

DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMODITIES

# Trade that delivers inclusive and sustainable development

Trade, when inclusive and sustainable, can be a powerful driver of poverty reduction, decent jobs and economic opportunity, while supporting environmental protection and climate resilience. Yet many developing countries remain largely excluded from its benefits, becoming vulnerable to shocks and less competitive.

This exclusion is not due to a lack of entrepreneurship, talent or potential — but due to systemic constraints that require structural solutions.



UN Trade and Development's **International Trade and Commodities Division** exists precisely to **ensure no country is left behind in global commerce.**

Find out who we are, what we do, and how we help developing countries access international trade.

# Making Trade work for development

We support countries to:

## **Access to global markets**

We help governments and enterprises navigate market access requirements, environmental regulations, and sustainability standards so they can enter and remain competitive in export markets.

## **Integrate into global and regional value chains**

We support upgrading, diversification and investment attraction so countries can move from raw materials to value-added production and services.

## **Reduce barriers to trade**

We provide data and tools on Non-Tariff Measures, Voluntary Sustainability Standards, trade facilitation and regulatory transparency to reduce costs and complexity for exporters.

## **Build competitive and resilient industries**

We help countries adopt cleaner production, energy efficiency, circularity and low-carbon strategies that strengthen competitiveness.

## **Strengthen fair competition and consumer protection**

We support laws and institutions that ensure fair markets, safe products and trust in digital and traditional commerce.

## **Empower women and SMEs**

We support governments and other stakeholders in formulating trade and development policies that recognize women as essential actors, ensuring that development is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

## **Turn climate challenges into trade opportunities**

We support climate-aligned export strategies, circular economy models and sustainable value-chain upgrading.



# A unique value proposition for development partners

Our value proposition is reflected in the following core strengths:

## **Working across the entire trade ecosystem**

Our range of expertise goes from data and policy analysis to regulatory support, institutional capacity and hands-on implementation.

## **Bridging international standards and national realities**

We translate global rules into practical national strategies and business-relevant tools.

## **Delivering measurable development impact**

Our work has strengthened trade capacities, improved competitiveness and supported inclusive growth across more than 100 countries.

## **Combining expertise across six branches**

UNCTAD International Trade and Commodities Division unites trade, environment, commodities, services, competition, consumer protection and gender to provide integrated solutions.



## Evidence of impact

Recent achievements include:

supported  
**150+ countries**  
on trade policy and  
capacity building

conducted  
**29 competition  
law reviews** and  
**multiple consumer  
protection  
assessments**

enabled  
**20+ African  
countries**  
to develop green  
export strategies

built **global  
databases** on  
non-tariff measures  
and sustainability  
standards used by  
governments and  
businesses worldwide

trained  
**2,400+  
policymakers**  
on gender, non-tariff  
measures, services and  
sustainability

implemented circular  
economy pilots with  
**significant CO<sub>2</sub>  
reductions**

supported BioTrade  
sectors with  
**billions in annual  
sustainable trade  
flows**

These outcomes demonstrate **measurable,  
scalable and inclusive development  
impacts.**



UNCTAD International  
Trade and Commodities  
Division supports  
countries in **connecting  
to global markets,  
upgrading value  
chains, and competing  
sustainably** — ensuring  
no country is left behind.

Are you interested  
in joining forces with  
UNCTAD's International  
Trade and Commodities  
Division?

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