el Desarrollo (ALIDE)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
- Berne Union
- Biznesni Rivojlantirish Banki / JSCB Business Development Bank (BDB)
- Business Development Center (BDC)
- Capacity-building Alliance of Sustainable Investment (CASI)
- Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Centre de Promotion et d’Encadrement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (CePEPE)
- Centro de Educación para el Emprendimiento (CEE)
- Centro Empretec de Desarrollo Emprendedor (CEDE)
- Centro Latinoamericano de Innovación y Emprendimiento (CELIEM)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Benin
- China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT)
- China Investment Corporation
- China National Institute for SCO International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation (CNISCO)
- City University of Hong Kong
- Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment (CCSI)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarroll (COFIDES)
- Conféderation suisse
- ConQuito
- Consejo Federal de Inversiones (CFI)
- D8 Organization for Economic Cooperation
- Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), South Africa
- Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Empretec Ghana Foundation
- Empretec Guyana
- Empretec Mauritius
- Empretec Nigeria Foundation
- Empretec Zimbabwe
- Enterprise Botswana
- Enterprise Uganda Foundation
- Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI)
- Ethics and Independence Standards for Sustainability Assurance (IESSA)
- Ethiopia Investment Commission (EIC)
- EU Migration Policy Institute
- European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)
- European Union/Commission

- Family Business Network (FBN)
- fDi Intelligence / Financial Times
- Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA)
- Foundation for the Global Compact (FGC)
- Founder Institute (FI)
- Free Trade Zones Association of the Americas
- Fundaçao Enterprise Moçambique (FEM)
- Fundacion Empretec, Argentina
- G20
- Gambian Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA)
- General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, Egypt
- Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)
- Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)
- Global Algorithmic Institute (Global AI)
- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- Green Partnership of Industrial Parks
- Groupe Caisse des Depôts
- Guyana Economic Development Trust
- Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)
- International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
- International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)
- International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- International Climate Initiative (IKI)
- International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA)
- International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) (World Bank Group)
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Law Association
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)
- International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)
- International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)
- International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Invest Qatar
- Investment Promotion Centre of Côte d’Ivoire (CEPICI)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- ITC-ILO Training Centre, Turin
- Ithmar Capital
- Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest or InvestKenya)
- KfW Capital
- KOSGEB
- Kühne Foundation
- Learn Logistics
- Leather Institute
- London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)
- Minderoo Foundation
- Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Netherlands
- Ministère des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises de l'Economie Sociale et de l'Artisant (MINPMEESA)
- Ministerio de Industria, Comercio y Mipymes, Dominican Republic (MICM)
- Ministry Finance, Sierra Leone
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, State of Qatar
- Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ecuador
- Ministry of Economy and Finance, Peru
- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Ecuador
- Ministry of Environment, Colombia

- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), Cuba
- Ministry of Health and the Employers', Mali
- Ministry of Industry, Commerce and SMEs, Dominican Republic
- Ministry of Investment, Convergence, and Public Policy Evaluation, Kingdom of Morocco
- Ministry of Investment, United Arab Emirates
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, Lesotho
- Municipalidad de Lomas de Zamora, provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
- Nankai University of China
- Nasdaq Helsinki
- National Accounting Council of Peru (CNC)
- National Association of Women Entrepreneurs Malaysia (NAWEM)
- National Institute for the Support of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (INAPEM)
- Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA)
- Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)
- Office of the State of Qatar to the World Trade Organization and other Economic Organizations
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA)
- Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)
- ProDominicana
- Republic and Canton of Geneva
- Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippines
- Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas (SEBRAE)
- Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SEDFA)
- Social Development Bank (SDB)
- South African Reserve Bank
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
- The World Free & Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA)
- UN Global Compact (UNGC)
- UN Resident Coordinator Offices (UNRCO)
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
- United Nations Country Team (UNCT)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (UNECLAC)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-Fi)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- University of Geneva
- Walk Free Foundation
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- Women in Agriculture Union (WAU)
- World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

- World Bank
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- World Federation of Development Financing Institutions (WFDFI)
- World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)
- World Free Zones Organization (WFZO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Zambia Development Agency (ZDA)

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