

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD
ANNUAL REPORT
2008



UNITED NATIONS



UNCTAD is the United Nations focal point for trade and development, and for interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Our objective is to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries, and economies in transition to integrate beneficially into the global economy. We also seek to help the international community promote a global partnership for development, increase coherence in global economic policymaking, and assure development gains for all from trade.

We conduct ahead-of-the-curve research and analysis on both long-standing and emerging development issues. We build consensus around efforts to promote national and international policies and strategies conducive to development. And we support countries in implementing their development strategies, helping them overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities of globalization.



UNITED NATIONS

UNCTAD IN NUMBERS

44	Years of promoting the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the global economy
12th	Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was held in Accra, Ghana 20–25 April 2008
193	Member states
3	Integrated pillars of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consensus-building• Research and analysis• Technical cooperation
5	Main programmes of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalization and development strategies• Investment and enterprise development• International trade in goods and services and commodities• Technology and logistics• Africa, least developed countries and special programmes
270	Technical cooperation projects currently being implemented in 72 countries
41	Percentage of total project expenditures allocated to least developed countries
\$34m	Amount of voluntary contributions for operational activities, of which \$7m was contributed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition
\$60m	Total regular budget for 2008, from the regular budget of the United Nations
200	Partnerships forged with civil society organizations
524	Dedicated staff members drawn from 102 countries
1st	Geneva-based United Nations organization to initiate a carbon-neutral initiative

To find out more about UNCTAD, visit
www.unctad.org

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**FOREWORD
BY DR. SUPACHAI
PANITCHPAKDI,
SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF UNCTAD**

Since mid-2008, the world has been gripped by a series of crises that vividly illustrate the extent of global interdependence. The impact of these crises on developing countries will unfold for many years to come, but one thing is already certain: the economic advisory role of an organization such as UNCTAD will be needed more than ever.

It is in this light that we present our annual report on UNCTAD's work in 2008 – work that built on our original mandate but also responded to the challenges raised by the food, energy and financial crises. That core trade and development mandate was considerably strengthened by our twelfth ministerial Conference, held in Accra, Ghana, last April, and by the Accra Accord to which it gave birth. In what has always been the guiding spirit of this organization, the Accra Accord dictated that our mandate should evolve to address emerging issues in the world economy – issues that have direct or indirect implications for the well-being of developing countries. For UNCTAD, this has meant devoting more attention to such areas as the economics of migration, climate change, food and energy security, South–South cooperation, commodities, official development assistance (ODA) and the special problems facing Africa.

By way of follow-up, at the secretariat level, we have created task forces to review our technical assistance projects, implement our new greenhouse gas mitigation strategy, and provide intellectual input on a wealth of development issues, from energy and food security



Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), financing for development and systemic matters. We have bolstered our work on commodities in view of the sector's importance to much of the developing world. We have begun work on a new communications strategy, in response to our member states' desire to give UNCTAD and its work a higher profile and disseminate it more broadly. And we have striven to make the secretariat as efficient as possible, enhancing our internal coordination on publications and policy messages, and consolidating our technical cooperation trust funds.

At the intergovernmental level, last year was marked by intense discussions on the triple crises and their impact on the MDGs, among other topics of ongoing concern, such as progress in the Doha Round of trade talks and the vital role of technology transfer. A landmark session of the Trade and Development Board contributed to a major event on the MDGs at United Nations Headquarters in September, as well as to deliberations of the General Assembly. Our debates stressed the need for multilateral rules to govern both trade and finance, and examined the role of "new donors", especially from the South, in fostering development. There was also a memorable special session of the Trade and Development Board on how the financial crisis was affecting development assistance, the conclusions of which were submitted to the Financing for Development Review Conference in Doha.

The intergovernmental process was enriched by UNCTAD's research and analysis and technical assistance. New and recurring themes in our research were the crucial needs for boosting productive capacity and investment in infrastructure and agriculture. We also stressed the need for an enabling role for the state, which has been a constant plea from UNCTAD over the years, but one that has resonated especially strongly in the light of recent financial turmoil. This was complemented in our technical assistance by our leading role in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination's Trade and Productive Capacity cluster, launched at UNCTAD XII, and its focus on sustainable development at the country level. We have been increasingly active in United Nations system-wide efforts to confront the defining crises of our times. And throughout the year, our short- and long-term objective has been to put the lessons learned from previous crises to work in helping poor countries cope. Foremost among these lessons is that greater interdependence calls for greater collaboration and coordination, especially at the multilateral level.

Looking ahead to 2009 and beyond, UNCTAD intends to continue its monitoring of the fast-changing world economic scene, and to respond promptly and effectively to our constituents' needs in addressing these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Supachai Panitchpakdi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.





ABOUT UNCTAD



About UNCTAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 to provide developing countries with an institutional framework that mobilizes international cooperation to address their development concerns and help them boost economic growth through trade and the interrelated issues of finance, investment and technology.

UNCTAD has built a reputation for presenting new and sometimes controversial ideas that later become accepted policy. In 1968, for example, it called for industrialized countries to set aside 0.7 per cent of their gross national incomes (GNIs) to be used as aid to developing countries. Questioned and criticized at the time, that target has since become the international

norm. In 2000, UNCTAD recommended a doubling of overall aid to Africa – a pledge later adopted at the 2005 summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) leading industrialized countries. And in 2004, UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa report called for a complete write-off of African nations' foreign debt, saying the continent otherwise would never be able to reach the MDGs for reducing poverty. In line with that recommendation, the G-8 countries, at their 2005 summit, agreed to cancel the debts of 14 African nations.

In 2008, as both developing and developed countries alike struggled (as they continue to do) to cope with the global economic downturn, UNCTAD's role as the United Nations focal point for trade and development – and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development – remains as relevant as ever.

DID YOU KNOW?

Three dimensions to our work

UNCTAD and our 193 member states work on three interrelated levels:

- (a) Building consensus on trade and development issues;
- (b) Carrying out research into how trade and development can be accomplished; and
- (c) Providing technical assistance tailored to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them achieve stable trade expansion and economic growth.



International Conference: How Are the Poor Affected by Trade? New Delhi, India, 14–16 October 2008.

Working with our member states

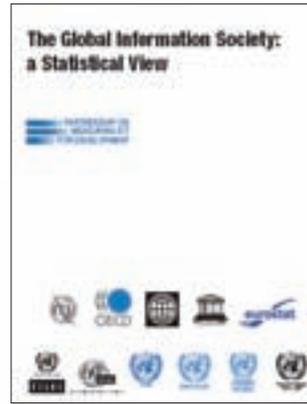
UNCTAD's governing body in between the quadrennial Conferences, the Trade and Development Board oversees the work of UNCTAD and discusses emerging issues. Two commissions assist the Board: the Trade and Development Commission, and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. The role of the commissions is to conduct policy dialogue on key and emerging issues, to consider the reports of expert meetings, to manage and recommend for approval the work programmes of expert meetings within their purview, and to promote and strengthen synergies among UNCTAD's three pillars of work.

The Trade and Development Board was called upon at UNCTAD's quadrennial Conference in Accra, Ghana, in 2008 to strengthen its policy, decision-making and governance functions. This should ensure overall consistency in the organization's activities, and the implementation of those activities in accordance with established mandates.

Working with other partners

UNCTAD also works with civil society (including non-governmental organizations, trade unions and business associations), parliamentarians, academia and the private sector to bring about better results for our member states. Some examples include:

- UNCTAD participated in a joint programme to help India spread the benefits of its rapidly increasing exports to the poor and to help India use trade to improve the status and wealth of women. The project, called Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalization in India, was carried out in cooperation with the Government of India and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom;
- We are also carrying out a project on a network of centres of excellence in cooperation with a group of scientific and technological institutions in developing countries, where these institutions function as regional hubs for learning and training;
- Throughout 2008, UNCTAD and other United Nations global and regional organizations met to come to



an understanding on how best to collaborate on the evolving Aid for Trade initiative. Joint research with these agencies is under way. UNCTAD also began Aid for Trade training courses for developing country policymakers in 2008, to help them better understand the concepts and issues involved and to assist them in gearing national strategies for taking advantage of this initiative;

- We are a leading member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, which includes (a) the International Telecommunication Union; (b) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); (c) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics; (d) the United Nations regional commissions; (e) Eurostat; and (f) the World Bank. The partnership is working to develop a harmonized set of core information and communications technology (ICT) indicators that will be publicly available on an online global database, and to enhance the capacities of national statistical offices in developing economies. In 2008, the partnership launched its publication *The Global Information Society: a Statistical View*, which presents a coherent picture of the state of the information society in the world, and shows recent developments in ICT measurement.

Leading United Nations system-wide coherence

During 2008, UNCTAD consolidated its role as a lead agency within the United Nations system-wide coherence process, in particular through its active participation in the Delivering as One initiative. UNCTAD is leading a joint programme entitled “Integration of Cape Verde into the World Economy”, carried out with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In Albania, UNCTAD is leading a joint programme entitled “Towards the European Union: Support to Albanian Trade Capacity”, carried out in cooperation with FAO, ITC, the United Nations Development Programme, UNIDO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity was launched on 20 April 2008 by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during UNCTAD XII in Accra, Ghana. The cluster is now recognized as one of the most dynamic coordination mechanisms within the United Nations system, and

reaffirms UNCTAD’s role as the system-wide focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development.

(For more information, visit: <http://www.unsystemceb.org>.)



UNCTAD, as lead agency of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, participated in the meeting “United Nations System-wide Coherence: the Next Steps”, organized by UNIDO 4–5 March 2008, in the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria. Among those present at the meeting were (from left): Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO; Mr. Jean-Philippe Rodde, Technical Cooperation Service, UNCTAD; Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Manuela Tortora, Chief, Technical Cooperation Service, UNCTAD; and Mr. Hans Page, Technical Cooperation Department, FAO.



UNCTAD XII

Accra, Ghana 20–25 April 2008

The road to Accra

The Twelfth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII) marked an important turning point for the organization. The global economic situation since the last Conference had seen important and fundamental shifts. This required UNCTAD to adjust to better meet existing challenges and dynamics as well as new and emerging issues. From the start, member states spared no effort in tackling head-on the key issues of the day, and considering ways and means of strengthening UNCTAD as an institution, in order to enhance its development impact. These were encapsulated in the theme of the Conference adopted by member states: “Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development”.

A key issue of discussion was how to fully harness trade as an engine for inclusive development, in the context of the increasing complexity of international economic relations. Much time and effort was spent reflecting on

emerging issues that affect the trading landscape such as services, labour mobility, commodities, energy security and climate change. Further, the future of the multilateral trading system and the successful and timely conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) drew much attention. In what may have been a sign of things to come, member states also deliberated on how the international economic system could be made stabler and more predictable, including through enhancing the coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

Member countries also had significant discussions on the increasing importance of South–South cooperation – in particular South–South trade, but also South–South investment. They noted that some 48 per cent of developing country trade was South–South trade. This was complemented by increasing financial flows from the South to the North. Some rapidly industrializing countries in Asia generated large surpluses in their external trade, which led to a rapid accumulation of foreign exchange reserves. These funds were used to sustain the debts and negative trade balances of several of the world’s industrial powers, especially the United States. China’s export surplus for 2008 was \$295.5 billion, much of it kept in American dollars. At the same time, there was recognition that not all developing countries were fully sharing in the volumes and benefits of trade.

Another important area of discussion was the enabling role of the state in development. It was recognized that the state had an important role to play in enabling development, including by fostering a positive climate for the business sector to play its role in expanding economic horizons. At the global level, the importance of





states in addressing systemic weaknesses and market imperfections was also discussed.

The Accra Conference

During the week-long Conference, several round tables brought political and intellectual leaders together to discuss issues at the heart of the Conference. These discussions sought to crystallize thinking on how globalization could serve as an even more potent force in driving inclusive development. Topics included (a) “Globalization, development and poverty reduction: their social and gender dimensions”; (b) “The changing face of commodities in the twenty-first century”; and (c) “Harnessing knowledge and technology for development”. These discussions contributed to the significance of UNCTAD XII as a major United Nations conference on development, and a significant event in the global development discourse.

Also of significance was the fact that the Conference took place amidst the turmoil caused by the food and energy crises. The various exchanges of ideas underscored the importance of UNCTAD in contributing to global efforts to address these global problems. Indeed, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, took the opportunity of UNCTAD XII to announce his major initiative in addressing the global food crisis.



Discussions during the high-level segment at UNCTAD XII on "Trade and development for Africa's prosperity – action and direction".

The Accra Accord

The Accra Accord and Accra Declaration were adopted by consensus by UNCTAD's 193 member states. The Conference conclusions address pressing economic, trade and development issues, and set UNCTAD's four-year work programme. The conclusions highlighted the challenges facing many developing countries as they strive to integrate successfully into the international economic and financial system, and set out a detailed agenda for progress in economic and social development spanning areas ranging from commodities, trade, trade logistics and debt to investment and new technologies.

Enhancing the development impact of UNCTAD

The Conference saw intense interest and deliberation concerning the strengthening of the organization so that it could continue to serve as an effective pro-development institution. Indeed, as stated in the Accra Accord, "in the context of deepening interdependence between all countries, UNCTAD should continue its unique orientation and commitment to development through its three pillars, while remaining responsive and accountable to all member states".

Consensus was evident on several key principles. First, UNCTAD's important role as a leading source of ideas on development should be maintained and enhanced. Second, the three pillars of the organization are inter-

dependent and interrelated. Third, the intergovernmental machinery should remain strong and should continuously be made more efficient and effective to build consensus on development issues. Finally, reflecting debate at UNCTAD XII over the difficulties many developing countries have encountered in broadening and diversifying their economies – even under the positive economic conditions of 2001–2007 – member states said that UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities should focus more sharply on developing productive capacities.

The discussions also resulted in consensus on the need to enhance the organization's work on commodities. A special UNCTAD unit on commodities was therefore established that reports directly to the Secretary-General, and will focus its work to better address the important issues on the commodities agenda.

Member states also agreed to bolster the intergovernmental machinery by strengthening the work of the commissions and the Trade and Development Board. They also agreed on an important innovation: the creation of multi-year expert group meetings. These meetings will accord the organization the opportunity to examine various facets of key issues over a number of years. This innovation is expected to allow a more thorough analysis, build networks of experts and result in even more focused and action-oriented solutions to development challenges.



First UNCTAD Empretec Women in Business Award, presented by Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, to Ms. Sana Zaal Burgan, CEO, Med Grant of Jordan.

UNCTAD XII in brief

Dates and location: 20–25 April 2008, Accra, Ghana

Theme: Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development

Attendance:

- 148 member states
- 1,400 member states representatives
- 2,100 representatives of non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, civil society organizations, businesses and business groups

High-level segment: Trade and development for Africa's prosperity – action and direction

Nine thematic round table discussions:

- Globalization, development and poverty reduction – their social and gender dimensions
- Creating an institutional environment conducive to increased foreign investment and sustainable development
- The changing face of commodities in the twenty-first century
- Emergence of a new South and South–South trade as a vehicle for regional and interregional integration for development
- Harnessing knowledge and technology for development
- Debt management solutions supporting trade and development
- Developing productive capacities in least developed countries
- Strengthening UNCTAD: Enhancing its development role
- Strengthening UNCTAD: Enhancing its impact and institutional effectiveness

Outcomes:

- The Accra Declaration
 - The Accra Accord
- (To access a copy, visit: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/iaos20082_en.pdf.)

Other Conference events:

World Investment Forum: Deliberations focused on key and emerging opportunities and challenges for foreign investment, how global value chains and business linkages are evolving and how emerging economies can accelerate the development process through foreign direct investment (FDI). This first forum succeeded in placing itself within the international investment arena as a multi-stakeholders' compact.

Civil Society Forum: Resulted in forum declaration to UNCTAD XII, which called for greater benefits from economic globalization to be extended to the world's poor and to women.

Creative Africa: Exhibitions of African art and fashion, and performances of African music.

Women in Business Awards: Chosen from among owners of firms benefiting from UNCTAD's 27 Empretec Centres on business development:

- First place: Sana Zaal Burgan, Jordan, founder of Med Grant, which promotes medical services in Jordan, especially to international "medical tourists";
- Second place: Sapphira Nyabunwa, Uganda, founder of Safi Cleaning Services Ltd., an 800-employee firm that provides professional cleaning services throughout Uganda;
- Third place: Augustine E. Hammond, Ghana, founder of Jem Afrik Creations Ltd., a firm with 55 employees that designs and produces Afro-ethnic clothing.



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TACKLING PERSISTENT AND EMERGING CHALLENGES





The fragility of the world economic situation was felt by all nations in 2008, and how governments respond both individually and collectively will determine the severity and duration of this downturn.

In line with its mandate to “stay ahead of the curve” and “pursue innovative solutions”, UNCTAD has been actively contributing to the intense international debate on how to respond to the current crises, and especially to keep some attention focused on the interests of developing countries. For instance, two of our main publications – the Trade and Development Report and the Least Developed Countries Report – highlighted issues critical to developing countries, such as the need to boost productive capacity and investment in infrastructure, including through better-designed development strategies and better-managed development assistance. The Trade and Development Report even challenges policymakers to think more creatively about how the state can intervene not only to correct market failures, but also to deliver development objectives, including the MDGs.

The “puzzle”: poor nations exporting capital to the rich –

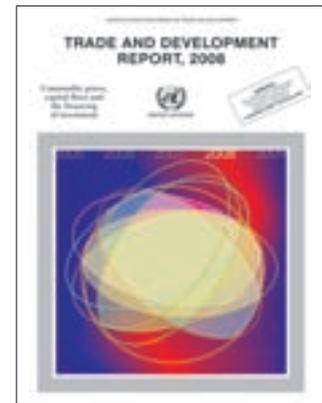
Mainstream economic theory contends that capital flows “downstream” from rich to poor nations, attracted by higher rates of return. However, from 2002 to 2006, developing countries as a whole exported more capital to developed countries than they received. Even more startling was that a number of the nations with the largest of these “reverse” capital flows also were among those with the highest rates of domestic investment and the highest and most robust rates of economic growth. They fared better in general than developing countries that followed the standard economic model for growth, which calls for reliance on imported capital and on investing the savings of domestic households.

The report contends that, after the Asian financial crisis at the end of the 1990s, nations attempted to keep their currencies competitively low so their exports would be attractively priced. Governments frequently intervened in the foreign-exchange market to keep their own currencies from rising. They thus accumulated foreign exchange reserves and contributed to financing current account deficits in some major developed economies.

Overvaluation of exchange rates was the most “reliable” predictor of financial crises in developing nations over the previous 15 years, the report said, while depreciation of real exchange rates frequently helped spur faster growth. To prevent governments from using exchange-rate manipulation to artificially improve

“There are important lessons from the UNCTAD study. One is that developed countries with large current account surpluses – Germany and Japan, primarily – need policies that stimulate domestic demand. A second is that developing countries seeking a growth model would be better off looking to Beijing than Washington for inspiration.”

The Guardian, 8 September 2008



findings of the Trade and Development Report, 2008

the competitiveness of their exports, UNCTAD continued to recommend the creation of a set of international rules to govern exchange-rate and financial policies, a proposal that gained further urgency as a result of the financial turmoil of 2008.

The report also called on governments to place emphasis on reinvesting the profits of domestic firms and on establishing banking systems that could provide more credit for domestic business growth. This helps to reduce reliance on capital inflows that largely depend on factors outside a country's control; it also helps to broaden a nation's economic base – both of which are helpful during a global economic downturn such as the one that set in during 2008.

The Trade and Development Report also contains an analysis of global economic prospects, which indicates that uncertainty and instability in international financial, currency and commodity markets are contributing to a gloomy outlook for the world economy and present considerable risks for the developing world. The situation would be exacerbated if monetary policy became more restrictive in response to the price effects of commodity imports, rather than providing an expansionary stimulus to counter the recessionary tendencies.

To read more, visit www.unctad.org/tdr.

Addressing the global food crisis

In its policy brief entitled “Tackling the global food crisis” (No. 2, June 2008), UNCTAD economists indicated that higher food costs drove an estimated 40 million more people into situations of poverty and hunger in 2008, bringing the number of the world's undernourished to 936 million. UNCTAD research stressed that structural problems such as lack of access to land, suitable technology and financial credit have to be addressed or shortages are almost certain to recur. This is further discussed in UNCTAD's report “Addressing the global food crisis: Key trade, investment and commodity policies in ensuring sustainable food security and alleviating poverty” (UNCTAD/OSG/2008/1, available at: http://www.unctad.org/sections/edm_dir/docs/osg_2008_1_en.pdf). UNCTAD is also a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and is actively contributing to United Nations system-wide efforts to deal with both short- and long-term responses to the crisis.

On 28 November, UNCTAD held the first of a series of training courses for developing country officials on how to cope with the food crisis. Steps that might be considered, the group was told, included (a) the use of tariff income to boost agricultural development; (b) assistance to smallholder farmers; and (c) other measures to address long-term undercapitalization of agriculture, financing of rural farms and infrastructure, and provision of real-time information to farmers on such things as crop prices and the prices of farming inputs.

*Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts
on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting,
25th anniversary session, high-level segment.
From left to right: Mr. Wang Jun, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Finance,
China; UNCTAD Secretary-General Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi;
ISAR Chairperson Mr. Nelson Carvalho.*



Advocating increased aid flows

Aid to the least developed countries (LDCs) has traditionally declined during recessions, and the Secretary-General stressed in several statements in late 2008 that it was vital for these vulnerable countries to receive as much or even more ODA during the global downturn. At the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December, UNCTAD stated that “the mobilization of additional financial resources for development – in particular increased ODA to meet the Millennium Development Goals – is becoming even more urgent with the spreading impact of the financial crisis”. A side event at this conference – Financial Crisis, Global Imbalances and National Policy Space, co-organized by UNCTAD and the Government of the Netherlands – addressed the need for better balance between international economic governance instruments and national policy autonomy in all countries.

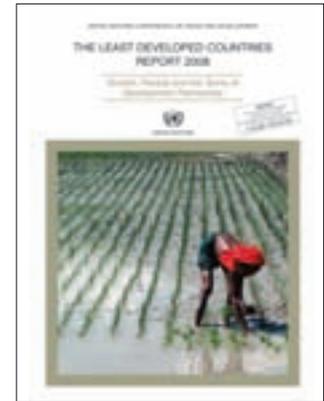
Managing debt sustainability

Amidst the financial and economic turmoil, there was increased concern about the debt levels of some developing nations. The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 suggested that substantial debt relief should be considered for those 34 LDCs that had not already received it under the Enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative or the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. In fact, in spite of these initiatives, the debt

burden for LDCs remained much higher than the average for the other developing countries – 42 per cent of GNI as compared to 26 per cent of GNI in 2006 – and the report warned that long-term sustainability of debt remained a problem for LDCs. Accordingly, at the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNCTAD highlighted the challenges of debt sustainability for developing countries in the face of the deepening financial crisis and the need for a mechanism to manage debt difficulties. Furthermore, with financial support from the Norwegian Government, UNCTAD launched a major project on sovereign debt management, which will include extensive research and the creation of an international forum on the subject.

Promoting a more transparent regulatory framework

Transparent financial and accounting rules are necessary to restore investor confidence around the world following the collapse of sub-prime mortgage-backed securities and other opaque investment vehicles. Secretary-General Supachai told a meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) on 5 November 2008 that amendments to relevant accounting and reporting standards needed to be introduced “in a fair and transparent way”, including by ensuring the participation of developing countries in the discussions.



The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 – Growth, Poverty and the Terms of Development Partnership

The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 argues that the failure to focus on production, productivity and productive capacities was exacerbating the vulnerability of LDCs to external shocks and also leading to a pattern of growth which does not have a major impact of poverty reduction. The report stressed that not only national but international policies should focus on developing productive capacities and expanding productive employment opportunities. Aid flows to LDCs, while climbing dramatically from a low point in the 1990s, have increasingly targeted social and health matters, the report said, and have shifted away from a focus on industrial and agricultural progress. The share of aid committed to production sectors and to economic infrastructure in LDCs fell to 25 per cent in 2006, down from 50 per cent during the early 1990s, the report noted, and this trend “is exacerbating the

vulnerability of LDCs to external shocks and also leading to a pattern of growth which does not have a major impact on poverty reduction”.

Development effectiveness and aid effectiveness depend on the ability of poor countries to take the lead in designing and putting into effect their own national development strategies, the Least Developed Countries Report 2008 contends. They are most familiar with local conditions, and can make the best choices by experimenting and learning. Currently, however, the way in which aid is delivered tends to undermine country “ownership” of national development strategies. The report recommended that LDCs adopt aid management policies as a powerful bottom-up approach to improve aid effectiveness.

To obtain a copy of the Least Developed Countries Report, visit www.unctad.org/lcdr.

“So what are the lessons? The [LDC] report notes the need for further debt relief, more inward investment, measures to broaden the economic base and so on. This is all sensible... UNCTAD deserves attention for noting just how much needs to be done, despite the encouraging growth numbers.”

The Independent, 20 July 2008





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HELPING COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM TRADE



Developing countries' share of international trade has continued to expand and diversify, with manufactured items showing healthy growth. The challenge will be to maintain this trend and integrate smaller countries and smaller companies into global value chains. Trade agreements can help by addressing tariff escalation, tariff peaks, rules of origin and transfer of technology issues – in developed as well as developing country markets. UNCTAD, along with other organizations and donors, assists member states in their development of enabling policies and systems to encourage business and trade development that promotes beneficial integration into the international trading system and thus maximizes the welfare of their people.

The starting point for UNCTAD activities on trade is the systematic and careful monitoring and assessment of trends, issues, problems and prospects in international trade and trade policy affecting goods, services and commodities, and how these affect the development prospects of poorer countries. This research is widely disseminated and influences those who make decisions nationally, regionally and internationally. It is discussed by governments at UNCTAD meetings to help them come to a common understanding on the lay of the land. This research and the resulting understanding then form a foundation from which UNCTAD can provide carefully designed technical assistance to individual governments.

UNCTAD continues to support the efforts of governments to advance trade negotiations at WTO, especially the long-running Doha Round of trade negotiations, and to clarify the development aspects of the issues raised in those talks. The aim is to assist poorer countries to better understand their interests and what is at stake, so they can participate more effectively and can take well-informed decisions about what positions they should adopt in the negotiations. The goal is for them to draw extensive benefits from the international trading system, and to ensure that it helps them to improve the lives of their citizens. Key areas where UNCTAD focuses include agriculture, non-agricultural products, services and rules.

Trade is not just about what happens in multilateral discussions among many governments; it is also about what happens on the ground between countries and within regions. UNCTAD assists developing countries in taking advantage of opportunities for selling their goods and services to other countries by familiarizing them with national trade regimes and informing them how to use trade preferences to them under “preferential trade arrangements”. Some of these preferences – including the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Cotonou Agreement – are granted by developed countries. Others are provided by other developing countries, including under the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), duty-free and



Panel of the Multi-stakeholder Meeting on Cotton. Members of the Panel included (from left to right): Ms. Ramadan Issa, Minister of Trade and Industry of Chad; Mr. Youssouf Soumahoro Diallo, Minister of Trade and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire; Ms. Christine Ouinsavi, Minister of Trade and Industry of Benin; Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of WTO; Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD; and Mr. Ahamadou Abdoulaye Diallo, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Mali.

quota-free market access initiatives for LDCs by China and India, and regional arrangements among developing countries.

UNCTAD's work on trade issues includes a focus on the services economy, which is an essential backbone of all economies and provides an opportunity for greater trade, diversification and growth. It also performs an important social and poverty alleviation function through the provision of essential services such as education, health, electricity and water. Consistent with our three pillars approach to our work, UNCTAD's work in this area usually involves (a) conducting analyses of different services sectors in individual countries that ask for assistance in this area; (b) advising the governments concerned on the kind of policies they could adopt to strengthen their services sectors; and then (c) training their personnel to apply these policies, in order to improve universal access to essential services by all their people.

Trade-supportive work

Responding to the challenges and opportunities of commodities markets

The Secretary-General's Multi-stakeholder Meeting on Cotton (2 December), held by the organization's new Special Unit on Commodities, enabled six trade ministers of African countries that depend on cotton exports to voice the external difficulties affecting trade in a crop that is vital to their economies. The Secretary-

General said it was "important at this time to eliminate trade-distorting measures and market-access barriers" affecting cotton and kept in place by several developed countries. The African trade ministers also urged that the global financial crisis not be allowed to interfere with promised aid for cotton-development projects in Africa and elsewhere.

Promoting broader benefits from Africa's extractive industries was a major goal of UNCTAD's Twelfth Oil, Gas and Minerals Trade and Finance Conference, 4–7 November, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. One outcome was the signing of a memorandum between the Government of Equatorial Guinea and ExxonMobil to capture and market natural gas currently flared off from oil wells. The project will (a) help the country reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; (b) expand gas processing at domestic plants; and (c) increase the supply of liquefied petroleum gas to domestic and regional markets, making African energy supplies more secure. It is hoped that the agreement will lead to similar projects around the continent.

UNCTAD's Infoshare project became partly operational in Cameroon in 2008. Cocoa prices offered by different buyers are now quickly updated and posted online. The intent of the system is to allow farmers to compare offers and decide where and when to sell their produce, thus increasing their profits. (Before this, they often had to accept what was proposed by a single local buyer.)



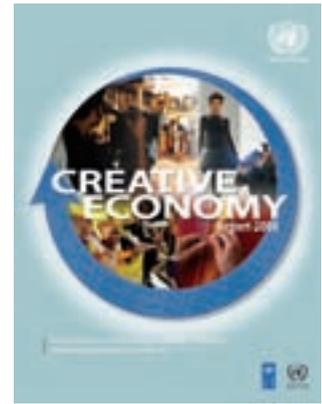
The data collection and transmission points include telecommunication centres and farmers' organizations. From there, the information is spread by radio, telephone and word of mouth. The central database for the project is at the National Cocoa Board of Cameroon, allowing government officials to track developments in the sector and make informed decisions that benefit farmers. Feasibility studies for expanding Infoshare to the Caribbean (Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago), the Pacific region (Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu), and to other countries in central Africa (Gabon, Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) for relevant agricultural commodities have been completed.

UNCTAD also continued to operate and update its Infocomm web site, which helps developing country governments, businesses and others to track trends in commodities prices and trade, and to adjust their policies accordingly. For cotton, for example – as for other basic farm products – the site lists recent information on prices, crop status, market chains for sale and distribution, technology and selected reference material. The site also provides links to major product organizations, international research groups and universities.

Addressing market entry issues

UNCTAD, along with two other organizations belonging to an International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture, published a fourth volume of background studies on reducing technical barriers to exports of organic products from developing countries. In addition, the task force launched two practical tools to help organic trade: an "Equitool" to assist in determining whether organic food standards applying to one region are equivalent to the standards of another region, and a minimum set of performance requirements for agencies that certify organic products. European Union (EU) standards, for example, often differ from the recently adopted East African Organic Products Standard, and a frequent result is that the exporter must produce according to EU regulations. But that can be difficult in many cases. For example, there may be a regulation requiring animal pens to be constructed out of materials not available to African farmers. The Equitool, which was just entering practical application at the end of 2008, will determine if the alternatives used are acceptable.

A trend towards the use of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), such as onerous technical standards or complex and demanding health and sanitary regulations, continued in 2008, and UNCTAD carried out work as part of a multi-agency support team to identify, classify and monitor the use of NTBs, and to advise developing countries on how to meet these standards and take advantage



of the competitive opportunities they sometimes create. During 2008, UNCTAD also issued three regional studies – covering East Asia, East and Southern Africa, and Central and South America – on the effects of private, voluntary NTBs on horticultural exports.

UNCTAD's Biotrade Initiative helped South African producers complete a four-year effort to win approval from the EU to export nutritionally rich baobab fruit pulp to EU countries. The authorization, under the EU's Regulation on Novel Foods, instantly created a market estimated at \$500 million for baobab pulp, and African producers have already seen their incomes rise. Overall, the BioTrade Initiative seeks to create overseas markets for environmental products that raise local incomes and encourage the protection of biodiversity.

Facilitating accession to WTO

UNCTAD helped 19 developing countries over the course of 2008 as they pursued the complex process of joining WTO, or the equally complex process of meeting WTO post-accession requirements. These countries included the Islamic Republic of Iran, Algeria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the LDCs Sudan, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Yemen. This work addresses the development needs of beneficiaries with a view to enabling them to accede to WTO on terms commensurate with their level of development, and their ability to adhere to the obligations associated with WTO membership.

Expanding trade in creative products

A Creative Africa event held at UNCTAD XII in April marked the beginning of a long-term strategy to help the continent reap greater economic benefits from its creative talents and cultural heritage. This included the publication of the organization's first Creative Economy Report, which highlighted that international trade in creative goods surged from \$235 billion in 1996 to \$445 billion in 2005, reflecting the potential of the sector. UNCTAD also launched a global databank which lists some 235 categories of artwork, music, crafts, video and heritage products, and the major importers and exporters of such goods. The database is intended to help artists find markets for their work and to help governments make decisions that can expand trade in creative products.

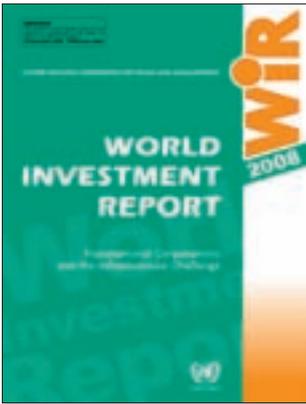






3

ENABLING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES FROM INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Global FDI, after soaring the previous four years, began to decline in 2008 – dropping over 20 per cent from its 2007 record of \$1.8 trillion. Developed countries were most affected, with a fall of more than 30 per cent in FDI flows. Developing countries managed to record a slight increase of 3.6 per cent for the year. In part,

UNCTAD experts said, that was because the effects of the financial crisis had not yet been fully transmitted. In 2009, they warned, “developing countries will not be excepted” from a general decline in the investment that serves as a vital fuel for economic growth.

World Investment Report 2008

UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2008, published in September, and the organization's first World Investment Forum, held just in advance of UNCTAD XII in April, reflected development concerns about the crises and, to this end, focused on ways to channel more investment into infrastructure, agriculture and manufacturing sectors in the poorest countries, especially in Africa.

Subtitled “Transnational Corporations and the Infrastructure Challenge,” the World Investment Report 2008 reports that improvements to roads, ports, and electricity supply are so necessary for enabling less-wealthy countries to compete on global markets that more attention should be paid to finding private sources of financing for them, since government funds and foreign aid are often insufficient. The report maps the investments of infrastructure companies worldwide and in developing countries, and discusses how

some developing country firms have become prominent investors in selected infrastructure industries. It further highlights the complex policy challenges facing developing countries seeking to use transnational corporations (TNCs) to spur improvements in such fields as transport, water and electricity supply, and stresses the need for a framework of good governance, increased regional planning, and active support of countries by their development partners. UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai termed investment in infrastructure “part of the unfinished agenda of development: this is apparent in the daily power outages that stifle economic growth in Africa and in the lack of access to drinking water for millions in Africa and Asia. TNC investment... could therefore help meet some urgent development goals.”

To obtain a copy of the World Investment Report, visit www.unctad.org/wir.



A panel discussion at the World Investment Forum, 19–22 April 2008, Accra, Ghana.



Participants at a training course for Latin American countries on managing investment disputes. The workshop was held in Costa Rica from 17 to 26 November 2008.

Steps to maximize investment, business creation, and their benefits

World Investment Forum

The first World Investment Forum (19–22 April, Accra, Ghana) looked at the role of FDI in economic development and improved methods of investment promotion. Several events constituted the forum. These included two summit sessions: a Global Leaders Investment Debate, and the Investment Advisory Council meeting with the participation of heads of states and corporate executives. The Global Leaders Investment Debate focused on ensuring that FDI benefits the poor in the new dynamics of the investment landscape. The Investment Advisory Council addressed emerging challenges in the investment and development nexus. Three interactive investment stakeholders' sessions, three business networking events and four capacity-building workshops on investment promotion were also organized. Conceived as a multi-stakeholders' approach, the forum attracted 650 participants, including high-level policy-makers, investment promotion executives and business leaders. Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, noted, "Development without investment is impossible. I applaud the holding of the World Investment Forum."

Improving the climate for investments

Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) were completed for the Dominican Republic, Mauritania, Nigeria and Viet

Nam. IPRs are objective analyses of how national legal, regulatory and institutional systems attract or inhibit FDI. UNCTAD has now performed IPRs in response to requests from 24 countries, including 9 LDCs. The recommendations these studies contain are considered so valuable that 23 additional countries have requested the reviews. Follow-up is important, too. During the year, UNCTAD assisted Benin, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Zambia and Rwanda in their efforts to implement reforms called for by earlier IPRs. Among the steps taken by Zambia were the establishment of a Zambia Development Agency, the creation of the Zambia International Trade Commission, and the organization of a Zambian investment forum for Asian pharmaceutical and ICT companies. In Morocco, UNCTAD's assistance contributed to the codification of investment-related laws and the preparation of an investment guide.

The complexity of the international investment regime consisting of more than 5,800 different international investment agreements (IIAs) makes it increasingly difficult for developing nations to use these agreements effectively for their development. In 2008, the programme received a record number of requests for assistance in this area, and some 1,100 government officials received training on various issues related to IIAs. Past training has led to considerable improvement in negotiating capacity, resulting in more mutually beneficial agreements. Through such training, governments add



Twenty-one professionals from investment promotion agencies of 17 countries participated in a study tour to Sweden with the objective of exchanging best practices and experiences in investment promotion and facilitation. The tour was organized by UNCTAD in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and the Invest in Sweden Agency.

more predictability, stability and transparency to their investment regulations. UNCTAD's IIAs programme is the focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with all matters related to IIAs, and continues to provide the forum to advance the understanding of issues related to IIAs and their development dimension.

Help with investment promotion included institutional support and advice to El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritius, Palestine and Zambia. Regional and interregional workshops on investment promotion were held in Brazil, Ghana, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Trinidad and Tobago, in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). A frequent issue of concern was how developing countries could continue to attract or even increase foreign investment as the global economic downturn gathered force. Focus therefore shifted from investment promotion strategies to practices and techniques to make investment easier for foreign firms to carry out, and also to the "aftercare" of investors to enable the host countries to retain investments, encourage reinvestment and eventually channel such funds to areas often neglected, such as conflict zones. In addition to these workshops, 38 investment promotion officials from 19 developing countries travelled on four UNCTAD-organized study tours to Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Tunisia, to observe the latest good practices for investment promotion.

Improving capacities for data collection

A lack of domestic statistics on FDI hinders governments in developing countries from making informed decisions on how to attract FDI and use it effectively, as well as limiting their ability to judge how well current strategies are working. To this end, UNCTAD held workshops on collecting, improving and harmonizing FDI statistics in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and two regional groups – the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) – in 2008. These sessions also focused on collecting detailed and timely information on the domestic investment activities of TNCs. In addition, UNCTAD prepared a common statistical methodology and survey for the COMESA region, and at UNCTAD XII it launched the World Investment Directory: Africa, to help countries on the continent produce and share reliable data on FDI and TNC activities. UNCTAD further maintains a website on FDI statistics which contains profiles of 142 countries, investment fact sheets on 187, and "FDI in brief" data sheets on 78 (see www.unctad.org/FDIstatistics).

Advancing new thinking on investment

UNCTAD carried out case studies in 2008 on the effect of FDI on tourism in the West African countries of Senegal, Ghana and Mali. The findings will be presented in 2009. Two earlier phases of the project – which included reviews of Bhutan, Nepal, the Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, Kenya, the United Republic Tanzania, Tunisia,



Morocco, Botswana, Uganda and Mauritius – found that, in most countries, FDI or the presence of TNCs in the tourism field occurred much less frequently than was assumed. Moreover, the impact of FDI varied greatly according to context: in countries that were relatively new to tourism, or where FDI had entered only recently, the infusion of foreign capital or international managerial expertise could make a huge difference in the competitiveness of domestic tourism operations, as well as to the links established with the rest of the domestic economy. However, in countries with a long history of FDI and/or a long history in the tourism business, the comparative advantages offered by foreign investment as compared to domestic investment were much less. UNCTAD's Investment Advisory Series issued three publications in 2008. *Aftercare: a Core Function of Investment Promotion* was reprinted, along with two new studies: *Investment Promotion Agencies as Policy Advocates* and *Evaluating Investment Promotion Agencies*. They are meant to function as “toolkits” for the investment promotion agencies many developing countries have recently established, providing practical advice on how they should be set up, how they can function most effectively, and how they can ensure that investors who channel money to developing nations are encouraged to continue such investment.

In response to the Accra mandate and further to the call by the G-8 Heiligendamm Summit, UNCTAD launched a new work programme on best practices in investment policies. The country-based case studies are meant to develop practical policy toolkits in a number of key stra-

tegic and issue-based areas, where the right FDI policy can make a critical contribution to ensuring positive development outcomes. Case studies produced include “Attracting and benefiting from FDI in small economies”, “Using FDI to improve infrastructure (Electricity)”, and “Using FDI to improve infrastructure (Roads)”.

Developing the small and medium-sized enterprise sector

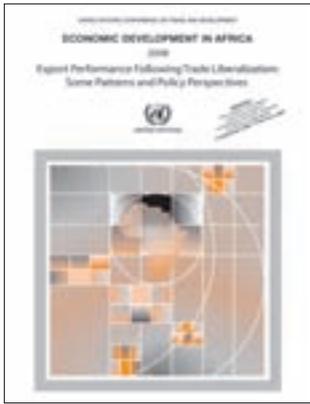
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a vital economic driving force; they are proven engines for industrial growth in two rapidly-expanding Asian economies – India and China. Small businesses have produced more than half of industrial output and contributed 30 to 40 per cent of exports in India and 65 per cent of exports in China, whilst in Africa, the SME sector generally accounts for over half of the formally employed population. Over the three years ending in 2008, more than 700 SMEs were founded by graduates of UNCTAD's 19 Empretec centres around the world, which teach entrepreneurship and the art of marketing new ideas and attracting the capital needed to start and expand small businesses. Under the direction of Empretec graduates, some 2,800 existing businesses also were expanded during that period, resulting in over 7,000 new jobs. In addition, UNCTAD undertook new activities in 2008 to foster linkages between developing-country SMEs and the TNCs to which they often provide products. The resulting infusions of technology and business knowledge can spur rapid growth and job creation in the smaller firms.





4

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED



UNCTAD pays special attention to the development of LDCs, Africa, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and the occupied Palestinian territories.

UNCTAD's prescription for LDCs and African countries that are heavily dependent on commodities is – and has been – that they must find ways to diversify their economies. To that end, we have advocated that aid flows must place greater emphasis on helping LDCs expand their capacities to produce other goods, especially manufactured goods. Our research has noted that unstable food prices are a major warning that agricultural productivity in poor nations has been neglected and underfunded for more than two decades. For reasons of economic growth – and potentially a matter of survival – this productivity must be improved.

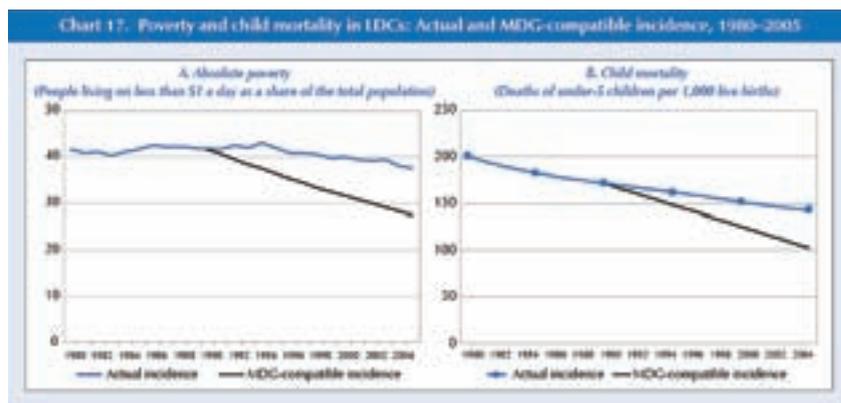
The Economic Development in Africa 2008 report found that Africa's share in world agricultural trade in 2006 (which stood at 3.2 per cent) was lower than it was in 1985 (5.4 per cent). Moreover, export volumes grew at only 5.8 per cent per annum during the period 1995–2006; this is the slowest for all regions in the world and below the world average. The report attributes the modest export performance to structural, institutional and socio-economic constraints which limit African econo-

mies' supply response to changed incentive structures associated with trade liberalization, together with a policy failure to adopt measures which would address these constraints.

The report argues that it is now necessary for African countries to focus on policies to strengthen export performance after trade liberalization by tackling these constraints. It suggests that the structural, institutional and socio-economic constraints on export performance are best addressed through specific sectoral policies that not only seek to increase exports but also improve productive capacities and productivity.

Economic Development in Africa 2008 called for governments to consider fiscal incentives to attract more investment to agriculture and manufacturing. It also recommended major infusions of aid to upgrade technology, particularly in the agricultural sector. The report also said African governments should consider re-establishing services eliminated during the liberalization trend, such as subsidized inputs to agriculture and industry, and improve access to credit as part of much wider reforms to the agriculture sector.

To obtain a copy of the Economic Development in Africa report, visit www.unctad.org/africa.



Source: UNCTAD secretariat estimations and projections based on data from Karshenas (2008) and United Nations/DESA Statistics Division. Poverty data are based on the sample of LDCs mentioned in table 4. Child mortality data are the unweighted average for all the LDCs.

Note: The MDG-compatible incidence is the hypothetical path that poverty and child mortality incidence would need to follow if the LDCs were to achieve the respective MDG targets by 2015.

Faltering progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

According to the Least Developed Countries Report 2008, if recent trends continue, a number of LDCs will fall short of the United Nations MDGs when the deadline arrives in 2015. Among the report’s findings, as of 2008:

- Fewer than 15 per cent of LDCs were on track to achieve the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015;
- Only 20 per cent of LDCs were on schedule to halve the mortality of children under age 5;
- On the goal of halving the proportion of the world

population suffering from hunger, “One quarter of LDCs are not only off track but are experiencing reversal or stagnation”.

At an MDG summit held on 25 September at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, UNCTAD recommended that future MDG efforts focus more on stimulating broad-based economic growth in poor nations. It said this kind of progress is more effective in reducing poverty than government programmes focusing narrowly on achieving specific MDG targets.

Addressing the challenges of the poor and disadvantaged

Applying the recommendations of the Least Developed Country Reports

A workshop on “productive capacities, economic growth and poverty reduction” was held for Asian LDCs in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in October to review and fine-tune the messages of recent Least Developed Country Reports. These studies recommended that LDC governments focus on creating more non-agricultural jobs and reducing dependence on exports of basic farm goods. At the workshop, officials from Cambodia,

Bangladesh and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic said tactics that could help empower nations include having governments carefully choose to encourage new economic sectors where there is a potential competitive or local advantage. Garment manufacturing in Asian LDCs had been successful because relative wages were low and Cambodia, for instance, had identified a market niche with silk. While advancing manufacturing was important, participating nations also said it was vital to apply more technology and research to agriculture. Such workshops were also conducted during the year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and in Dakar, Senegal.



UNCTAD Regional Workshop on Productive Capacities, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction for Asian LDCs, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28–30 October 2008.

Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs

Within the context of the Integrated Framework initiative, in 2008, UNCTAD continued to assist LDCs by providing advisory services and implementing trade-related projects – not only at the national level, but also at the regional level. In June, as part of the follow-up to and implementation of the Rwanda Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies action matrix, UNCTAD conducted a workshop on “Trade Development and Productive Capacity, with Special Emphasis on Horticulture, Handicrafts and Leather Products”. The objective of the workshop was to validate the findings and recommendations contained in two studies commissioned by UNCTAD at the request of the Rwandan Government. Two international experts in the three above-mentioned sectors prepared studies and assisted at the workshop. The discussions resulted in concrete policy recommendations for overcoming the constraints identified and exploiting the potential in the three sectors. The Government undertook to establish a local follow-up mechanism to ensure that the recommendations were implemented.

Helping countries with debt management

UNCTAD provided technical support to six African LDCs involved in “Paris Club” negotiations on debt relief and debt rescheduling: Guinea, the Gambia, Liberia, Togo, Djibouti and Congo. Such sessions, held with officials



Participants engaged in a group activity during the first DMFAS Regional Workshop on Debt Portfolio Analysis in Amman, Jordan, 9–13 November 2008. Participants at this workshop comprised debt managers from Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Sudan.

of individual countries, reviewed (a) the most likely scenarios for rescheduling of debt payments under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative; (b) what could be expected during HIPC negotiations; (c) the percentages of debt reduction that might be expected; and (d) what questions were likely to be asked by the finance officials of creditor nations.

Effective debt management is an intrinsic part of sound public financial management and overall good governance. Debt management, nonetheless, remains a challenge for most developing countries, and many governments lack the appropriate institutional, human and technical capacity for handling public resources and liabilities effectively. UNCTAD’s Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme continued in 2008 to help countries build that capacity. During the year, the latest version of the computerized DMFAS system was installed in seven countries and institutions, thus improving their abilities to manage their debt portfolios. Since its inception, the programme has provided technical assistance to 66 countries; as of December 2008, the programme was being applied to the management of approximately 30 per cent of the world’s debt.

Supporting the Palestinian people

To help revitalize the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, UNCTAD began work with the Palestinian



Trucks on the move in Kabul.

Authority on the third phase of a project – launched under the Arabic name Tawasol – to modernize and strengthen Palestinian customs operations. It also completed technical assistance activities to the Palestinian Shippers' Council that was established in 2006 and now functions actively with more than 350 member businesses. The council works to solve shippers' problems and improve their abilities to import and export. It has a growing network of national and regional partners.

The organization designed an “aftercare” strategy for existing national and foreign investors in the occupied Palestinian territory. Among other things, the strategy recommended a “clustering” approach among domestic businesses. Furniture makers, for example, could better apply investment and ensure better returns for investors if they could collectively negotiate prices with suppliers and transporters, and incoming technology could be shared more effectively. In addition, such “collective efficiencies” could be applied to monitoring the interests of investors and tracking trends within the Palestinian territory that are important to investors.

Tackling the specific problems of LLDCs and SIDS

A high-level investment forum on 1 October co-organized by UNCTAD focused on the special difficulties LLDCs have in attracting FDI. Among the conclusions were that LLDCs, in cooperation with neighbouring

countries, should concentrate on improving transit infrastructure, specialize in producing and trading goods less affected by transport costs and distance, and strengthen regional economic links and regional economic cooperation.

UNCTAD provided extensive technical assistance to Afghanistan, including support in the drafting of a revised transit agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in establishing a secretariat for its newly-created Afghanistan Trade Facilitation Committee. In addition, the organization also carried out a series of training activities for Afghan officials involved in the complex negotiations intended to enable the country to join WTO. UNCTAD launched the first delivery of a training course for Afghan freight forwarders in cooperation with the International Federation of Freight Forwarders.

SIDS frequently face difficulties based on remoteness from major markets and shortages of land and resources. UNCTAD participated in several programmes in 2008 to help Cape Verde, a SIDS that graduated from LDC status in 2007 and gained membership in WTO in 2008. Among other steps, joint work was carried out with the Government on how Cape Verde could diversify its economy. The feasibility of new activities such as business processing and offshore financial services was explored.





5

MODERNIZING ECONOMIES





United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, center, applauds Iraq's Minister of Science and Technology, Raid J. Fahmi, left, and UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, right, as they shake hands after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNCTAD and Iraq, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, 1 September 2008.

Technology and up-to-date practices in business and trade can be an enormous help to developing countries... but also a serious obstacle. The explosive growth in cell phone use shows the potential payoff – mobile networks have enabled numerous nations to skip the slow, costly process of connecting people and territory (often over difficult terrain) with fixed-line systems. Much of UNCTAD's work on technology and information communication technologies was thus aimed at bridging such technology gaps.

In 2008, UNCTAD also worked extensively on another dimension of connectivity – trade logistics. This involved working with countries on their establishment of more modern and efficient ports, roads, railroads and customs systems, as better infrastructure of this kind can speed up trade, cut costs and lead to faster economic progress. A major concern, as the global economic crisis intensified at the end of the year, was that greater investment and more official aid for infrastructure improvements in developing countries might falter when it was most needed.

Modernization work in 2008

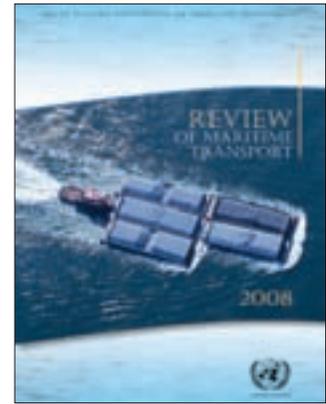
Spurring growth through science, technology and innovation

On 1 September, UNCTAD signed an agreement to carry out a science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) review for Iraq. While Iraq's competence in

science and technology used to be among the most impressive in its region, estimates now indicate that nearly 80 per cent of the country's higher education and research institutions are operating at partial capacity. A major intent of the STIP is to help Iraq find effective measures for rebuilding its economy.

Also in 2008, a STIP review of Angola was published that urged the government to place top priority on broadening the nation's economic base, currently heavily dependent on natural resources, and on rebuilding and modernizing infrastructure damaged during the country's long civil war. The STIP review of Angola was the ninth carried out by UNCTAD, and has helped beneficiary countries in their development of strategies for appropriate national innovation systems and on maximizing the development impacts of science and technology.

In Nepal, UNCTAD assisted in the development of a system for measuring its population's use of information and telecommunication technology. ICT statistics are necessary for governments to make effective decisions on how to expand Internet access and improve other communication facilities. Similarly, UNCTAD helped Tunisia set up a statistical process for analyzing ICT use by domestic businesses, and conducted a training course on the production of statistics on the information economy for Asia-Pacific that included 24 participants from 16 countries in the region.



Review of Maritime Transport 2008

The organization's monitoring of seaborne freight showed the sharp fall in the international financial barometer as the year advanced. UNCTAD's Review of Maritime Transport 2008 reported that record quantities were carried by ship in 2007 – 8 billion tons, largely driven by the emerging and transition economies as they stepped up their exports in response to global demand. Shipping costs for dry bulk commodities were the highest ever, and there was record demand for new ships: 10,053 were ordered for 2008, and their tonnage was equivalent to 44 per cent of the existing global fleet. But by the third quarter of the year, some

of those ship orders were being cancelled, and the Baltic dry index – a composite measure of shipping prices for various dry-bulk products such as iron ore, grain and coal – proceeded to fall more than 13-fold between May and early November, from 11,798 points (the highest on record) to 891. That was a clear indication that the unfolding financial crisis had spread to international trade, and a warning of difficult times ahead for developing countries, especially those dependent on selling commodities.

To read more of the Review of Maritime Transport, visit www.unctad.org/rmt.

Strengthening enterprise development

UNCTAD's Business Linkages Programme concluded a pilot study in Uganda that showed that training and advice from TNCs often improved business skills and production in SMEs in developing countries so much that they doubled their workforces and increased productive efficiency by 25 per cent. A survey in Brazil of 27 SMEs supplying three large TNCs (Philips, Gerdau Ameristeel and Alcoa) showed that the smaller firms significantly upgraded the quality of their products and their general management skills following 10 months of technical training to eliminate "weaknesses" identified by the partner TNCs. The Business Linkages Programme is intended to spread business knowledge and technology to small firms in developing countries.



David Kissa, Chief Executive Officer, Kacofa Association, Uganda partner of UNCTAD, Enterprise Uganda and Uganda Breweries in the Business Linkages Programme.



The bustling port at Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



Customs officers in Haiti at a training session on using the ASYCUDA system.

Enhancing connectivity and trade competitiveness

More than 115 national and regional training sessions were held under UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme on the use of information technology to make customs operations faster and more efficient. Over the year, the ASYCUDA system, UNCTAD's largest technical cooperation programme, was installed – or the number of operational sites was extended – in Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Seychelles and Swaziland. ASYCUDA is now used by over 90 countries. In some cases, ASYCUDA has reduced customs clearance times from as much as three days down to several hours. It also increases revenues by eliminating lapses in paperwork and by reducing opportunities for corruption.

An extensive ASYCUDA project launched in 2006 in Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo involved refurbishing customs buildings, installing communication facilities, establishing the ASYCUDA++ system, and training 400 customs officers and 100 related officials, including clearing and freight agents, importers and exporters, and bank officials. Customs revenue collection in the province subsequently rose to an additional \$45 million in 2008. Also notable was the increase of \$5 million in customs revenue that was collected by the customs administration in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the month of December 2008 compared with

the same month in 2007. This impressive figure is a result of joint efforts by the Customs Administration with international partners such as UNCTAD, to put in place mechanisms for good governance, ICT know-how and an automated customs system.

Fifteen senior port managers from Ghana, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia and the United Republic of Tanzania travelled to the port of Dublin, Ireland, for a three-week UNCTAD course on modern port management. The workshop – organized by UNCTAD's TrainForTrade project in cooperation with Dublin Port Company and funded by Irish Aid – was the first of a series that will qualify port officials from English-speaking developing countries to offer port training to middle managers in their own countries. Twenty new middle managers of the Cotonou (Benin) port authority participated in the 2007–2008 cycle of the French version of the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade Port Training Programme. The programme also exists for Portuguese-speaking developing countries. In 2008, a total of 21 TrainForTrade workshops benefited 609 trade operators from 39 developing countries, including 17 LDCs. Some 291 of these trainees, in locations all over the world, took TrainForTrade distance learning courses.

Another TrainforTrade programme was targeted at trade officials in some provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This distance-learning programme was customized to Lao needs, translated into the vernacular language, and made adaptable to cope with such



Mr. Peter Power, T.D., Minister of State with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs with Special Responsibility for Irish Aid, sharing experiences with the participants from Ghana, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

challenges as erratic electricity supply, limited telecommunications and limited access to the Internet. Lao officials were trained to oversee its delivery. The Lao Train-ForTrade team gave its first computer-based distance learning course from 20 November to 19 December. With funding help from France, TrainForTrade has been building trade- and investment-related training skills in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the past five years.

Improving the regulatory climate for businesses

Many governments of developing countries recognize that the creation of a legal framework is critical for fostering the development of ICTs, for growth of the online economy, and for the establishment of "e-government" services. UNCTAD continued in 2008 to provide assistance to efforts to set up legal frameworks supportive of e-commerce and e-government services in the East African Community (EAC). It prepared a regional framework for cyberlaws, which should be endorsed by the EAC Secretary-General in 2009. UNCTAD also supported activities in Latin America by delivering training workshops and preparing a comparative study of existing cyberlaws and future directions for harmonizing such laws.

UNCTAD's programme on intellectual property provided advice to the EAC through a comparative study of provisions of the EAC Partner States' Patent Laws.

In doing so, it analysed the extent to which key Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement flexibilities relevant for access to medicines had been incorporated into their national legislation. Country-level technical assistance on intellectual property and development issues was provided to the Governments of Maldives, Rwanda, Thailand and Uganda. Anti-competitive practices such as the formation of cartels, abuses of firms' dominant market positions or mergers that eliminate competing businesses can limit trade and economic growth. UNCTAD provides assistance to individual developing countries and countries with economies in transition on competition advocacy, preparation of national competition laws, training of competition case handlers, institution-building and consumer protection. An innovative aspect of UNCTAD's work in this area is the ad hoc voluntary peer reviews on competition law and policy. In 2008, UNCTAD carried out a peer review of the competition policies of Costa Rica, the eighth country to request and receive such a review. Among the resulting recommendations were that Costa Rica (a) update its law to bring it into line with international standards prohibiting cartels and monopolies; (b) make its competition authority independent of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and (c) raise the fines that can be imposed on cartels, as the current penalties may not be sufficient to prevent cartels from forming.



6 ANNEXES



Annex A. UNCTAD publications in 2008

Title	Document symbol
Development of Africa	
Economic Development in Africa: Export Performance after Trade Liberalization – Some Patterns and Policy Perspectives	UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2008
Least developed countries	
Handbook on duty-free quota-free and rules of origin	UNCTAD/ALDC/2008/4
The Least Developed Countries Report 2008	UNCTAD/LDC/2008
Trade and Development for African LDCs' Prosperity: Actions and Directions	UNCTAD/ALDC/2008/2
Erosion of trade preferences in the post Hong Kong (China) framework: From "trade is better than aid" to "aid for trade"	UNCTAD/LDC/2005/6
Export Competitiveness and Development in LDCs: policies, issues and priorities for least developed countries for action during and beyond UNCTAD XII	UNCTAD/ALDC/2008/1
Foreign direct investment in landlocked developing countries: Trends policies and the way forward	UNCTAD/ALDC/2008/3
Macroeconomics and development policies	
Trade and Development Report, 2008	UNCTAD/TDR/2008
Global and regional approaches to trade and finance	UNCTAD/GDS/2007/1
Coping with globalized finance	UNCTAD/GDS/2007/2
Financing for development – Follow-up International Conference for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus	UNCTAD/GDS/2008/1
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 48 – Aid for Trade: Cool aid or Kool-Aid?	UNCTAD/GDS/MDPB/G24/2007/6
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 49 – IMF Voting Reform: Need, Opportunity and Options	UNCTAD/GDS/MDPB/G24/2007/7
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 50 – Enhancing the Role of Regional Development Banks	UNCTAD/GDS/MDP/G24/2008/1
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 51 – The External Debt Contentions Six Years After the Monterrey Consensus	UNCTAD/GDS/MDP/G24/2008/2
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 52 – Global Liquidity and Financial Flows to Developing Countries: New Trends in Emerging Markets and their Implications	UNCTAD/GDS/MDP/G24/2008/3
G-24 Discussion Paper No. 53 – Carbon Markets and Beyond: the Limited Role of Prices and Taxes in Climate and Development Policy	UNCTAD/GDS/MDP/G24/2008/4
Discussion Paper No. 186 – Credit rating agencies and their potential impact on developing countries	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/1
Discussion Paper No. 187 – Instruments of monetary policy in China and their effectiveness 1994–2006	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/2
Discussion Paper No. 188 – Domestic and external public debt in developing countries	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/3
Discussion Paper No. 189 – Regional Cooperation and Integration in sub-Saharan Africa	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/4

Discussion Paper No.190 – Budget Support: a Reformed Approach or Old Wine in New Skins	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/5
Discussion Paper No.191 – Policy Space: What, for What and Where	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/6
Discussion Paper No.192 – The Emerging of a Multilateral Forum for Debt Restructuring: the Paris Club	UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2008/7
Statistics	
UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics	TD/STAT.33
Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2008	UNCTAD/GDS/CSIR/2007/1
Assistance to the Palestinian people	
Policy Alternatives for Sustained Palestinian Development and State Formation	UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2008/1
Debt Management	
Compendium on Debt Sustainability and Development	UNCTAD/GDS/DFD/2008/1
International investment trends, issues and analysis	
World Investment Report	UNCTAD/WIR 2008
World Investment Report Overview	UNCTAD/WIR/2008(Overview)
World Investment Prospects Survey 2008–2010	UNCTAD/DIAE/IA/2008/1
FDI in Tourism: the Development Dimension – East and Southern Africa	UNCTAD/DIAE/IA/2008/6
FDI, Tourism and Developing Countries	UNCTAD/ITE/IIA/2007/5
Elimination of TRIMS: The Experience of Selected Developing Countries	UNCTAD/ITE/IIA/2007/6
Revisiting FDI in Extractive Industries: Perspectives and Policy Issues Selected Background Papers	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/IIA/2008/1
Transnational Corporations Volume 17, No.1	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/2008/1
Transnational Corporations Volume 17, No.2	UNCTAD/DIAE/IA/2008/2
Transnational Corporations Volume 16, No.2	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/2007/2
World Investment Directory Volume X, Africa 2008	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/2007/5
Investment policy reviews	
Investment Policy Review – Nigeria	UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2008/1
The Investment Policy Review Programme: a Framework for Attracting and Benefiting from FDI	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2008/3
Examen de la politique de l'investissement de la Mauritanie	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2008/5
Investment Policy Review of the Dominican Republic	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2007/9
Investment Policy Review of Viet Nam	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2007/10
International investment agreements and investment promotion	
Evaluating Investment Promotion Agencies	UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2008/2
Framework for Case Studies of Best Practices in Foreign Direct Investment	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2008/2
Shaping the Investment Climate - the IPA as a Policy Advocate	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2007/6
International Investment Rulemaking: Stocktaking, Challenges and the Way Forward	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/2007/3
Investment Promotion Provisions in IIAs	UNCTAD/ITE/IIT/2007/7

International accounting and reporting issues

Practical Implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards: Lessons Learned	UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2008/1
Promoting Transparency in Corporate Reporting: A Quarter Century of UNISAR	UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2008/3
Guidance on Corporate Responsibility Indicators in Annual Reports	UNCTAD/ITE/TEB/2007/6
Review of International Accounting and Reporting Issues 2007	UNCTAD/ITE/TEB/2007/5

Enterprise development

Small Business as a Way Out of Poverty	UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2008/1
Creating Business Linkages: A Policy Perspective	UNCTAD/ITE/TEB/2007/7

Science and technology for development

The World Summit on the Information Society – Follow-Up Report 2008	UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2008/1
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Trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy

Assuring Development Gains and Poverty Reduction from Trade – the Labour Mobility and Skills Trade Dimension	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2007/8
Developments and Issues in the Negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements between African ACP States and the European Union of the Doha Round Negotiation	UNCTADD/DITC/TNCD/2007/11
Flexibilities in Agriculture Market Access Formula	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2008/1
Conclusions and Recommendations of the Regional Workshop for African Countries on the Operationalization of the Doha Mandate on Special and Differential Treatment	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2007/9
Fulfilling the Doha Mandate on Special and Differential Treatment from the Perspective of African Countries	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2007/10
Mainstreaming Gender into Trade in Africa	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD//2007/13
Mainstreaming Gender into Trade and Development Strategies: the Case of East Africa, Trade Negotiations and Africa Series	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2007/14
Towards SADC Services Liberalization	UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2008/4
GSP Scheme of the European Community	UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/MISC.25/Rev.3

Trade analysis

Globalization for Development: The International Trade Perspective	UNCTAD/DITC/2007/1
Aid for Trade: Helping to Maximize the Gains from Trade for Developing Countries	UNCTAD/DITC/2008/2
South–South Trade: The Reality Check	UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2008/1
The Challenge of Trade Policymaking : Analysis, Communication and Representation	UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/37
Institution and Development Revisited: a non-Parametric Approach	UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/41
Building Trade-Related Institutions and WTO Accession	UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/42
Is South–South Trade a Testing Ground for Structural Transformation?	UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/43
South–South Trade: The Reality Check	UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2008/1
South–South Trade and RTAs in Asia	UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/MISC/2008/2
Comparing China and India: Is Dividend of Economic Reforms Polarized?	UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/POV/2008/1

Trade, environment and development

Challenges and Opportunities Arising from Private Standards on Food Safety and Environment for Exporters of Fruit and Vegetables in Asia Experiences in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/6
Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Management Plans for Wild Collected Plant Species Used by Organizations Working with Natural Ingredients	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/8
Private-Sector Standards and National Schemes for Good Agricultural Practices: Implications for Exports of Fresh Food and Vegetables from sub-Saharan Africa Experiences of Ghana, Kenya and Uganda	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/13
International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agricultural, Background Studies, Volume IV	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/14
Organic Agriculture and Food Security in East Africa	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/15
Opportunities and Challenges of Biofuels for the Agricultural Sector	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/5
Making Certification Work for Sustainable Development: The Case of Biofuels	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2008/1
The WTO Negotiations on Environmental Goods and Services: a Potential Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2008/4
World Trade Law and Renewable Energy: the Case of Non-Tariff Barriers	UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2008/5

Commodities

The United Republic of Tanzania – The Challenge of Mineral Wealth: Using Resource Endowments to Foster Sustainable Development – Country Case Study	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2007/7
Cocoa Study: Industry Structures and Competition	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/1
Sub-Saharan Africa and Booming Commodity Prices Outlook and Development Options	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/2
Sécurité et qualité des fruits et des légumes frais – un manuel de formation pour les formateurs	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/3
Overview of the World's Commodity Exchanges 2007	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/4
Iron Market Review 2007–2009	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/5
Iron Ore Statistics 2008	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/8
Report of the UNCTAD Study Group on Emerging Commodity Exchanges – Development Impacts of Commodity Exchanges in Emerging Markets	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2008/9
SPS Compliance and Costs of Agri-Food and Quality Standards in Selected Least Developed Countries in the Pacific region – Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu	UNCTAD/DITC/COM/2007/3

Competition law and policy

Capacity-building on Competition Law and Policy for Development	UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2007/7
A Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy (Costa Rica)	UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2008/1
A Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy (Costa Rica)	UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2008/1 (Overview)
The Effects of Anti-Competitive Business Practices on Developing Countries and their Development Prospects	UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2008/2

Transport and trade facilitation	
Review of Maritime Transport	UNCTAD/RMT/2008
Web-based Transport Newsletter No. 38	UNCTAD/SDTE/TLB/MISC/2008/1
Web-based Transport Newsletter No. 39	UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/MISC/2008/1
Web-based Transport Newsletter No. 40	UNCTAD/WEB/DTL/TLB/2008/1
Web-based Transport Newsletter No. 41	UNCTAD/WEB/DTL/TLB/2008/2
ASYCUDA World Report 2008	UNCTAD/SDTE/TLB/2007/2
ICT and E-business development	
Information Economy Report 2007–2008: Science and Technology for Development: the new Paradigm of ICT	UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/2007/1
Measuring the Impact of ICT use in Business: the case of Manufacturing in Thailand	UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/2007/3
Knowledge sharing and capacity development	
Trade-Related Capacity-building through Human Resources Development	UNCTAD/DTL/KCTD/2008/1
General	
UNCTAD Annual Report 2007	UNCTAD/DOM/2007/3
Addressing the Global Food Crisis	UNCTAD/OSG/2008/1

Annex B. UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings in 2008

Title	Dates
UNCTAD XII	
High-level Panel on the Creative Economy and Industries for Development: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Geneva, Switzerland	14–15 January
Aid for Trade and Development: Global and Regional Perspectives: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Bangkok, Thailand	24–25 January
UNCTAD Secretary-General's High-level Multi-stakeholders Dialogue on Commodities in the Context of UNCTAD XII, Geneva, Switzerland	28–29 January
Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII: Hearing with Civil Society and the Private Sector, Geneva, Switzerland	28 January
High-level Workshop for African Least Developed Countries: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Izmir, Turkey	4–5 March
Lessons Learned from South–South trade in Asian Regions: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Tokyo, Japan	25 March
Lessons Learnt from South–South Trade in Asia and the Role of Regional Trade Agreements: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Geneva, Switzerland	2 April
Making Sustainability Standards Work for Small-scale Farmers: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	7–9 April
Workshop on Development Strategies in Africa: UNCTAD XII pre-event, Accra, Ghana	19 April
World Investment Forum, Accra, Ghana	19–22 April
Twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), Accra, Ghana	20–25 April
Trade and Development Board	
Forty-third executive session, Geneva, Switzerland	3 March
Twenty-fourth special session, Geneva, Switzerland	17–20 March
Forty-fourth executive session, Geneva, Switzerland	10 July
Fifty-fifth annual session, Geneva, Switzerland	15–26 September
Forty-fifth executive session, Geneva, Switzerland	13 November
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities	
Twelfth session, Geneva, Switzerland	7–8 February
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development	
Twelfth session, Geneva, Switzerland	4–5 February
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, and its expert meetings and subsidiary bodies	
Twelfth session, Geneva, Switzerland	12–13 February
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, Geneva, Switzerland	15–18 July
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, twenty-fifth session, Geneva, Switzerland	4–6 November

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (Economic and Social Council subsidiary body)

Eleventh session, Geneva, Switzerland 26–30 May

Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and Programme Budget

Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, fiftieth session (Programme Budget 2008–2009 and Strategic Framework 2010–2011), Geneva, Switzerland 16–18 June

Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, fifty-first session (Technical Cooperation), Geneva, Switzerland 1–5 September

Other meetings

Third WSIS Follow-up Action Line Facilitation Meeting on E-business, Geneva, Switzerland 22 May

Expert Group on the Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy 26 May

2008 Global Event on Measuring the Information Society 27–29 May

Global Preparatory Meeting on the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, Geneva, Switzerland 8–9 July

Expert Group Meeting on the Mobilization of Resources for Development, and Financial Policies and Productive Investment Related to Trade and Development, Geneva, Switzerland 17, 22 September

Expert Group Meeting on Export Performance following Trade Liberalization: Patterns and Policy Perspectives, Geneva, Switzerland 19 September

UNCTAD Secretary-General's Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on Cotton, Geneva, Switzerland 2 December

Asia, Caribbean and Pacific LDCs High-level Workshop, Ankara, Turkey 3–7 December

Annex C. UNCTAD workshops and seminars in 2008

Title	Location	Dates
Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries		
Enhanced Integrated Framework workshop for Pacific LDCs	Apia, Samoa	29–30 January
Enhanced Integrated Framework Workshop for Asian LDCs	Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic	22–24 January
Training Course for the Policymakers from West and Central Africa and Haiti Drawing from the Latest Three Least Developed Countries Reports	Dakar, Senegal	27–28 February
National Workshop for Trade Development and Productive Capacity for Rwanda	Kigali, Rwanda	4–5 June
Training Course for the Policymakers from 8 Asian LDCs Drawing from the Latest Three Least Developed Countries Reports	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	28–30 October
Development of Africa		
Stakeholder Workshop on a Policy Handbook on Enhancing the Role of Domestic Financial Resources in Africa's Development	Bujumbura, Burundi	10–11 April
Stakeholder Workshop on a Policy Handbook on Enhancing the Role of Domestic Financial Resources in Africa's Development	Lusaka, Zambia	15–16 April
Training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda		
Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda for Central and Eastern European Countries	Belarus, Minsk	23 June–11 July
Training course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda for Western Asia	Manama, Bahrain	26 October–13 November
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: Trade and Environment	Geneva, Switzerland	28 February 2008
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: Explaining the Capital Flow Paradox	Geneva, Switzerland	27 March 2008
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: SMEs in the Global Value Chain	Geneva, Switzerland	27 June 2008
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: Aid for Trade and Development	Geneva, Switzerland	29 September 2008
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: Adapting to the New Energy Realities: Trade and Development Perspectives	Geneva, Switzerland	31 October 2008
Short Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda: Addressing the Global Food Crisis Through Trade and Development Strategies	Geneva, Switzerland	28 November 2008
TrainForTrade		
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (sixth cycle)	Dakar, Senegal	January–December
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (fifth cycle)	Douala, Cameroon	January–December
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (third cycle)	Conakry, Guinea	January–December
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (third cycle)	Sihanoukville, Cambodia	January–December

TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (fourth cycle)	Lome, Togo	January–December
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (third cycle)	Cotonou, Benin	January–December
TrainForTrade Port Training Programme (part one) for Spanish-speaking Countries	Gijón, Spain	10–28 November
Séminaire TrainForTrade de formation de formateurs portuaires pour le réseau francophone	Marseille, France	18 February–7 March
TrainForTrade High-Level Regional Conference on Trade-Related Capacity Development for Selected East Asian Countries	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	5–7 February
Conferencia internacional de coordinación de la UNCTAD/TrainForTrade para comunidades portuarias de países en desarrollo de habla hispana	Valencia, Spain	26–28 March
TrainForTrade Workshop on Investment Issues	Saravane Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic	24–26 April
Formation Pédagogique TrainForTrade d'Instructeurs Portuaires pour la Diffusion Traditionnelle et la Formation à Distance	Cotonou, Benin	19–30 May
Seminário TrainForTrade/IIA en formação a distância para Negociadores de Acordos Internacionais de Investimento	Online	16 June–15 August
Taller de Tutores TrainForTrade	Guatemala City, Guatemala	25–27 June
TrainForTrade Training of Trainers' Workshop	Thalat, Lao People's Democratic Republic	16–27 June
Programa de formação portuária TrainForTrade da CNUCED sobre a Gestão Moderna dos Portos (Segunda parte)	Luanda, Angola	14 July–1 August
Programa de formação portuária TrainForTrade da CNUCED, sobre a Gestão Moderna dos Portos (segunda parte)	Luanda, Angola	14 July–1 August
Curso en Formación a Distancia TrainForTrade sobre Aspectos Legales del Comercio Electrónico	Online	11 August–5 September
Curso en formación a distancia TrainForTrade/IIA para Negociadores de Acuerdos Internacionales de Inversión	Online	18 August–20 September
TrainForTrade Training Workshop for Port Trainers from English-speaking Developing Countries	Dublin, Ireland	22 September–10 October
Regional TrainForTrade /ICT and E-business Development Workshop on Cyberlaws for States Members of the Asociación Latino Americana de Integración (ALADI)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	6–10 October
Réunion TrainForTrade de coordination sur les initiatives dans le domaine du tourisme et du développement durable	Bamako, Mali	19 October
TrainForTrade/IIA Intensive Course for Negotiators of International Investment Agreements	Luanda, Angola	4–7 November
TrainForTrade/Investment Promotion Workshop on Investment Targeting for Economic and Social Development	Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	4–7 November
TrainForTrade Distance-learning Training on Investment Promotion and Investor Targeting	Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic	17 November–26 December

Virtual Institute		
Third Members' Meeting of the Virtual Institute	Geneva, Switzerland	4–8 February
Virtual Institute study tour for Russian Federation Universities Members	Geneva, Switzerland	31 March–4 April
UNCTAD Virtual Institute Course on “International Transport and Logistics”	Port Louis, Mauritius	5–10 May
Virtual Institute Study Tour for the University of the West Indies	Geneva, Switzerland	5–16 May
Virtual Institute-IIA Programme Workshop on the Teaching and Research Of Economic and Legal Aspects of International Investment Agreements	Kampala, Uganda	11–14 November
UNCTAD Virtual Institute Course on “The Development Dimension of Intellectual Property Rights”	Hanoi, Viet Nam	15–17 December
Debt and capacity-building for debt sustainability		
Workshop on Data Validation	Sudan	28 April–9 May
Workshop on Data Validation	Guatemala	21 April–3 May
Advanced DSM+ Workshop	Egypt	12–20 March
Advanced DMFAS Training	Chad	1–11 July
Debt Statistics Workshop (and follow-up)	Ethiopia	7–14 July
Data Validation and Statistical Bulletin Workshop	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1–14 June
Statistical Bulletin Workshop	Costa Rica	17–28 November
Debt Statistics Workshop	Guatemala	19–31 May
Study Tour to Guatemala	Guatemala	29 September–3 October
Debt Statistics Workshop	Bangladesh	10–21 October
Private External Debt Workshop	Bangladesh	10–23 October
Advanced Training in DMFAS 5.3	Egypt	20 October–15 November
Debt Data Validation Workshop	Costa Rica	1 May–6 June
Debt Statistics Workshop	Nicaragua	26 September–24 October
DMFAS Study Tour	Switzerland	20–21 November
Macroeconomics and development policies		
Seminars on Globalization, Development Strategies and Policy Coherence at the European School of Advanced Studies (IUSS ESAS-CD)	Pavia, Italy	7–15 February
Seminar on Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of Globalization	Wuhan, China	16–23 October

Investment issues analysis

APEC Investment Expert Group Meeting	Lima, Peru	23 February
Latin America and Caribbean Regional Seminar on the World Investment Report 2008	Santiago, Chile	15–16 April
African Regional Seminar on the World Investment Report 2008	Johannesburg, South Africa	22–23 April
Global Seminar for the World Investment Report 2008	Geneva, Switzerland	20–21 May
Side Event on “Foreign Direct Investment Aspects of Climate Change” for the twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Bonn, Germany	11 June
Presentation on Recent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Trends – Implications for the Saudi Arabian Economy, Saudi Investment Summit	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	15 June
The UNCTAD World Investment Report Panel, Academy of International Business (AIB)	Milan, Italy	2 July
The Policy Context for Responsible Investment: a Public–Private Sector Workshop	Geneva, Switzerland	7 November

FDI statistics

First Meeting of the UNCTAD/COMESA Task Force on FDI/TNCs Statistics	Lusaka, Zambia	10–12 March
National Workshop on Reading Financial Statements and Compiling FDI Statistics	Lusaka, Zambia	17–20 March
COMESA/UNCTAD National Workshop on FDI Statistics in Kenya: Survey Methodologies in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC Activities	Nairobi, Kenya	16–19 June
COMESA/UNCTAD Regional Workshop on the Common Survey on FDI/TNC Statistics	Mombasa, Kenya	25–28 August
National Workshop on Methodology of Collection and Compilation of FDI Statistics	Kigali, Rwanda	17–20 November
Workshop on Survey Methodologies in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC activities	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	24–28 November
National Workshop on Methodology of Collection and Compilation of FDI Statistics	Lilongwe, Malawi	24–27 November
COMESA/UNCTAD National Workshop on FDI Statistics in Ethiopia: Survey Methodologies in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC activities	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	15–18 December
Workshop on Survey Methodologies in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC activities	Tehran, Islamic Rep. of Iran	21–24 December

Investment policies and investment promotion

Study Tour to Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Tunisia for Staff of the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA)	Tunis, Tunisia	5–14 February
Promoting Responsible Investment in Emerging Markets: a Public–Private Sector Dialogue	Geneva, Switzerland	6 February
National Workshop on Investment Policy Review of Mauritania	Mauritania	21 February
UNCTAD/WAIPA Training Workshop on Economic Development in a Rubik’s Cube World: How to Turn Global Trends into Local Prosperity	Accra, Ghana	18 April

UNCTAD/WAIPA Training Workshop on Raising the Standards: Lessons Learned from Best IPA Practices around the World	Accra, Ghana	18 April
UNCTAD/WAIPA Training Workshop on Marketing Change for Investment Promotion	Accra, Ghana	18 April
UNCTAD/WAIPA Training Workshop on Marchés Emergents: Vers une Source Incontournable d'Investissement (in French)	Accra, Ghana	18 April
Global Value Chains: Opportunities and Challenges for International and Domestic Firms	Accra, Ghana	19 April
APEC Seminar on Good Governance in Investment Promotion	Lima, Peru	19–20 May
Peruvian Public Sector Workshop on Good Governance in Investment Promotion	Lima, Peru	21 May
Training Workshop on Investor Targeting and Investor Aftercare for CORPOTULIPA (Corporación para el desarrollo del Estado Falcón, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)	Punto Fijo, Falcon, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	5–6 July
Investment Policy Review of Nigeria: National Stakeholders Workshop	Nigeria	24 July
High-level Discussions on the Investment Policy Review of Belarus	Minsk, Belarus	30 July
Capacity-building and Advisory Workshop on Policy Advocacy for the Board of Investment of Mauritius	Port Louis, Mauritius	1–3 September
Training Workshop for Regional Investment Commissions, (Oromia and SNNP)	Sululta, Ethiopia	24–26 September
High-level Investment Forum: Investing in Landlocked Developing Countries – Trends, Experiences and the Way Forward	New York, United States of America	1 October
Presentation of UNCTAD's Aftercare and Investment Retention Strategy for the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA) at a Public–Private Stakeholder Forum	Ramallah, Occupied Palestinian Territory	29 October
Client Charter Development Workshop for the Zambia Development Agency	Lusaka, Zambia	5–7 November
Workshop on the Teaching and Research of Economic and Legal Aspects of International Investment Agreements	Kampala, Uganda	10–14 November
Regional Training Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on Effective Investment Facilitation	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	11–13 November
Regional Training Workshop for Latin America on e-Government, Transparency and Simplification of Administrative Procedures for Enterprise Creation and Operations	Dominican Republic	13–19 November
Client Charter Development Workshop for the Investment Promotion Department of the Lao People's Democratic Republic	Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic	24–26 November
Stakeholder Workshop on the Investment Guide to Morocco	Rabat, Morocco	26 November
Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on Measuring the Impacts of FDI in the Context of the Investment Policy Reviews	Geneva, Switzerland	9–10 December
High-level Workshop on e-Government, Transparency and Simplification of Administrative Procedures for Enterprise Creation and Operations	Bamako, Mali	11 December
Training Workshop on the Use of Database on National and Foreign Investors for Staff of the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA)	Ramallah, Occupied Palestinian Territory	22–23 December

Enterprise development

Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	21 January– 1 February
UNCTAD's Pilot Business Linkage End-of-Programme Forum	Kampala, Uganda	31 January– 1 February
Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	19–26 February
Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	10–19 March
Empretec Africa Forum	Accra, Ghana	24 April
Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	16–21 June
Workshop with SABMiller	Geneva, Switzerland	11 July
Workshop "Development through Women Entrepreneurship"	Zurich, Switzerland	14 August
Study Tours for Women in Business Award Finalists	Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland	14–22 August
Empretec Training Workshop	Geneva, Switzerland	15–19 September
Empretec Training Workshop	Bucharest, Romania	25 October– 2 November
Empretec Directors Meeting	São Paulo, Brazil	20–21 November
Thirteenth International Meeting of Entrepreneurs	São Paulo, Brazil	20–22 November
Empretec Training Workshop	Timisoara, Romania	21–29 November
Empretec Training Workshop	Bucharest, Romania	5–13 December
Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	8–15 December
Empretec Entrepreneurship Training Workshop	Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	13–20 December
Study Tour on Business Linkages	Kampala and Mbale, Uganda	15–17 December
Study Tour on Business Linkages	Lusaka, Zambia	18–19 December

International investment agreements

National Seminar on International Investment Agreements and Investor–State Disputes	Quito, Ecuador	21–22 February
National Seminar on International Investment Agreements and Investor–State Disputes	Lima, Peru	25 February
National Workshop on Investment Promotion and the Negotiation of International Investment Agreements	Gaborone, Botswana	23–25 April
UNCTAD–CRCICA Conference on Investment Treaties and Investor–State Dispute Settlement: Emerging Issues and Challenges for Arab Countries	Cairo, Egypt	14–15 May

Workshop on Dispute Settlement: Introduction to Dispute Settlement; Agreements on Antidumping, Subsidies and Safeguards	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	1–4 June
Regional Conference on Investment Treaties and Alternative Methods of Investor–State Dispute Resolution for Countries from Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia	Kiev, Ukraine	2–3 June
Seminar on IIAs and Investor-State Disputes for ARCO Countries	Bogota, Colombia	10–11 September
Fourth Regional Training Course on Managing Investment Disputes for Latin American Countries	San José, Costa Rica	17–26 November
Conference on the Legal Aspects of Investment Contracts for the Economies in Transition	Baku, Azerbaijan	20–23 November
Workshop on International Investment Agreements for Indonesia	Geneva, Switzerland	1–2 December
National Seminar and Specialized Workshop on Investor–State Dispute Settlement for Bolivia	La Paz, Bolivia	3–5 December
International accounting and reporting issues		
Cambridge University Lecture on Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR)	London, United Kingdom	20–22 February
Workshop on International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the Framework for International Education Pronouncements	Geneva, Switzerland	3 November
Intellectual property rights		
Presentation of Advisory Study on Comparative Analysis of East African Community Patent Laws on the Incorporation of TRIPS Flexibilities	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	22–23 May
UNCTAD–ICTSD Meeting on Needs Assessments under the TRIPS Agreement, Article 66.2	Geneva, Switzerland	16 June
UNCTAD–ICTSD Meeting on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement	Geneva, Switzerland	17 July
UNCTAD–ICTSD Round Table Discussion on the Future of TRIPs Issues in the Doha Round	Geneva, Switzerland	21 October
UNCTAD–ICTSD Experts' Consultation on Intellectual Property Policies in Developing Countries	Geneva, Switzerland	24 November
UNCTAD–ASEAN Symposium on Flexibilities in International Intellectual Property Rules and Local Production of Medicines	Bangkok, Thailand	16–19 December
National Workshop to Present the UNCTAD Study on the Interface between Intellectual Property and Competition Law	Bangkok, Thailand	22 December
Insurance		
Thirty-fifth African Insurance Organization Conference and the Annual General Assembly	Algiers, Algeria	25–28 May
Trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy		
SADC Workshop on Services Economy	Gaboron, Botswana	5–8 February
National Workshop on MTS issues for Guinea	Conakry, Guinea	14–15 February
National Workshop in MTS Issues for the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kinshasa, Congo	16–17 February

Workshop on WTO Accession for Algerian Parliamentarians	Algiers, Algeria	16–19 February
Training Course on Agriculture Negotiations for Officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina	Geneva, Switzerland	17–20 February
Intensive Training of Bhutanese Officials on WTO Issues and Accession Negotiations	Geneva, Switzerland	18–21 February
Potential Impact of the Doha round on Botswana's Agriculture	Geneva, Switzerland	25–27 February
Potential Impact of the Doha round on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Agriculture	Geneva, Switzerland	27–28 February
Public Lecture and Workshop on Dispute Settlement and Development	Hong Kong, China	7–8 March
Workshop on EPA Negotiations to Compare Different Tariff Treatment under EPAs and GSP for Nigeria	Geneva, Switzerland	1–11 March
Briefing LDCs on ATPSM	Geneva, Switzerland	11–14 March
Workshop and Technical and Advisory Mission on WTO Accession to Afghanistan	Kabul, Afghanistan	26–28 March
Training workshop for Ethiopian officials on WTO accession matters	Geneva, Switzerland	31 March–4 April
National Workshop on International Trade Issues for India	New Delhi, India	31 March–8 April
Training Workshop on How to Use Trade-related Databases in Designing a Trade Strategy	Conakry, Guinea	13–16 April
Seminar on WTO Accession Issues and the Role of the National Law-making Bodies of Algeria	Algiers, Algeria	20 April
Workshop for Afghan Trade Officials on WTO Accession-related Issues	Geneva, Switzerland	27 April
National Workshops on Trade Policy and Trade Negotiations, Followed by Advisory Services on Assessment of Trade in Services for the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	10–12 May
International Conference on Moving towards Gender Sensitization of Trade Policy	New Delhi, India	25–27 February
Seminar on GSP and Rules of Origin for Yemeni Officials	Geneva, Switzerland	15–16 May
Workshop on Dispute Settlement: Introduction to Dispute Settlement; Agreements on Antidumping, Subsidies, and Safeguards	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	1–4 June
Eleventh SADC Trade Negotiating Forum – Services Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa	3–4 June
UNOG Graduate Studies Programme (GSP)	Geneva, Switzerland	16 June
National Workshop on WTO Rules and Regulations for Syrian Arab Republic Trade Officials	Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic	15–18 June
Workshop on Economic Partnership Agreements for East African Community countries	Mombasa, Kenya	21 June
Workshop for Training of African University Teachers and Professors on Trade and Development issues	Geneva, Switzerland	1–2 July
Workshop and Advisory Mission on WTO Accession for Bhutanese Officials	Thimphu, Bhutan	22–26 August

SADC Workshop on Investments Issues, Including Dispute Settlement and Services	Johannesburg, South Africa	25–26 August
National Stakeholder Workshop on Services	Kampala, Uganda	8–12 September
Introductory Training on Services Negotiations for Zambia Trade Officials	Geneva, Switzerland	13–17 September
Workshop on Generalized System of Preferences for Belarus Officials	Geneva, Switzerland	18 September
Teaching on Negotiating Skills and one Simulation Exercise on Tourism Services Negotiations at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lille	Lille, France	5 October
African Workshop on Economic Partnership Agreement	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	8–10 October
Workshop and Advisory Mission to Cape Verde on WTO Accession Matters	Praia, Cape Verde	10–13 October
Workshop on ACP–EU Partnership Agreement	Dakar, Senegal	13 October
Third International Seminar on Trade in Services	Beijing, China	16–17 October
Training for Indonesian Trade Officials	Jakarta, Indonesia	14–17 October
National Workshop on WTO Accession Issues on Agricultural Matters for the Belarus Trade Officials	Minsk, Belarus	21–24 October
Botswana National Workshop on Negotiating Skills and Strategy for Trade in Services and Investment in the EPA Negotiations	Gaboron, Botswana	22–24 October
Training Workshop for Iraq officials on Generalized System of Preferences	Geneva, Switzerland	26–28 October
Workshop on WTO Accession for Syrian Arab Republic Trade Officials	Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic	26–28 October
Training Workshop of Belarus Officials on WTO Accession Related Issues	Geneva, Switzerland	24–26 November
Training Workshop for Iraq Officials on WTO Accession Related Issues	Geneva, Switzerland	24–26 November
Training and Consultations with Azerbaijan Key Negotiators on WTO Accession Issues	Geneva, Switzerland	24–28 November
Training Course for Indonesian Officials, Including Dispute Settlement Issues	Indonesia	2 December
Training of AU Trade Officials on Technical Issues Related to Agriculture: Tariff Simplification	Geneva, Switzerland	5 December
Trade analysis		
Presentation and Training on the Use of WITS/TRAINS	Conakry, Guinea	14–16 April
In-Service Training for Staff From Selected Regional and Subregional Groupings for Interactive Collaboration on TRAINS	Geneva, Switzerland	May–November
Presentation and Training on the Use of WITS–TRAINS and ATPSM	Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic	28 October
Installation and Training on the Use of WITS/TRAINS to the Ministry of Economy in Argentina	Buenos Aires, Argentina	24–28 November

Presentation and Training on the Use of WITS/TRAINS	Panama City, Panama	26–28 November
Presentation and Training on the Use of WITS/TRAINS	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	1–3 December
In-service Training at the United Nations Headquarters on the Use of WITS/TRAINS to Selected Delegates from Developing Countries	New York, United States of America	5 December
Trade, environment and development		
African Technical Workshop on the Impact Assessment System for BioTrade	Johannesburg, South Africa	6–7 November
South American Regional Dialogue on Novel Foods	Lima, Peru	11–12 November
Southern African Regional Dialogue on Novel Foods	Cape Town, South Africa	27–28 October
Environmental Goods and Services and Access to Climate-Friendly Technologies	Geneva, Switzerland	11 February
Leveraging WTO Rules to Address Climate Change	Geneva, Switzerland	11 February
National Measures, Trade and Competitiveness	Geneva, Switzerland	11 February
New Issues in Trade Policy and Negotiations: WTO Negotiations on Environmental Goods	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	26 March
Making Sustainability Standards Work for Small-scale Farmers: a pre-UNCTAD XII event	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	7–9 April
Making Sustainability Standards Work for Pro-poor Agricultural Development and Trade: UNCTAD XII side event	Accra, Ghana	22 April
8th meeting of the UNCTAD/ FAO/ IFOAM International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture	Geneva, Switzerland	6-7 October
Organic ASIA – The Way Forward	Kuching, Malaysia	28–31 October
First West Africa Summit on Organic Agriculture (first WASUMMIT)	Abeokuta, Nigeria	17–21 Nov
Ecological Agriculture: Mitigating Climate Change, Providing Food Security and Self-Reliance for Rural Livelihoods in Africa	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	26–28 November
Commodities		
Workshops at the Metal Bulletin Iron Ore Symposium	Monte Carlo, France	12–15 May
Kick-off Workshop: All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme	Dakar, Senegal	26–30 May
Competition law and policy		
National Seminar and an Awareness Workshop	Monger and Gelephu, Bhutan	13–18 December
COMPAL Training Workshop	Managua, Nicaragua	20–26 November
Consumer Protection Course	Francistown, Botswana	24–28 November
National Competition Seminar	Kribi, Cameroon	1–5 December
National Competition Workshop	Kigali, Rwanda	18 November
National Seminar on Cameroonian Competition Policy	Duala, Cameroon	30 May

National Seminar on Competition Policy	Antananarivo, Madagascar	5 November
National Training Workshop	Yaoundé, Cameroon	28–29 May
Regional Basic Competition Seminar	Siavonga, Zambia	26–30 May
Regional Competition Workshop	Tunis, Tunisia	30 June
Training Course on Competition and Consumer Protection	Geneva, Switzerland	2–9 September
Two Courses on EU Competition Legislation and Latin American Countries	Monterrey, Mexico	4–5 July and 15–16 August
Trade logistics		
India Global Logistics Vision Conference	Delhi, India	8–9 January
Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) in the Context of the WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation.	Geneva, Switzerland	31 January
Institute of Management and Logistics, EPFL: One-week Module on Trade Logistics for Executive Master in Global Supply Chain Management	Lausanne, Switzerland	25–29 February
Transit and Eastern Corridor Development	Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran	24 March
Conference on Training and Education needs in Maritime Transport	Kirkwall, United Kingdom	19 May
Afghanistan Inter-Ministerial Team on WTO Accession	Geneva, Switzerland	19 May
United Nations Development Assistance Framework Meeting	Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran	26–29 May
Global Facilitation Partnership for Trade and Transport Facilitation (GFP) Meeting	Cape Town, South Africa	11 June
OECD Regional Forum on Trade Facilitation	Cape Town, South Africa	12 June
APEC Seminar on Trade Logistics	Beijing, China	23–24 June
Future of 100% Scanning	Brussels, Belgium	23–26 June
Fifth Asia Maritimes and Logistics Conference	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	25–26 June
UNECE Conference on Seaports	Piraeus, Greece	17–18 September
Moving towards Paperless Trade Documents for Palestinian Imports and Exports	Ramallah, Occupied Palestinian Territory	8–9 October
Internal Focus Group Board of Directors Workshop on the Palestinian Shippers' Council future activities	Jericho, Occupied Palestinian Territory	25–26 October
International Training Programme on Trade Facilitation	Stockholm, Sweden	25–26 November
Maritime Conference	Santiago, Chile	2–4 December
Building capacity in trade facilitation and transport – ALADI	Montevideo, Uruguay	8–11 December
WTO negotiations on trade facilitation		
Brainstorming on Special and Differential Treatment for Geneva-based Delegations	Geneva, Switzerland	31 January
National workshop on WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation	Guatemala City, Guatemala	11–15 February
National Workshop on WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation	St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda	10–14 March

National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Sana'a, Yemen	14–19 March
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	14–18 April
National workshop on WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation	St. George's, Grenada	18–21 May
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Roseau, Dominica	26–29 May
National workshop on WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation	Bamako, Mali	7–11 June
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Karachi, Pakistan	23–26 June
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	St. George's, Grenada	21–25 July
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Bogota, Colombia	1–6 September
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO Secretariat)	Bamako, Mali	8–12 September
Subregional workshop on WTO negotiations on Trade Facilitation for Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Castries, Saint Lucia	25–26 September
National Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	6–10 October
National and Regional Trade Facilitation Self-assessment (Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) (in collaboration with the WTO secretariat)	Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis	1–12 December
Regional Workshop on WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation for ALADI Member States	Montevideo, Uruguay	9–10 December
ICT and E-business development		
First Meeting of the East African Community Task Force on Cyberlaws	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	28–30 January
Fourth Regional Workshop on Measuring the Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean	San Salvador, El Salvador	11–12 February
Regional Training Course on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy	Incheon, Republic of Korea	18–22 February
Second Meeting of the East African Community Task Force on Cyberlaws	Kampala, Uganda	23–25 June
Third Meeting of the African Community Task Force on Cyberlaws	Bujumbura, Burundi	10–12 September

Annex D. Supporting capacity-building in 2008

In 2008, UNCTAD implemented some 270 projects in more than 70 countries, with annual expenditures of just over \$37 million, an increase of nearly 19 per cent over 2007. These included interregional, regional and country-specific projects. Around 41 per cent of these expenditures went towards assistance for LDCs.

The process of consolidation and rationalization of UNCTAD's project-based trust funds continued, in consultations with major donors, within the 17 established thematic clusters, corresponding to UNCTAD's main areas of work.

Voluntary contributions to UNCTAD technical cooperation trust funds (member states, public donations and financing from United Nations organizations) 2008 ^a (thousands of dollars)	
United Kingdom	3 103
Switzerland	2 903
Norway	2 712
Sweden	2 390
Belize ^b	1 510
Ghana ^c	1 373
Syrian Arab Republic ^d	1 005
Finland	933
France	630
Germany	578
Austria	470
Spain	460
Luxembourg	418
Ireland	297
Other developed countries	767
European Commission	5 179
Developing countries and economies in transition ^e	4 692
International organizations financing	3 644
Contributions from other sources	770
TOTAL	33 834

a Preliminary figures as of 31 December 2008.

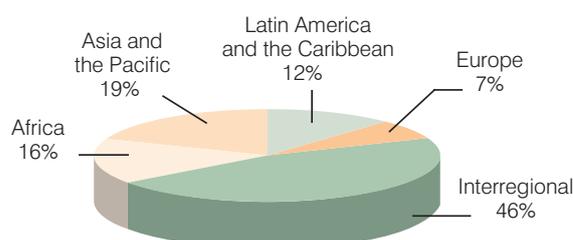
b Self-financing for ASYCUDA.

c Contribution to UNCTAD XII.

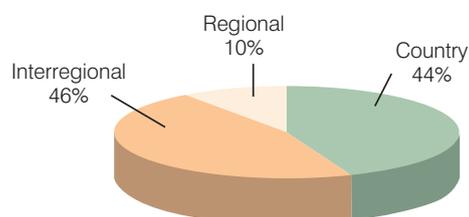
d Self-financing for ASYCUDA World Regional Centre for Arab States.

e Represents mainly funding for UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in their own countries, including those financed by other development assistance source.

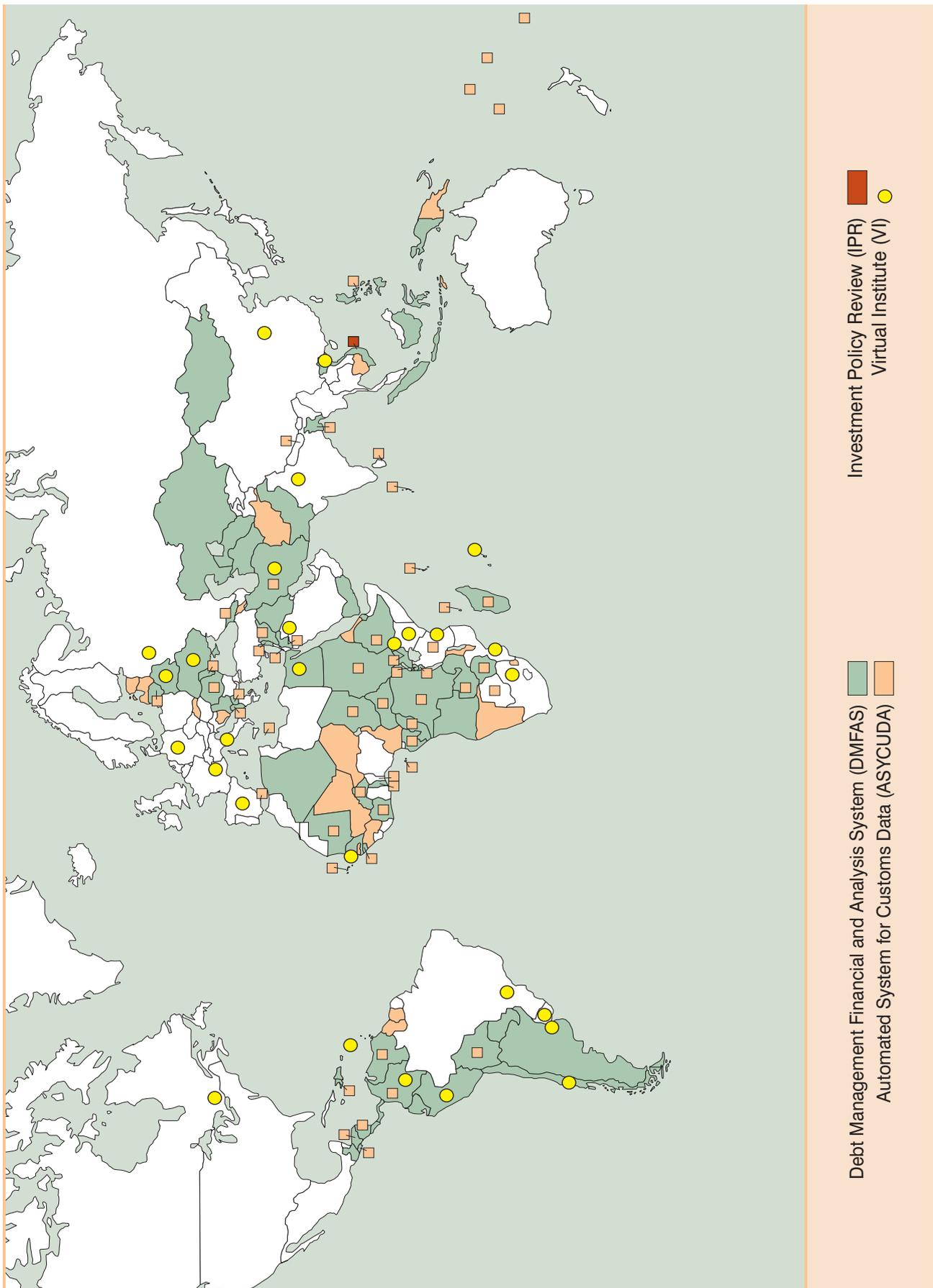
Technical cooperation expenditures, by region, 2008
(% of total project expenditures)



Technical cooperation expenditures, by type of project, 2008
(% of total project expenditures)



Annex E. Map of selected UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes implemented in 2008



Annex F. Objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the 2008–2009 biennium

Subprogramme/ objective	Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures	Actual performance in 2008	Above, on, or below target
Executive direction and management To enable UNCTAD to be of further service to its member states and to ensure full implementation of the legislative mandates provided	a. Increased recognition by member states of the relevance of UNCTAD's work	a. Number of member states represented at the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Board	120 member states	114 member states	Below target
	b. Mandates are effectively implemented	b. Full implementa- tion of recommen- dations arising from evaluations endorsed by UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies within established deadlines	100% implementation	70% implementation	Below target
	c. Improvement in the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the work of UNCTAD	c. Increased number of initiatives and cooperation activities incorporating a gender perspective	8 initiatives ^a	Figures not available at time of publication	-
	d. Programme of work is effectively managed	d. Full and effective utilization of resources	99 per cent expenditure compared to funds available ^a	Measured at the end of the biennium	-
	e. Timely recruitment and placement of staff	e. Reduction in the average number of days that a Professional post remains vacant	150 days	201 days	Below target
	f. Improved geographical representation and gender balance of staff	f. (i) Increased percentage of staff recruited from un- and under-represented member states in the department	8%	7.6%	Below target
		f. (ii) Increased percentage of women at the Professional level and above for appointments of one year or more	37.5%	38.6%	Above target
	g. Increased timeliness of submission of documentation	g. Increased percentage of pre-session documents submitted in accordance with the required deadline	50% submitted on time	58% submitted on time	Above target

^a Performance target for the biennium

<p>Subprogramme 1 – Globalization, interdependence and development</p> <p>To promote economic policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels that are supportive of sustained growth and hunger and poverty eradication in developing countries, based on faster capital accumulation and increased gains from globalization, against the background of increasing interdependence between the international trading and financial systems and national development strategies and the need for their coherence</p>	a. Better understanding of policy choices at the national and international levels and their implications for faster and more stable growth, and hunger and poverty eradication in developing countries as a result of policy advocacy	a. Increased number of endorsements of policy recommendations and acknowledgement of research findings by member states	30 new endorsements/acknowledgements ^a	18 new endorsements/acknowledgements	On target
	b. Progress towards debt sustainability in developing countries through better debt and financial management and, as appropriate, debt rescheduling or debt relief	b. (i)–Increased number of institutions using the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS)	100 institutions	102 institutions	Above target
		b. (ii) Increased number of countries having improved external debt positions	19 countries ^a	7 countries	On target
	c. Improved empirical and statistical foundations and informational base for decision-making at the national and international levels on trade, financial and economic policies and development strategies	c. Increased number of requests from outside users for statistical publications and information material in both electronic and hard copy format	25,000 requests ^a	27,000 requests	Above target
	d. Improved policy and institutional environment and enhanced international cooperation in the development of the Palestinian economy by strengthening UNCTAD activities in this field through the provision of adequate resources	d. Increased number of new policy and legislative measures and international cooperation initiatives taken	10 new measures/initiatives ^a	6	Above target

^a Performance target for the biennium

<p>Subprogramme 2 – Investment, enterprise and technology</p> <p>To assure developmental gains from increased international investment flows and technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition and from enhanced international competitiveness of domestic enterprises in those countries</p>	<p>a. Increased ability at the national level to discuss international investment issues and their development dimension</p>	<p>a. Increased number of policymakers who indicate they are better able to discuss international investment-related issues</p>	<p>200 communications expressing usefulness of the subprogramme's publications^a</p>	<p>102 communications expressing usefulness of the subprogramme's publications</p>	<p>On target</p>
	<p>b. Better understanding of policies that will attract and benefit from FDI and technology transfer and the development dimension of international agreements</p>	<p>b. Increased number of policy recommendations taken into account by member states</p>	<p>50 policy recommendations</p>	<p>57 policy recommendations</p>	<p>Above target</p>
	<p>c. Improved opportunities for enterprises in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their competitiveness through deepened linkages between domestic and foreign firms and better understanding of emerging issues in accounting and reporting standards, corporate responsibility, transparency and good corporate practices</p>	<p>c. Increased percentage of countries indicating that policy advice and technical assistance provided by UNCTAD were useful in the design of policies aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of their enterprises</p>	<p>80% of countries indicating a high level of usefulness of the policy advice and technical assistance provided by UNCTAD</p>	<p>83% of countries indicating a high level of usefulness of the policy advice and technical assistance provided by UNCTAD</p>	<p>Above target</p>

^a Performance target for the biennium

<p>Subprogramme 3 – international trade</p> <p>To assure developmental gains from international trade, the trading system and trade negotiations in goods and services and to enhance the commodity sector's contribution to the development process for the effective and beneficial integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the global economy</p>	<p>a. Improved understanding and better ability of developing countries, including non-WTO members, to analyse, formulate and implement appropriate trade policies and strategies in international trade, the international trading system and trade negotiations and improved international trading environment facilitating market access and entry conditions for developing countries' exports</p>	<p>a. Increased number of developing countries, including non-WTO members, actively participating in the international trading system</p>	<p>38 developing countries</p>	<p>36 developing countries</p>	<p>On target</p>
	<p>b. Strengthened analytical, statistical and information bases and tools for trade and trade-related decision-making in developing countries at the national, regional and international levels and for enhanced global understanding of interactions between trade, competitiveness and development</p>	<p>b. (i) Increased number of users of the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS), either through the Internet or the World Integrated Trade Solution, and the Agriculture Trade Policy Simulation Model</p>	<p>37 000 users</p>	<p>36 000 users (estimate)</p>	<p>On target</p>
		<p>b. (ii) Increased number of countries and factors covered by the Trade and Development Index</p>	<p>125 countries</p>	<p>125 countries (estimate)</p>	<p>On target</p>
	<p>c. Strengthened capacity of developing countries to integrate commodity production and trade into development, and enhanced international partnerships on commodities and development</p>	<p>c. Increased number of countries in which improvements have been achieved in integrating commodity production, processing and trade into development, in line with UNCTAD research and analyses, and policy deliberations and technical assistance</p>	<p>25 countries^a</p>	<p>14 countries</p>	<p>On target</p>

^a Performance target for the biennium

	d. Improved capability of developing countries to identify and address competition and consumer protection issues and to deal effectively with restrictive business practices in national and international markets	d. Increased number of countries making progress in competition or consumer protection legislation, specifically through the preparation, adoption or revision of legal instruments or through measures aimed at enforcing their implementation	12 new countries ^a	7 new countries	On target
	e. Strengthened capacity of developing countries to pursue both trade and trade policy objectives and sustainable development objectives in a mutually supportive fashion, and increased attention to developing countries' sustainable development objectives in international discussions	e. Increased number of result-oriented actions taken by developing countries and the international community to enable developing countries to take advantage of trade and investment opportunities while promoting their sustainable development objectives in international discussions or through specific policy measures for them at the national, regional and international levels	92 actions ^a	42 actions (estimate)	On target
Subprogramme 4 – Services infrastructure for development, trade efficiency and human resources development To improve the competitiveness in international trade of developing countries and countries with economies in transition through efficient and secure trade-supporting services, increased and sustainable utilization of information technology and human resources development	a. Improved trade logistics of developing countries through, inter alia, strengthening of transport efficiency, trade facilitation and customs and legal frameworks	a. Increased number of specific new actions taken by developing countries to improve transport efficiency and trade facilitation	20 new actions ^a	15 new actions	Above target
	b. Improved awareness and understanding by developing countries of the policy and strategy options of the economic applications of information and communication technologies	b. Increased number of specific new actions taken by developing countries to address economic applications of information and communication technologies	28 new actions	32 new actions	Above target

^a Performance target for the biennium

	c. Strengthened capacities in developing countries in the fields of trade, investment, and trade-supporting services through human resources development, networking and sustainable use of information technology	c. (i) Increased number of specific new actions taken by developing countries to strengthen their capacities in the fields of trade, investment and trade-supporting services	15 new actions ^a	13 new actions (estimate)	On target
		c. (ii) Number of government officials trained who consider that paragraph 166 courses (training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda) have significantly contributed to the understanding of key issues on the international economic agenda	80 government officials who consider the courses beneficial ^a	42 government officials who consider the courses beneficial (estimate)	On target
Subprogramme 5A – Development of Africa To promote African economic development and fuller participation and successful integration of African countries into the world economy	a. Increased range of national and international policy choices to promote African development in the areas of expertise of UNCTAD	a. Increased number of endorsements by African states of policy recommendations	35 endorsements in articles and interviews	177 endorsements in articles and interviews	Above target
	b. Increased utilization of services provided in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and various intergovernmental and inter-agency initiatives with regard to Africa	b. Increased number of requests for inputs in support of NEPAD and other such initiatives	6 new requests for assistance	13 new requests for inputs	Above target
Subprogramme 5B – Least developed countries	a. Increased analytical understanding and consensus in the global economy of the development problems of countries concerned	a. Increased number of policy actions agreed and recommended by LDCs and their development partners	7 new policy actions	3	On target

^a Performance target for the biennium

<p>To promote progressive and beneficial integration into the global economy of LDCs and facilitate their smooth graduation</p>	<p>b. Better integration of trade policies and priorities in the national development plans through the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and the building of capacities for country ownership and implementation of the Action Matrices of the Enhanced Integrated Framework</p>	<p>b. Increased number of countries making efforts to mainstream their trade policies and priorities into their national development plans as well as concrete implementation of the Action Matrices of the Enhanced Integrated Framework</p>	<p>12 countries^a</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Above target</p>
<p>Subprogramme 5C – Special programmes</p> <p>To respond to the special needs of small, vulnerable economies, small island developing states and landlocked and transit developing countries</p>	<p>a. Enhanced international cooperation to implement the Almaty Programme of Action: addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries and to improve the effective participation of landlocked developing countries, as well as other groups of countries mentioned in paragraph 33 of the São Paulo Consensus, in the global trading system</p>	<p>a. Increased number of initiatives by countries towards advancing the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the more effective participation of LLDCs in the global trading system, such as the formulation and amendment of transit traffic agreements</p>	<p>4 new initiatives</p>	<p>0 new initiatives</p>	<p>Below target</p>
	<p>b. Contribution to the follow-up to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 2005</p>	<p>b. Timely completion of inputs to this follow-up</p>	<p>70% (of inputs)</p>	<p>Figures not available at time of publication</p>	

^a Performance target for the biennium

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Designed by UNCTAD and printed by the Publishing Service,
United Nations, Geneva – GE.09-50937 – June 2009 – 4,020 – **UNCTAD/DOM/2009/1**





UNITED NATIONS