

# UNCTAD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### Rising to the Challenge

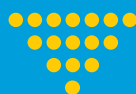
The transformative  
power of trade  
in times of crisis



United  
Nations

# 6

## UNCTAD facts and figures



### 195

member  
States



### 698

people  
in our team



### 81

million USD regular  
budget for 2022



### 53

million USD technical  
cooperation expenditure



### 239

publications, research  
and analytical materials



### 225

projects  
in 73 countries

# UNCTAD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### Rising to the Challenge

The transformative  
power of trade  
in times of crisis



**United  
Nations**

Geneva, 2023

## UNCTAD programmes and mandates

UNCTAD is the leading institution within the United Nations that deals with trade and development. We support developing countries in accessing the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively.

We provide economic and trade analysis, facilitate consensus-building and offer technical assistance. This helps developing countries use trade, investment, finance and technology for inclusive and sustainable development.



### **Globalization, interdependence and development**

We help advance inclusive and sustainable development, growth, employment and decent work for all. We want to promote durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries.



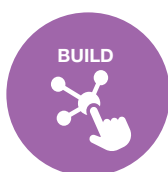
### **Investment and enterprise**

We contribute to efforts towards inclusive growth and sustainable development. We do this by encouraging investment and enterprise development, enhancing productive capacity-building and boosting job creation.



### **International trade and commodities**

We ensure that international trade and commodities enable the transformations needed to create a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable and prosperous world. Advocate for economic diversification, stronger economies and multilateralism.



### **Technology and logistics**

We support efforts to harness innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy. This improves trade logistics and increases human capacities for inclusive, sustainable trade and development.



### **Africa, least developed countries and special programmes**

We help enhance the integration of Africa, least developed countries and other nations in special situations into the global economy by developing policies that reduce poverty and boost economic capacity.



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Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General

## Foreword by the Secretary-General

Last year, difficult global crises re-appeared. The war in Ukraine, climate disasters, and the rising cost of living put to a stop the fragile post-COVID recovery witnessed in 2021. Food and energy prices skyrocketed to historic heights, increasing poverty and food insecurity to alarming levels. Rising interest rates worsened debt burdens, inviting capital flight and currency depreciation in the Global South. Climate disasters worsened, while rising geopolitics continued to disrupt the global trading system.

This world of ‘cascading crises’ called UNCTAD to rise to the challenge. In March 2022, UN Secretary-General António Guterres established the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy and Finance to help tackle the global development effects of the war in Ukraine. UNCTAD played a key role in the GCRG, co-chairing its Finance Track while coordinating its Task Team. As part of this effort and under the leadership of the UN Secretary General, UNCTAD became one of the main negotiators of the two Istanbul Agreements signed in July 2022, the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the Russian Federation to facilitate the unimpeded access for their food and fertilizers exports to global markets, and the Black Sea Initiative. These agreements have helped to bring down the cost of food, while stabilizing global markets and keeping them open.

At the same time, UNCTAD’s flagship reports provided much-needed clarity to emerging trends affecting the world last year – from the supply-side causes of inflation to the development implications of global tax agreements, from disrupted maritime logistics to ending commodity dependence through the African Free Continental Trade Area. Furthermore, we advanced on the mandates of the Bridgetown Covenant, such as improving inter-divisional coordination and proving UNCTAD usefulness at a time of crisis. As a result of these efforts, our Trade and Development Board has shown growing levels and degrees of engagement from our member states.

However, much of the road is still ahead of us. The world is still in crisis, as global financial stability comes into question, and as the cost-of-living crisis refuses to abate. The Bridgetown Covenant four transformations are becoming increasingly urgent to build resilience, close gaps, and recover our capacity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Our performance this year will set the stage for the 60th anniversary celebrations in 2024, and UNCTAD16 in 2025.

**The mission is tall, but we will spare no efforts. The times are changing, but so are we.**



**Rebeca Grynspan**  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

## Office of the Secretary-General

2022 was a significant year for the world and for UNCTAD. The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruptions in various areas such as trade, finance, debt, technology, sustainable development and logistics, all of which fall under UNCTAD's responsibility within the UN system. From February 2022 the war in Ukraine, in all its dimensions, began producing alarming cascading effects to a world already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, seriously affecting the global economy, and particularly vulnerable people and developing countries.

### A new strategic vision for UNCTAD



UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan addresses the 71st Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board on 10 February 2022.

In response to these new challenges, the Secretary-General, Rebeca Grynspan, presented a new strategic vision for UNCTAD during the 71st Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board in February. The vision aims to create mutually beneficial outcomes, address trade-offs and integrate environmental and climate change considerations into development.

The Secretary-General outlined the strategy to enhance UNCTAD's performance, align with the commitments of the Bridgetown Covenant approved at UNCTAD15 and foster a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy. The strategy also emphasizes the importance of considering gender dimensions in trade and development.

The new UNCTAD strategy focuses on promoting a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy, improving the financing of development and revitalizing multilateralism. This will be achieved by collaborating closely with UNCTAD's diverse membership and ensuring effective and fruitful dialogue and exchanges.

To further strengthen UNCTAD's unique capacity in evidence-based research and policy analysis, as well as provide sustainable development solutions across all research areas, the Secretary-General established a new independent Statistics Unit in 2022. This unit will



ensure the quality assurance of statistics, coordinate standardization and coherence within the organization and enhance the use of data as a strategic asset. It will also support UNCTAD's efforts in crucial areas such as the United Nations Secretary-General's Beyond GDP initiative, the SDG Pulse, South-South indicators and the vulnerability index for small island developing states (SIDS).

To enhance organizational coherence and coordination in UNCTAD's work and accommodate new areas of focus, the publication policy was reviewed in 2022. Cross-divisional working groups were established in key areas such as statistics, technical cooperation and gender mainstreaming. Additionally, a dedicated working group for the G20 was created to strengthen UN efforts across the entire UN system and engage other development stakeholders in policy solutions that support developing countries.

### UNCTAD's contribution to the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance



In March, shortly after the onset of the war in Ukraine, UNCTAD published a rapid assessment report entitled "[The Impact on Trade and Development of the War in Ukraine](#)". This report examined the war's effect on global trade and development.

The findings confirmed a rapidly deteriorating outlook for the world economy, characterized by increasing prices of food, fuel and fertilizers, heightened financial volatility, complex restructuring of global supply chains and rising trade costs.

This rapidly evolving situation raised concerns, particularly for developing countries, including African and least developed countries, which were particularly vulnerable to the war's impact on trade costs, commodity prices and financial markets.

This report contributed to the discussion within the UN system and was considered in the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance by the United Nations Secretary-General within the UN Secretariat in March. The group's objective was to assist decision makers in mobilizing solutions and developing strategies to address the interconnected food, energy and finance crises resulting from the war in Ukraine.

The Global Crisis Response Group urged all countries to keep food markets open, resist unjustified and unnecessary export restrictions and make resources available to vulnerable countries. It also called for accelerated deployment of renewable energy investments and urged the G20 and international financial institutions to take urgent action to increase liquidity and fiscal space, allowing governments to provide safety nets for the most vulnerable populations.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan coordinated the work of the Global Crisis Response Group Task Team comprised of three workstreams on Food, Energy and Finance, with UNCTAD co-leading the finance workstream. The Task Team undertook data collection, analysis, policy recommendations and solutions to support decision-making and advocacy within the Global Crisis Response Group and by the United Nations Secretary-General.

In November, the Netherlands signed an agreement to contribute \$1.9 million and in December 2022, Spain signed an agreement to contribute EUR 1.5 million to UNCTAD, further supporting the work of the Global Crisis Response Group.

### **Secretary-General Grynspan leads the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation to ensure global food security**

To address the skyrocketing food prices in 2022, urgent action was needed to ensure the access of food and fertilizer from the Russian Federation and Ukraine to global markets. The United Nations Secretary-General proposed efforts to address the global food crisis that resulted in the signing of the Black Sea Initiative and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation in July in Istanbul. These agreements aim to reintegrate food and fertilizer from Ukraine and Russia into global markets.

The United Nations established a dedicated Task Team hosted at UNCTAD to oversee the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, facilitating access of food and fertilizer products originating from the Russian Federation to global markets.

In October, UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan addressed the UN Security Council, highlighting the importance of continuing the Black Sea Initiative and implementing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation. She emphasized their significance for global food security and urged all parties to make every effort to fully implement both agreements.



UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan addresses the UN Security Council on 31 October 2022.



### **Pedro Manuel Moreno named Deputy Secretary-General**

In November, the United Nations Secretary-General announced the appointment of Pedro Manuel Moreno of Spain as Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD at the UN Assistant Secretary-General level.

Mr. Moreno brings to UNCTAD over 20 years of experience in multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, having served in different programme, management and strategic positions, both in the field and at UN Headquarters.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan welcomed the appointment: “I am confident that Mr. Moreno’s trajectory in the UN and the multilateral system and his commitment to development will be a great asset for UNCTAD, as we work to strengthen the organization and better support countries facing the increasing challenges of sustainable development and trade.”



## Supporting member States

In 2022, with the turbulence of the pandemic receding, we could once again host and attend in-person events to better collaborate with our intergovernmental partners.

Like other organizations, we entered into a ‘new normal’, launching new initiatives and enjoying revitalized live engagements. Significantly, by raising our voice and contributing to high-level dialogues, UNCTAD gained greater prominence on the global stage. Our vital perspectives on trade and development as a pathway to peace and prosperity were recognized.

### A dynamic new way of working after COVID-19

In 2022, UNCTAD entered a new normal after the COVID-19 pandemic, with increasingly more in-person presence. In managing the new normal, we are building on the experience of remote working during the pandemic and recognize the benefits that information technology adds to in-person meetings.

### The role of the United Nations in crises around the world

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development broke new ground, reaching consensus on issues that have traditionally prompted divergent positions. The group of experts expressed concern about the effect of the multiple crises around the world, recognized the ongoing work of the United Nations in this context and addressed various issues related to debt, resource mobilization, liquidity and official development assistance.



### Revitalized engagement with member States

In accordance with the Bridgetown Covenant, UNCTAD established an online registry of decisions and outcomes taken by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies. The registry can be accessed through the Delegates’ Portal or at <https://unctad.org/boardactions-search>.

As part of its continuing efforts to strengthen support to member States, UNCTAD revamped the delegates portal. The portal provides a single window to facilitate how representatives from member States engage with the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery.

### Keeping member States informed and engaged

In 2022 the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies held 19 meetings in Geneva. UNCTAD prepared 55 parliamentary documents for these meetings and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, maintaining 100% submission compliance for the tenth year in a row for all slotted pre-session documents. In addition, we issued 19 meeting reports to cover the outcome of these intergovernmental events.



## IMPACT STORY

### An all-women panel tackles once-in-a-generation crises

In a display of global female leadership, the Trade and Development Board held its first high-level segment after UNCTAD15, **under the lead of Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan, and with the participation of Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sigrid Kaag, and the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed.**

The panel addressed the prevailing interrelated crises including the once-in-a-generation global cost-of-living crisis that has been unfolding since 2020, the war in Ukraine, climate change and its continued effects, leading to increasing levels of poverty, inequality and debt distress.



### Over 100 events held during the year

In 2022, we held 112 events, with a total of 12,986 participants. This marks a decrease compared to 2021 because the World Investment Forum (WIF) was held in 2021, for which 3,750 people registered. Excluding the 2021 WIF, the number of registered participants for 2022 increased by more than 2,000 compared to 2021.



The number of participants increased by over

**2,000**  
compared to 2021

**In 2022 the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies held 19 meetings in Geneva**



**I will invest in  
a new and ambitious  
communication strategy  
for UNCTAD.  
If our voice is weakened,  
our impact is lessened.**

**Rebeca Grynspan**  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
71<sup>st</sup> executive session  
of the Trade and Development Board,  
held in Geneva on 10 February 2022

## Communications for a stronger voice

 **Communication and external relations work  
driven by innovation, priority issues and  
impact.**

### Our work gains a 24% jump in visibility

**Reinforced by a new strategic communications plan for 2022,  
we strengthened UNCTAD's institutional repositioning and  
internal alignment to:**

- ▶ **Lead the narrative in global trade, economic and development deliberations**
- ▶ **Give credible, world-class expert insights, articulate policy solutions and connect the dots between UNCTAD's work and shared global challenges**
- ▶ **Rally support for UNCTAD policy recommendations by inspiring and mobilizing a diverse and wide-ranging global audience**



In 2022, UNCTAD  
appeared in more than

**120,500**

news articles  
across the world

**+24%**

jump from 2021

Leading global news media outlets that covered UNCTAD's work included *Bloomberg*, the *Financial Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Le Monde*, *Radio France*, the *BBC* and *El Pais*.

We also featured prominently on the *South China Morning Post*, *People's Daily*, *Jeune Afrique*, *Ria Novosti*, *Sputnik*, *Mint*, *The Hindu*, *Valor Economico*, broadcasters *CGTN*, *CNN*, *CNBC USA and Africa*, *Al Jazeera*, *Al Arabiya* and several outlets across other developing countries that covered UNCTAD's work in multiple languages.

## Podcast puts UNCTAD at centre of economic debates

In July 2022, UNCTAD premiered “The Weekly Tradecast,” a podcast exploring how major economic events affect developing countries and billions of people around the globe.

We released 26 episodes in 2022, two of them featuring Secretary-General Rebeca Grynszpan. Other episodes tapped our many in-house experts for perspectives on topical issues ranging from the cost-of-living crisis to the rising debt burden in developing countries, putting UNCTAD at the centre of economic and development debates.

By December, the series had more than 9,500 listeners and was in the top 100 podcasts in Switzerland on Apple. “The Weekly Tradecast” continues to roll out every Thursday, attracting a growing audience from multilateral organizations, the media and the public.



UNCTAD's  
new podcast  
had more than  
**9,500**  
listeners in 2022

## Digital communications get a boost

UNCTAD increased investment in digital communications to bolster our branding and ensure coherent public messaging on key issues.

We introduced new features, such as data visualizations to better convey messages on key issues to ensure greater attention and action.

Other website improvements included interactive “mini sites” to showcase UNCTAD's major publications and events, an enhanced media centre that strengthened engagement with journalists and a revamped delegates portal for member States.

We disseminated a wide range of multilingual digital communications products, including 211 news stories, of which 20 – in English, French and Spanish – featured on the UN global homepage, highlighting UNCTAD's key policy positions and human-interest success stories.

We also published 239 publications, research and analytical materials, 88 sessional documents for intergovernmental meetings and information on 365 events related to UNCTAD's programmes and projects.



UNCTAD.org gained  
**7.7**  
**million**  
page views

Publications downloaded  
**1 million**  
times

## Stronger connections with audiences

UNCTAD's social media channels amplified key policy recommendations and connected more with audiences thanks to increased clarity in messaging, innovation, tailored products and brand consistency.

Our social media posts communicated directly to 6.2 million people and reached an additional 28 million people through close collaboration and coordination with accounts across the UN system.

UNCTAD's Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube channels added 88,000 new followers in 2022, a 16% increase from 2021, bringing the total number of followers to over half a million.

Our videos – many of them available in all the six UN official languages and Portuguese – received more than 377,000 views on social media.



UNCTAD's  
social media  
presence gained  
**+16%**  
in users compared to  
2021, with  
**half a million**  
**followers**  
across our platforms

## Partnerships for impact

UNCTAD forged partnerships to increase the impact of our communications activities. We worked with UNTV in Geneva on a joint video series entitled “Hard choices”.

The series, filmed across Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Peru and Tunisia, explored the impact of the once-in-a-generation cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable populations and how the UN is helping.

The show was screened on television through Germany's state broadcaster, *Deutsche Welle*, and is available online through UN Web TV.



Our videos received  
more than  
**377,000**  
views on social media

# 2022 Year in Review

## ■ Making an impact in the world



### UNCTAD Leadership

We marked the first full year since **Rebeca Grynspan** took office, after she made history as **UNCTAD's first woman Secretary-General**



### Pedro Manuel Moreno

was appointed as **Deputy Secretary-General** in November 2022



### UNCTAD on the world stage

- ▶ **Black Sea Initiative**
- ▶ **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on facilitating the export of Russian food and fertilizer to global markets
- ▶ **Side Event at the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly**
- ▶ **Global Crisis Response Group**
- ▶ Call for **stronger multilateral solutions to debt crisis**
- ▶ Advocacy for **more finance for Sustainable Development Goals**
- ▶ **Statistics** used by the entire UN system



## World-class research and analysis

UNCTAD's world-leading researchers produced over 200 reports and online tools, including:

- ▶ **6 major reports:** *Economic Development in Africa Report* (July), *Handbook of Statistics* (December), *Least Developed Countries Report* (November), *Review of Maritime Transport* (November), *Trade and Development Report* (October), *World Investment Report* (June)
- ▶ **3 Global Trade Updates** in December, July and February
- ▶ **4 Global Investment Trend Monitors** in October, April and January
- ▶ **15 policy briefs** examining priority trade and development issues between January and December 2022
- ▶ **1 report in June on the impact of COVID-19** on trade and development and lessons learned from the pandemic
- ▶ **The SDG Pulse**, UNCTAD's annual statistical publication reporting on progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in June
- ▶ **The Inclusive Growth Index** in June, showing countries' performance across four pillars: economy, living conditions, equality and environment
- ▶ **A new online database** in September tracking global trade in biodiversity-based products
- ▶ **An online database** for national trade facilitation committees in February, providing real-time insights
- ▶ **A database to facilitate trade** under the African Continental Free Trade Area



## Driving multilateral dialogues and consensus-building

In 2022, UNCTAD brought together governments, businesses, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to jointly tackle pressing trade and developing challenges. Key moments included:

- ▶ **The 13th Debt Management Conference** in December, focused on how countries can deal with mounting debt burdens in times of overlapping crises
- ▶ **The 72nd executive session of the Trade and Development Board** in October and its 69th annual session in June and July
- ▶ **The 25th session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development** in March and April
- ▶ **eCommerce Week**, in April, focused on data and digitalization to bolster the global digital economy
- ▶ **The 4th Oceans Forum** in April to propel a sustainable and resilient ocean economy benefiting all
- ▶ **Port Management Week** in May, gathering more than 80 port professionals from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean
- ▶ **The 2nd Illicit Trade Forum** in September, providing a platform for countries to collaborate on tackling this menace to development
- ▶ **The Global Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees** in February
- ▶ **Intergovernmental Group of Experts' meetings on Consumer Protection and Competition** in July



## Bridgetown Covenant

**UNCTAD supported member States to build greater resilience in an environment characterized by reinforcing crises.**

**UNCTAD supports member States to create a more resilient, digital and inclusive world of shared prosperity**

The Bridgetown Covenant was the result of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD in 2021. The Covenant is a new accord on trade and development, which will guide UNCTAD's work over the coming years. It provides a roadmap for strengthening multilateralism, revitalizing UNCTAD's work and building international consensus on how to close the gaps, inequalities and divisions around the world. The Covenant reaffirmed UNCTAD's role as the focal point in the United Nations system for promoting an integrated approach to trade and development and addressing interrelated issues in finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

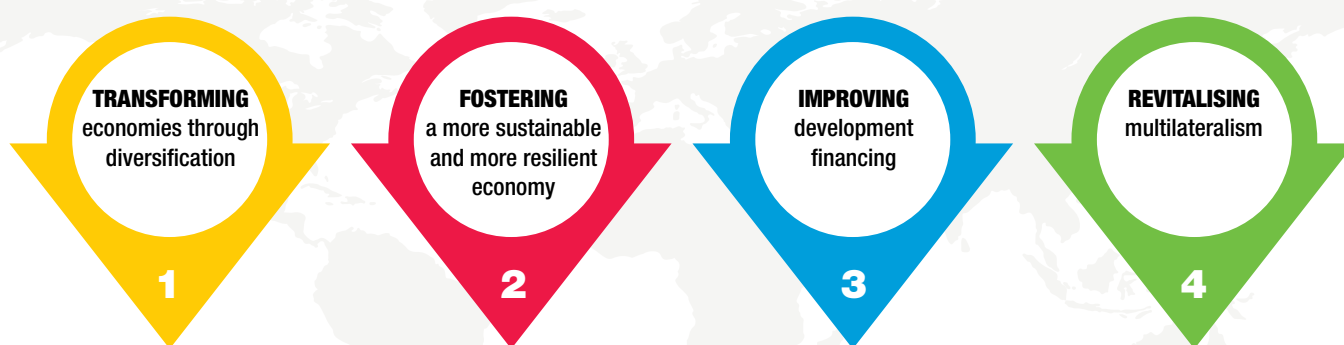
It also mandated UNCTAD to build resilience. And this resilience was put to the test in 2022 as we operated in an environment characterized by reinforcing crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, war, inflation, geopolitical tensions and climate change.

UNCTAD rose to the challenge in 2022, working according to our three-pillar approach: research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation.

We were involved in coordinating the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and in negotiating the agreement on food and fertilizer with the Russian Federation and the Black Sea Initiative.

During the year, UNCTAD continued to help member States move to a more resilient, digital and inclusive world of shared prosperity according to the four transformations laid out in the Bridgetown Covenant. These are:

**The four transformations of the Bridgetown Covenant: diversification, resilience, development financing, multilateralism**



UNCTAD also continued to address interrelated issues that are important to all countries in achieving sustainable and equitable growth and development in 2022, paying particular attention to the needs and priorities of developing countries.

This required extensive and cooperation across all UNCTAD subprogrammes. Our work on issues related to South-South and triangular cooperation and regional integration supported these efforts.



## UNCTAD contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2022 UNCTAD continued to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD is the custodian of eight goal indicators, which fall under Goals 10, 12, 16 and 17, covering issues related to trade, tariffs, development finance, debt, investment, illicit finance and enterprise sustainability.

During the year we continued to help member States make progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 10 and 17 as well as Goals 2, 5, 12, 14, 15 and 16.

## Driving new economic thinking

The Bridgetown Covenant emphasized the need to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and enhance climate resilience.

UNCTAD encouraged a new and more integrated treatment of development economics, which more fully integrates inclusiveness, climate change and the environment into a new global trade, financial and policy framework. This work focused on scaling up climate finance, decarbonizing trade logistics and global value chains, boosting sustainable investment and supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

In addition, we ensured organizational coherence on climate and the environment across subprogrammes through a cross-divisional environment and climate change working group.

### Gender on the agenda

UNCTAD continued to integrate a gender perspective in our operational activities, deliverables and results in line with the Bridgetown Covenant. We promoted an integrated, cross-cutting treatment of a gender perspective in trade and development.

We worked with member States to strengthen their capacity to design and implement policies that support women's economic empowerment.

## Helping countries build resilience post COVID-19

One of the principles of the Bridgetown Covenant is to encourage sustainable development. In line with this, UNCTAD is collaborating with regional bodies through our Regional Office for Africa to develop actions and toolkits.

One of the mandates of the Bridgetown Covenant is to continue to support countries as they respond to challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We help countries build resilience to future economic shocks by strengthening their productive capacities.

## UNCTAD advances disability inclusion

In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, UNCTAD continued to support disability inclusion in its programmatic work and operational activities. In 2022, UNCTAD submitted its first report on implementing the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. While there are some indicators where UNCTAD does not have direct responsibility, the report highlights that it reaches a satisfactory standard for 10 indicators.

**We're helping countries build resilience to challenges revealed or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic**



## **UN Global Crisis Response Group: A new coordinated response to interconnected crises**

**The world is suffering from a food, energy and finance crisis. UNCTAD plays a critical role in helping decision makers identify challenges, mobilize solutions and develop strategies to tackle these interlinked challenges.**

In March 2022, UN Secretary-General António Guterres established the UN Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy and Finance to respond to the unprecedented interconnected food, energy and finance crises in the world. Inflation, food insecurity, soaring energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions and mounting debt are among the pressing challenges added to a world recovering from the human and economic losses of the COVID-19 pandemic and facing the ongoing threat of climate change and the war in Ukraine.

These challenges are particularly acute in developing economies.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, together with six champion heads of state/ government, provides high-level political leadership and coordination to the Global Crisis Response Group.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, leads the Steering Committee of the GCRG involving 32 UN agencies, international and regional financial institutions, and multi-stakeholder partners.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan leads and coordinates the work of the Task Team which comprises the three workstreams on food, energy and finance and informs the GCRG's Steering Committee. She also co-leads the finance workstream.

The Group collates data and generates analyses and recommends policy actions for decision makers to mobilize solutions and develop strategies to support countries facing the interlinked global crisis with food, energy and finance.

In 2022 the Global Crisis Response Group produced three key policy briefs:

- ▶ **BRIEF NO.1** *Global impact of war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance systems* (April 2022)
- ▶ **BRIEF NO.2** *Global impact of the war in Ukraine: Billions of people face the greatest cost-of-living crisis in a generation* (June 2022)
- ▶ **BRIEF NO.3** *Global impact of war in Ukraine: Energy crisis* (August 2022)

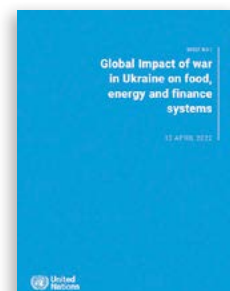
## The interlinked crises of inflation, food insecurity, soaring energy and food prices are stalling efforts to recover from the losses of COVID-19 and mitigate the threat of climate change

### Keep trade open

The GCRG released its **first brief** in April 2022, focusing on the global implications of the war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance.

It proposed immediate and longer-term policy actions to respond to the crisis, including the need to keep markets and trade open to ensure the availability of food and agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and energy.

It also called on international financial institutions to urgently release funding for the most at-risk countries, while ensuring there were enough resources to build longer-term resilience to such shocks.



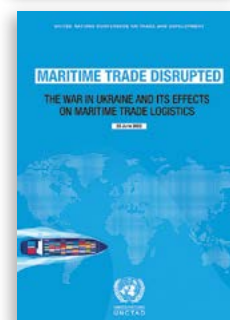
### A wave of hunger

In its **second brief** released in June 2022, the GCRG urged stability in global food and energy markets to curb the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

It estimated that 1.6 billion people worldwide were living in countries that could see their food, energy and finance systems severely affected by the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine. These populations are especially vulnerable to a cost-of-living crisis unseen in more than a generation, with escalating price shocks in global food, energy and fertilizer markets.

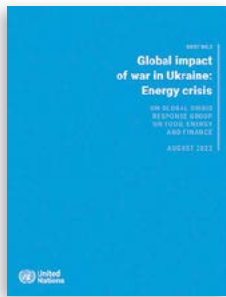
UNCTAD warned in its **Maritime Trade Disrupted** report released in June 2022 that the war in Ukraine had stifled maritime trade and raised shipping costs for Ukraine and the Black Sea region.

It called for the opening of Ukrainian ports, greater international collaboration, as well as investment in transport and trade facilitation to support the most vulnerable economies.



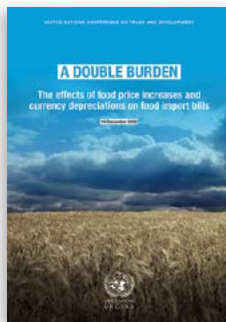
**Around 1.6 billion people will see their food, energy and finance systems affected by the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine**





## Skyrocketing energy prices

The GCRG's third brief released in August 2022 shone a light on skyrocketing energy prices that were compounding an existential cost-of-living crisis for hundreds of millions of people. It urged support for the most vulnerable and called for measures such as windfall taxes to fund social protection policies and the transition to renewable energy solutions.



## A double burden

In December 2022, an UNCTAD report sounded the alarm on a “double burden” posed to developing countries by the combination of high food prices and a strong US dollar, which makes imports of essential food even more expensive for the most vulnerable.

To prevent acute food insecurity and hunger for millions of people, UNCTAD recommended policy actions – in line with GCRG proposals – to ease financial constraints, ensure open trade and access to staple foods, as well as increase food availability nationally and globally.



UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan (second left in the foreground) at the signing of the Black Sea Initiative in Istanbul in July 2022. Seated at the table are UN Secretary-General António Guterres (second left) and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (first right) of Türkiye.

© TRT Turkish Broadcasting



Today, there is a beacon on  
the Black Sea.

A beacon of hope – a beacon  
of possibility – a beacon of  
relief - in a world that needs it  
more than ever.

**António Guterres**

United Nations Secretary-General, on the signing  
of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Istanbul, July 2022

## Helping stabilize rising food prices

In July 2022, two agreements were signed in Istanbul to address growing global food insecurity around the world – the Black Sea Initiative (BSI), which allows for exports of grain and fertilizer, including ammonia, from Ukrainian Black Sea ports and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on facilitating the export of Russian food and fertilizer to global markets.

The United Nations Secretary-General established two UN task forces to take forward the Istanbul Agreements. One was led by UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan and focused on the implementation of the MoU and facilitating exports of Russian food and fertilizers. The other focused on shipping Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea, and is headed by UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths.

The Istanbul Agreements have yielded important benefits for global food security, especially in developing countries. Prices of critical food commodities have come down from the unprecedented highs they reached in early 2022, with price volatility mitigated and markets stabilized. The BSI enabled the safe export of more than 15 million metric tons of food in 2022. Support from the United Nations has helped sustain an increasing volume of food and fertilizer exports from the Russian Federation, especially after July 2022. It has also helped lower freight rates, with a steady number of ships calling at Russian ports, and led to a decline in shipping insurance costs.

Although global food prices fell from their all-time high after March 2022, by the end of 2022 they remained 45% above the average of the past 20 years and fertilizer prices were more than 200% higher than in 2019. The BSI and MoU must be fully implemented to continue to contribute to global food security.

UNCTAD's **Trade Hope** report, released in October 2022, showed the importance of the Black Sea Initiative to deliver vital grain and foodstuffs to the world, offering hope for millions of people and exemplifying the power of trade in times of crisis.

"The UN-led Initiative has helped to stabilize and subsequently lower global food prices and move precious grain from one of the world's breadbaskets to the tables of those in need," the report said.

**15 million**  
**The volume of metric tons**  
of foodstuffs exported under the  
Black Sea Initiative in 2022

**The importance  
of the Black Sea  
Initiative exemplifies  
the power of trade in  
times of crisis**



Go to the  
**Global Crisis**  
webpage



## Major publications

Our major publications in 2022 examined the state of the global economy, investment flows, international taxation, export diversification in Africa, the low-carbon transition in least developed countries, the decarbonization of maritime transport and statistics for economies around the world.

### Month of launch

#### PRESS:

Articles in at least 13 languages, 1.6 billion people reached

#### WEB:

30,000 page views in the first month

#### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Over 156,000 people reached



### World Investment Report

#### International tax reforms and sustainable investment

The report published in June 2022 showed that foreign direct investment in 2021 recovered to pre-pandemic levels, hitting almost \$1.6 trillion, but warned of looming uncertainty for 2022.

It urged significant help for developing countries to sustain the momentum for recovery from COVID-19 and boost finance for sustainable development.

The report also noted that the coming years will see the implementation of fundamental reforms in international taxation, which could have major implications for investment policy, especially in countries that use fiscal incentives and special economic zones.

It provided a guide for policymakers to navigate the complex new tax rules and to adjust their investment strategies.

### Month of launch

#### PRESS:

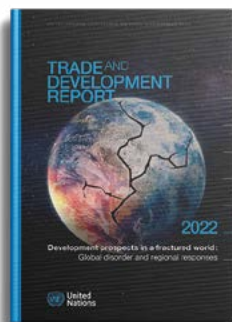
+1,400 news stories in 27 languages, 334 million people reached daily

#### WEB:

40,000 page views, a 128% increase from 2021

#### SOCIAL MEDIA:

21 million people reached



### Trade and Development Report

#### Development prospects in a fractured world: Global disorder and regional responses

The report published in October 2022 urged a swift change in policy course, warning that monetary and fiscal policies in advanced economies risked pushing the world towards a global recession.

It estimated that the global slowdown would leave real gross domestic product still below its pre-pandemic levels, costing the world more than \$17 trillion – close to 20% of the world's income. The report also called for greater cooperation among developing nations and reforms to the multilateral architecture to help shift the global economy in the right direction.



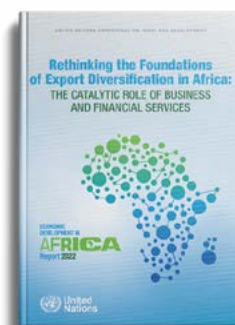
UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2022 received far-reaching media coverage globally. Seen here, from left to right, are snapshots of reporting by the *New York Times*, China Global Television Network (CGTN), and *The Guardian Nigeria*.

## Economic Development in Africa Report

### Rethinking the foundations of export diversification in Africa: The catalytic role of business and financial services

The report published in July 2022 urged African countries to tap into the transformative potential of high knowledge-intensive services and tackle barriers to services trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area to build more diverse and resilient economies.

It warned that commodity dependence had left 45 out of 54 African countries vulnerable to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.



## Month of launch

### PRESS:

149 news stories in  
6 languages,  
22 million people reached

### WEB:

8,700 page views, a 52%  
increase compared to 2021

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

123,000 people reached

## The Least Developed Countries Report

### The low-carbon transition and its daunting implications for structural transformation

The report published in November 2022 called on the international community to fully support the world's 46 least developed countries (LDCs) – home to some 1.1 billion people – to ensure a just, balanced and sustainable low-carbon transition.

LDCs account for just 4% of global CO2 emissions. Despite this, in the past 50 years, LDCs have suffered 69% of the worldwide deaths caused by climate-related disasters.



## Month of launch

### PRESS:

900,000 people  
reached through  
48 news articles in  
7 languages

### WEB:

7,200 page views,  
a 72% jump from 2021

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

18 million people reached

## Review of Maritime Transport

### Navigating stormy waters

The report published in November 2022 called for global efforts to make maritime shipping and supply chains more efficient, more resilient and far greener.

It said that amid multiple global crises and disruptions, preparing for future challenges and transitions is crucial for maritime trade and transport.

UNCTAD called on maritime industries, governments and the international community to invest in infrastructure and digitalization, cut the carbon footprint of maritime transport and protect market competition in the shipping sector.



## Month of launch

### PRESS:

500 news articles in  
20 languages,  
280 million people reached

### WEB:

28,000 web page views

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

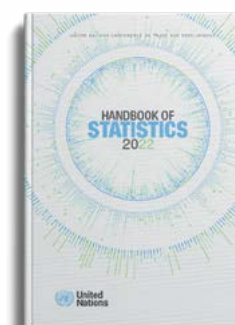
20 million people reached

## Handbook of Statistics

In uncertain times, reliable statistical information becomes even more indispensable for effective policy responses and decisions.

This publication released in December 2022 provided a wide range of statistics and indicators relevant to the analysis of international trade, economy, investment, maritime transport and development overall.

It also offered projections, known as nowcasts, featured on a dedicated dashboard on UNCTADstat, which allows for real-time tracking of the data.



## Month of launch

### PRESS:

+400 news stories in  
4 languages,  
7.9 million people reached

### WEB:

11,400 page views,  
a 108% growth compared  
with 2021

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

17 million people reached





# Globalization, Interdependence and Development





© UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan



## Successful global strategies for developing countries

**UNCTAD promotes economic policies and strategies for sustained growth, inclusive and sustainable development, full employment and decent work for all.**

**In 2022, developing countries suffered the most from a series of cascading global crises**

**Our work on globalization and development strategies was underpinned by this year's key publication, the Trade and Development Report, entitled "Development prospects in a fractured world: Global disorder and regional responses".**

**UNCTAD also led calls for stronger multilateral solutions to tackle the debt crisis facing developing countries, which saw borrowing burdens increase and debt distress risks grow amid multiple global crises.**

## Major reports on macroeconomics and development policies

### The consequences of the cascading crises for the global economy

UNCTAD published the half-yearly Trade and Development Report Update in March, entitled "Tapering in a time of conflict", and the annual Trade and Development Report in October, entitled "Development prospects in a fractured world".

Both reports used UNCTAD's global policy model to make macroeconomic projections at the global and regional level, focusing on the impact of prevailing economic conditions on developing countries.

"Tapering in a time of conflict" examined the near-term impact and most immediate consequences of the war in Ukraine for the global economy, especially for developing countries.

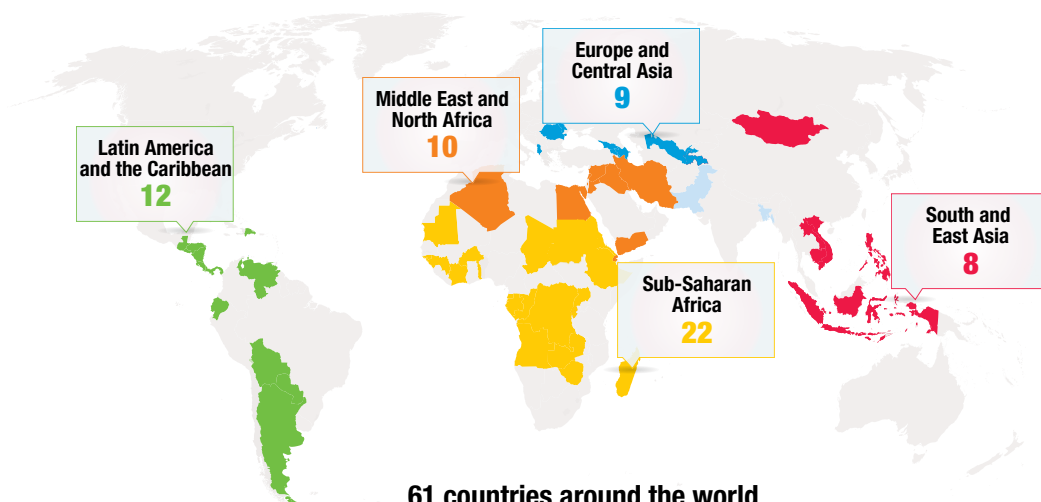
The report identified rising food and energy prices caused by supply-side disruptions, as well as currency vulnerabilities and growing debt distress as major risks.

"Development prospects in a fractured world" analysed the global economy and growth scenarios for the Global South as well as prospects for and challenges related to regional integration.

## Towards sustainable external debt and more development finance

UNCTAD worked to address external debt sustainability and development finance through research, consensus building and technical assistance. We conducted the following initiatives and activities, among others:

- ▶ An annual report on external debt sustainability and development for the General Assembly
- ▶ Provided input for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development publication entitled "Financing for Sustainable Development Report"
- ▶ We prepared policy briefs on two critical issues for developing countries in the current context, three policy briefs on the challenges and risks of cryptocurrencies and a policy brief on the growing overlap between debt and climate vulnerabilities in these countries
- ▶ The multi-agency development account project entitled "Response and Recovery: Mobilizing financial resources for development in the time of COVID-19"
- ▶ Rolled out the UNCTAD Sustainable Development Finance Assessment framework
- ▶ Participated in the G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group and in the Paris Peace Forum
- ▶ Organized the 13th Debt Management Conference in December, with the participation of ministers and senior decision makers in debt management and public finance



**61 countries around the world  
used the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System  
to record and report their debt**

**The outlook for  
external debt  
sustainability  
in developing  
countries  
remains of  
serious concern**

### UNCTAD's Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

The UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) is a world-leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management.

In 2022, 61 countries used DMFAS to manage their public liabilities daily. This included three new country members that joined the DMFAS user community: Equatorial Guinea, the State of Palestine and Yemen.



Read all  
about  
DMFAS

### Countries are borrowing to offset the effects of COVID-19

At a time when effective debt management is more crucial than ever, with countries borrowing significantly to address the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19, climate change and the global cost-of-living crisis, the capacity of countries to record, monitor and report effectively on debt is crucial.

Demand for DMFAS technical assistance was high in 2022, with 25 technical assistance projects implemented during the year.

The priority for user countries is to maintain their capacity to make accurate information on public debt. This is essential to enabling sound debt management strategies, policy decisions and risk management and to meet international reporting obligations.

Results related to improved debt coverage and debt data transparency in 2022 included:

- ▶ 42 user countries published a debt statistics bulletin
- ▶ 35 countries produced debt portfolio reviews
- ▶ 61 countries and 86 institutions used the DMFAS software (see geographical distribution in the map below)

In 2022:

- ▶ 23 DMFAS user institutions connected their debt database to a national integrated financial management information system
- ▶ 20 DMFAS user countries benefitted from the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative
- ▶ The three countries that applied to the common framework during the year are DMFAS user countries
- ▶ Overall, DMFAS continued to help countries to strengthen their capacity to effectively record, monitor and report public debt in 2022. This is crucial for mitigating financial vulnerabilities and the increased threat of debt-distress risks aggravated by health and socioeconomic crises

Over  
**60%**  
of the world's  
low-income  
countries  
**use our debt  
management  
software**  
to manage their  
public debt







## Economic cooperation and integration among developing countries

### South-South cooperation

We carried out extensive work in the area of industrial policy in relation to designing and implementing regional and global value chains.

The report “[South-South Cooperation for Climate Adaptation](#)” outlined a way forward for the Global South to build South-South resilience to climate adaptation, proposing a positive trade and environment agenda and a development path for climate finance.

We continued to cooperate with the OECD Development Centre, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in developing the framework of the OECD Initiative on Global Value Chains, Production Transformation and Development.

We also worked on the Productive Transformation Policy Review of Bangladesh. The review comprises assessments and tools that support policy dialogue around knowledge-sharing and increased evidence on different development trajectories.

UNCTAD contributed to the “Smart Economic Planning and Industrial Policy” conference, hosted by OSTIM Technical University in Ankara. We started to collaborate with the Observatory on Emerging Economies. We also concluded our project entitled “South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative”.

UNCTAD launched the Belt and Road Initiative platform to share policy experiences in the Global South. The platform will facilitate policy sharing and peer learning among developing countries in the areas of macro finance, industrial policy, trade policy, digital transformation and debt sustainability.

The platform is a resource for sharing policy responses of countries in relation to post-COVID-19 economic recovery. Countries have contributed responses include China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Many countries have designed their digital transformation policies using information from the platform.

## UNCTAD continues assistance to the Palestinian people

In 2022, UNCTAD continued providing assistance to the Palestinian people. It published the “[Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)” (October) and, through the General Assembly, “[Economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people: the toll of the additional restrictions in Area C, 2000–2020](#)” (November). The two reports were appreciated by member States and featured in hundreds of articles in international media. During a mission to the State of Palestine in November 2022, UNCTAD conducted two workshops on quantitative aspects of impact evaluation, methodologies and the use of satellite data in economic analysis. Participants included Palestinian government officials from various ministries, the United Nations country team, international organizations, researchers and civil society organizations.

## Training and outreach for member States

UNCTAD organized six panel discussions and briefings for member States and other audiences in 2022. Topics included financing climate adaptation, capital flight from Africa and debt sustainability. We also gave presentations to student groups and policy experts.

### UNCTAD summer school educates young economists around the world

In August, UNCTAD organized the fifth UNCTAD YSI Summer School. The school is our flagship programme to educate young economists around the world about our work on development strategies and our distinct approach to development issues.

The summer school was held in partnership with the Institute for New Economic Thinking, under the theme “Challenges and opportunities of a new international economic order”.

## IMPACT STORY

### Mauritania strengthens its debt management capacity

Mauritania is facing high debt levels. The country is highly exposed to exchange rate risks because 85% of its public debt is denominated in foreign currencies. However, the total public debt/gross domestic product ratio is decreasing (51.7% in 2021 compared to 55.8% in 2020) thanks to the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative and successful bilateral debt reorganization negotiations.

UNCTAD contributed to Mauritania's progress through a technical assistance project which ran between 2021 and 2022. Under the project, UNCTAD conducted training on our Debt Management and Financial Analysis System, which helps countries record and report on debt. We also held capacity-building workshops on the topic of debt statistics.

The project improved debt statistical bulletins, which will support the country's commitment to improving its debt management capacities.

The UNCTAD summer school attracted



**989**

registrants, from

**70**

countries

**544**

participants received certificates of attendance

**half of whom were female**

**+50%**

of the participants were from developing countries



[See the video](#)



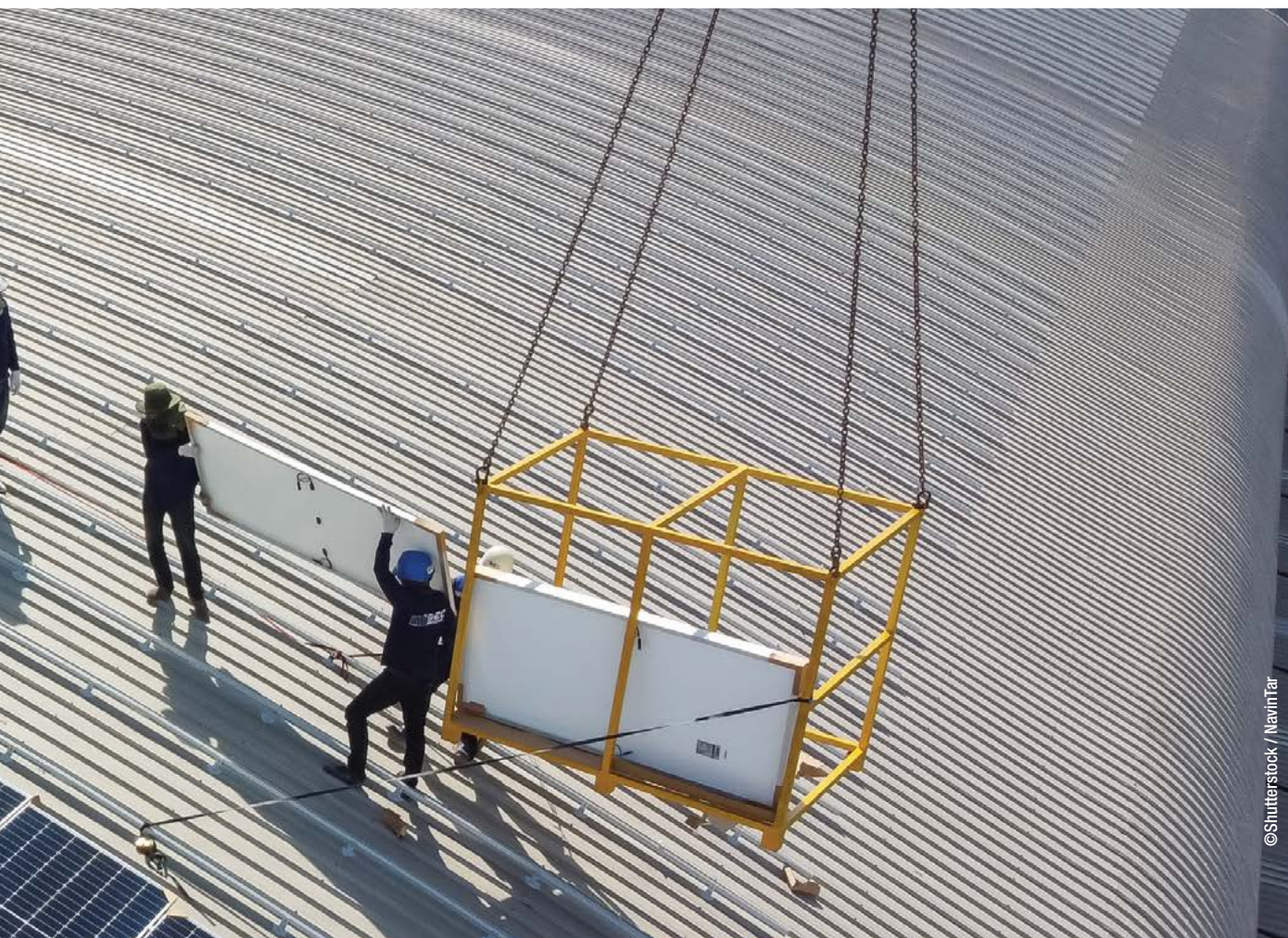




## Investment and Enterprise Development







## Investing for sustainable development

**UNCTAD promotes inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise. We enhance productive and technological capacity-building, industrialization, economic diversification, job creation and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**As part of our work on investment and enterprise development, we help countries attract investment into areas where needs are greatest, as well as build and maintain a business climate that stimulates inclusive and sustainable development.**

**Our key publication, the World Investment Report 2022, focused on international tax reforms and sustainable investment.**

### Tracking global investment flows and tax reforms

The World Investment Report 2022 documented the recovery of investment flows after the pandemic and greenfield investment in industry, infrastructure and the production activities of the largest multinationals and reviewed trends in national investment policy measures and international investment agreements.

The report studied the implications of international taxation reform, in particular introducing a global minimum tax, on investment flows to developing countries, and typical investment promotion policies, such as fiscal incentives.

The publication also included a chapter on global trends in financing for sustainable development.

The report was recognized as the first to fully acknowledge the investment implications of the minimum tax. It positions UNCTAD as a leading development partner to advise investment policymakers on the most effective strategies to optimize the investment response to the tax reforms – depending on a country's development and industrial priorities.

**We conducted an in-depth review of investment trends in climate change mitigation and adaptation**

### What progress on investing in the Sustainable Development Goals?

UNCTAD has carried out in-depth analysis about progress on investing in the SDGs and runs several important initiatives to support sustainable finance. These include the Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative, the Institutional Investors Partnership, and International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR).

We also conducted an in-depth review of investment trends in climate change mitigation and adaptation. This complemented our extensively researched studies on investment treaties, which examine the interaction between international investment agreements and climate action.

A dedicated expert meeting focused on identifying best practices in investment policies to help reach the climate and environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We also explored trends and topical issues in the Global Investment Trends Monitor and in the Transnational Corporations Journal.

### Promoting investment for sustainable development

UNCTAD's lead role in national and international investment policymaking continues to be reaffirmed at all levels.

We prepared the G20 Compendium on Promoting Investment for Sustainable Development. The compendium includes strategies, policies, investment promotion activities and aims to promote investment in sectors linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We also published two new joint UNCTAD-OECD policy-monitoring reports on G20 investment measures.

Over 130 countries and regional groupings benefited from UNCTAD's guiding principles on investment policymaking. These include country members of the G20; the African,



Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, and the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. In 2022, UNCTAD devised two new sets of guiding principles for the Islamic Development Bank and the League of Arab States. UNCTAD also supported African countries and the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in negotiating the Investment Protocol of the AfCFTA.

UNCTAD's Investment Policy Review (IPR) programme conducted capacity-building on investment and enterprise for development. We finalized a report on implementing the IPRs of Tajikistan and finalized an IPR for Togo. Further assistance was extended to Angola, Cabo Verde, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nigeria.

UNCTAD continued to provide support and policy analysis for member States carrying out comprehensive reviews of their investment treaty networks and designing model investment treaties. UNCTAD also contributed to designing and revising regional agreements.

UNCTAD's Investment Policy Monitors and our online databases for national investment-related regulations and international investment agreements continued to provide up-to-date information to support policymaking.

### A focus on special economic zones for sustainable development

UNCTAD's investment promotion programme continued to facilitate investment in sustainable development projects and to emphasize sectors such as renewable energy, digital infrastructure, health, food security and the blue economy.

In May 2022, we launched the Global Alliance for Special Economic Zones, which will advance a new generation of special economic zones to support sustainable development objectives. The alliance represents 7,000 special economic zones, employing over 100 million people in 145 countries.

Small, weak and vulnerable economies received specific attention: UNCTAD led the first joint UN agency training programme aimed at building capacity for investment promotion agencies from least developed countries. This programme should attract and facilitate investment, particularly in SDG-related sectors.



By the end of 2022  
we had published  
reviews for

**55**

economies  
worldwide

**21**

Countries have  
implemented  
more than

**500**

UNCTAD  
recommendations

**Investment  
promotion and  
facilitation training**  
attracted



**430**

participants  
from over

**70**

countries  
in 2022,  
of whom

**41%**

were female

### Investment Promotion Awards



UNCTAD's Investment Promotion Awards marked the 20th anniversary in 2022. Since 2002, more than 60 agencies have received prizes and special recognition for excellence in promoting and facilitating investment and for their contributions to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Each year, the UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards celebrate excellence in national efforts made to attract investment in sustainable development.

In 2022, the best-performing investment promotion agencies received awards for their exceptional achievements in promoting and facilitating sustainable investment in agribusiness.



## Web-based systems improve business

UNCTAD's web-based e-government systems, including eRegulations, eRegistration and GER.co, continue to help countries improve their investment, trade and business climate. The systems make rules and procedures around creating and operating businesses much simpler, automated and more transparent. Evidence of impact abounds:

- ▶ **In Benin**, company registration doubled in the two years following installation (2020-2022), one third by women, half under 30s and half from outside the capital city.
- ▶ **In Baghdad**, 3,000 new businesses were registered online in the first year of operation. Based on this success, the Government of Iraq is rolling out the online business registration system across the whole country.
- ▶ **In El Salvador**, an online registration system saw a 25% increase in employees registering for social security.
- ▶ **In Bhutan**, 5,500 Bhutanese, almost 1% of the population used the service to register a business – 52% of them were women. As of 31 December 2022, more than 25 countries were beneficiaries of the programme.

In line with the requirements of the ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations Investment Facilitation Framework, UNCTAD launched a new digital investment facilitation tool, which monitors and tracks how ASEAN members are developing their digital single windows and information portals.

## Securing intellectual property rights

We continue to support developing countries to benefit from partnerships on intellectual property rights and the transfer of emerging technologies. In particular, we support local production of pharmaceuticals as a way of promoting better access to medicines.

In 2022, UNCTAD supported the East African Community (EAC) to locally produce essential antibiotics, considering the need to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). UNCTAD convened a regional expert meeting in November 2022 in Nairobi, in partnership with the EAC Secretariat, with the participation of 25 regional and international experts who discussed how to promote production of essential antibiotics in the region.

The meeting adopted a regional framework for producing essential antibiotics and a regional information exchange mechanism on supplying antibiotics.

## Fostering enterprise competitiveness

In 2022 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution that acknowledges the value of the Empretec programme and UNCTAD's policy advisory work on enterprise development. The resolution requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with UNCTAD, to submit a report on how this work is being implemented.

- ▶ UNCTAD's entrepreneurship policy frameworks and implementation guidance **served as a reference document to assist the Governments of Seychelles, South Africa and Uganda** in formulating and implementing policies that enable green, resilient and inclusive entrepreneurship and promote micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.



- ▶ **An impact assessment** conducted in Ecuador demonstrated the extent to which implementing an entrepreneurship policy framework in the country improved the entrepreneurial ecosystem. We published two editions of a new series called “The new frontier in entrepreneurship”. These were entitled “Urban expansion, an entrepreneur’s playground” and “Entrepreneurship and innovation in the new health economy”.
- ▶ We continued to consolidate Empretec operations in 2022 and 29 centres are now fully operational.
- ▶ A total of 425 people, of whom 51% were female, benefited from 19 **Empretec training** sessions organized in 2022.
- ▶ The annual **meeting of Empretec directors** held in December 2022 praised our new training methodologies and online tools and products.

### Helping countries with data and reporting

The 39th annual session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) attracted 495 registered participants from 87 countries.

Delegations acknowledged the regional partnerships created by UNCTAD in Africa and Latin America, which comprise more than 80 member organizations. These help member States prepare to implement global sustainability reporting standards and related requirements.

We also held the ISAR Honours Awards, which attracted a record number of 65 candidates.

- ▶ Other highlights of UNCTAD’s work in accounting and reporting include an update of UNCTAD’s Guidance on Core Indicators for Sustainability and SDG Impact Reporting, and a policy guide on sustainability reporting
- ▶ Capacity-building included online training materials, such as an eAccounting tool that addresses the need for adequate literacy for reporting
- ▶ We also delivered courses on financial and sustainability reporting, benefitting a total of 1,989 participants

We delivered courses on financial reporting and on sustainability reporting for



**1,989**  
participants



ISAR Honours celebrate national and international best practices on sustainability reporting by private and public sectors.



## Launch of the Sustainable Finance Observatory

UNCTAD launched the United Nations Global Sustainable Finance Observatory. This digital hub will create an enabling ecosystem to support sustainable finance and bring more credibility, accountability and consistency to the markets. The platform's features include a sustainable funds database, which currently contains sustainability data for over 700 funds, and a sustainable finance regulations platform, which maps the policy and regulatory environment for sustainable finance for 35 countries and country groupings, representing 93% of global GDP.

## Promoting corporate investment in sustainable development

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative (SSE initiative) remains a strong catalyst for behavioural change and for directing capital markets towards SDG-oriented outcomes.

In 2022, a series of workshops and seminars provided technical assistance on responsible investment in climate disclosure, new developments in ESG disclosures, gender equality, the blue economy and labour issues.

Overall, 70 training sessions took place, attended by some 12,623 people from the private and public sectors, including stock exchanges, international organizations and government regulators.

In 2022, SSE membership grew to include 120 stock exchanges, with \$127 billion in market capitalization. The initiative has become the premier global platform for collaboration between stock exchanges, capital market regulators, investors, issuers and financial service providers to meet the SDGs.

We delivered



**70**

**training sessions**

on the International  
Stock Exchange  
initiative,  
which reached

**12,623**  
**people**

from the public and  
private sectors

### Enterprise for youth



The 2022 edition of the United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum took place virtually on 19 and 20 April. UNCTAD Youth Network members participated in sessions on financing future development and transforming education. Sessions highlighted the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships with youth to create new jobs and accelerate digital transformation.



Workers use a remote-controlled drone to monitor containers at a port.

©Shutterstock / kckate16

### Enabling women-led businesses to thrive in challenging times

We compiled success stories of **21 women entrepreneurs** to examine what it takes to make women-led businesses thrive in challenging times.

These women entrepreneurs, hailing from developing countries, have defied myriad challenges to build successful businesses. They have been trained through UNCTAD's flagship capacity-building programme, Empretec.

Their experiences in building companies from the ground-up – overcoming gender stereotypes, promoting social responsibility and supporting other women – are detailed in a report entitled “Women in Business, building purpose-driven enterprises amid crises”.

Since 1988, Empretec has trained more than half a million entrepreneurs from developing nations. In the past three years, up to 56% of Empretec trainees in 14 countries were women. The programme currently has 41 national business development centres globally, with 40 international master trainers and 600 local certified trainers.

”

**It is my hope that the stories of these 21 ‘Empretec Champions’ and the ingenuity and resilience they display amid crises, is a source of inspiration for other women and girls looking for role models and hope in these turbulent times.**

**Rebeca Grynspan**  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD



## International Trade and Commodities







©Shutterstock / Kongkoon



## When ecology and economy go hand-in-hand

**UNCTAD builds consensus, strengthens capacity and promotes partnerships for trade policy, trade negotiations, trade in goods and services, competition law and consumer protection. We manage issues at the intersection of trade, the environment and climate change.**

**UNCTAD builds consensus, strengthens capacity and fosters partnerships for trade policy, analysis and negotiations.**

**Our quarterly Global Trade Update provides evidence-based analysis to make world trade an engine for sustainable development.**

**We work with governments to build green and blue economies, ensuring trade is part of the solution to climate change.**

**We promote competition and support policies that protect and empower consumers.**

## Angola diversifies its economy

Train for Trade II, a capacity-building programme funded by the European Union, offers Angolans the opportunity to diversify into different economic sectors and develop sustainable ways to leverage the country's economic potential.

The programme focuses on overcoming the main challenges to Angola's social and economic growth. A broader objective is to improve capacities to ensure Angola can benefit from global and intra-regional trade and multilateral and regional trade negotiations.

In 2022 UNCTAD supported Angola in developing a training programme for government officials to bolster trade in services. We helped Angola to prepare for trade in services opportunities under the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU.

The training programme will help officials to implement trade in services reforms arising from its obligations under the WTO and other regional and multilateral arrangements. Training workshops in 2022 covered areas such as:

- ▶ The economic impact of Angola's accession to the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement
- ▶ Intellectual property rights
- ▶ Trade policy frameworks and trade negotiation techniques and how to harness the creative economy

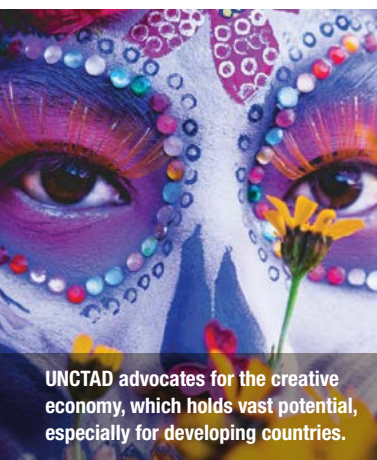
## Culture and services is fastest-growing sector

The creative economy is one of the world's fastest-growing sectors. Rooted in ideas and the arts, cultural goods and services, research and development, the creative economy can help diversify production, build competitive advantage, attract investment, support entrepreneurship and innovation, and promote cultural diversity and well-being.

In 2022, UNCTAD published the Creative Economy Outlook 2022, providing the latest data and trends on this powerhouse sector and how developing countries can capitalise on this opportunity. The publication was launched in October at the 3rd World Congress on the Creative Economy in Bali, Indonesia, and includes national plans and strategies for 33 economies.



**More**  
on Angola  
Programme  
p.63



UNCTAD advocates for the creative economy, which holds vast potential, especially for developing countries.

## Will the tide turn towards a Blue Deal?

Dubbed the “ocean super year”, 2022 was a landmark year for the environment and international trade. UNCTAD supported its member States in achieving ambitious outcomes at the 2nd UN Ocean Conference, the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, COP27, CITES COP19, CBD COP15 and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.

We also convened a more in-depth 4th UN Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of SDG 14 with 500 stakeholders calling for a Blue Deal for economic recovery and sustainable growth. At the UN Ocean Conference, there were proposals for 40 specific policy-oriented recommendations demonstrating trade-related solutions for the ocean.

UNCTAD's policy-oriented research supported the adoption of the WTO Agreement to end prohibited fisheries subsidies and assisted 14 Caribbean and Central American countries in developing their Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies and their Blue BioTrade (regional and national) action plans.



## A buzz around new export opportunities for honey

Through structured discussions with national stakeholders, analytical research on trade and climate change, UNCTAD worked closely with 20 African countries to identify green value chains, which are likely to grow under the AfCFTA trade agreement. We also assessed the impacts of climate change on productivity. Also in Africa, UNCTAD's National Green Export Review project for Angola will support a national honey plan. This will provide training to women in rural communities to enhance honey productivity and quality, with a view to creating new export opportunities.

**We worked with 20 African countries to identify new green value chains**

## Plastic substitutes reduce pollution

Trade in global plastics substitutes reached \$388 billion in 2020, around one third of global plastics trade (nearly \$1.2 trillion). UNCTAD introduced a new cluster of potential plastics substitutes, including 282 materials and products that were added to the Harmonized System (HS). Materials such as natural fibres and agricultural wastes can act as plastics substitutes. These work in a similar way to plastics, but have lower end-of-life environmental impacts.

The plastics analysis was coordinated with nine technical assistance projects initiated in 2022 across various countries in Africa and South Asia. The focus was on reducing plastic as part of UNCTAD's partnership with the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution programme (SMEP) established by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

## Trade and biodiversity

UNCTAD continued to coordinate the Global BioTrade Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development, which was extended until October 2024. The programme helps support stakeholders to seize and capitalize on trade opportunities from linking biodiversity and sustainable development.

In 2022, UNCTAD continued to contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework process: we launched the Trade and Biodiversity Statistical tool (TraBio) that supports policymakers and other stakeholders to access trade flow data and economic indicators of biodiversity-based products. We also organized a series of events and capacity-building activities and conducted studies on trade and biodiversity.



## Outcomes

- ▶ 43 countries received technical assistance in the areas of oceans, climate, sustainable manufacturing and BioTrade/sustainable trade
- ▶ 2,500 stakeholders participated in trade and environment forums and side events
- ▶ Six submissions made to the WTO, UN Ocean Conference, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and UNEP on plastic substitutes and marine CITES-listed species
- ▶ Eight country studies and five regional action plans/reports were published on climate change, ocean economy, Blue BioTrade, plastic substitutes and the honey value chain
- ▶ The first ever **Ocean Trade Database** and a **dashboard** on pollution and exports
- ▶ Launched TraBio jointly with UNCTADstat



## IMPACT STORY

### Blue BioTrade in the Caribbean

Queen conch is one of the Caribbean's most iconic and **valuable fishery resources**. It is strongly linked to the region's culture and economy. Uncontrolled harvesting and illegal landings means queen conch is now regulated to ensure it is legal and sustainable. Caribbean countries are piloting a more sustainable trade of queen conch to promote social and economic development and pilot best practices in ocean economy value chains. The pilot is driven by the **Blue BioTrade project** and a **regional Blue BioTrade plan of action**.

## Empowering women traders at borders

The aftershocks of COVID-19 continued to affect cross-border trade businesses in 2022. Sporadic lockdowns, supply chain disruptions, a decrease in clients and increased operational costs hampered trade at strategic border points.

UNCTAD engaged closely with border communities and policymakers in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia to support women traders at borders. We trained 150 female cross-border traders on different trade rules and customs procedures. We also helped them to develop entrepreneurial skills and generate ideas on how to make their businesses more resilient.



At a policy dialogue held in Dar es Salaam in June, UNCTAD explored how to upgrade cross-border trading from a subsistence activity to a sustainable one.

What emerged was the need for more transparent trade rules, enhanced access to credit and women's empowerment funds. Marketing support and improving access to technology and digital platforms would also boost women's opportunities.

Participants at the workshop pledged to formulate concrete initiatives to improve the prospects of women traders and enhance the contribution of cross-border trade to broader economic development.

To support micro businesses, we trained



**150**

**small-scale female cross-border traders,** vastly improving their knowledge of customs procedures

### Towards stronger commodity value chains for export

- ▶ **In Lao PDR,** following the implementation of the project “Integrating Landlocked Commodity Dependent Developing Countries into Regional and Global Value Chains”, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce decided to incorporate policy recommendations into existing and future sectoral policies for maize and agriculture.
- ▶ **In Togo and Malawi,** UNCTAD published feasibility studies on cotton by-products. Priorities regarding opportunities for cotton by-products were discussed with local authorities and policy recommendations presented to the Ministry of Trade of Malawi. These findings will form the basis for a second phase of capacity-building activities, subject to fundraising.
- ▶ **In Malawi,** UNCTAD designed an implementation strategy to develop cotton by-products in response to a government request to set up an inter-ministerial working group on the topic. The strategy includes potential cotton-based industrialization pathways for Malawi by leveraging the potential offered by AfCFTA.

### Sustainable supply chains in the spotlight

- ▶ In October 2022, UNCTAD put sustainable supply chains in the spotlight at the Brussels Dialogue on Sustainable Trade and Development Opportunities. Developed country partners and policymakers discussed how to create sustainable supply chains by leveraging trade tools such as voluntary sustainability standards (VSS).
- ▶ UNCTAD published the handbook “VSS in International Trade”, which provides evidence on the effectiveness of voluntary sustainability standards and helps practitioners leverage the benefits of VSS to support smallholders in building capacity.

### Competition and consumer protection

UNCTAD continued to build consensus on competition and consumer protection. In 2022, we extended the number of informal working groups to include discussions on cross-border cartels, consumer protection in electronic commerce, consumer product safety, consumer protection and gender.

Our technical cooperation project on consumer online dispute resolution reached more than 150 government officials. We positively responded to seven out of 13 country requests for technical cooperation on competition and consumer protection.

UNCTAD released eight publications on the topics of competition and consumer protection. These focused on: access by consumers to essential services – energy, water and sanitation; the COVID-19 pandemic impact on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; the voluntary peer reviews on competition in Bangladesh and consumer protection in Thailand; competition and consumer policies for sustainability; strengthening consumer protection within health services; social infrastructure for health guidance for social and consumer protection;

- ▶ We organized 27 public events in nine countries on competition and consumer protection
- ▶ We intervened in 54 events related to competition and consumer protection
- ▶ We celebrated World Consumer Rights Day on 15 March, under the theme “Empowering consumers for sustainable consumption”

### Strengthening competition law for developing small businesses

In 2021, UNCTAD conducted the “Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy” in Malawi. One of the recommendations of the report was to repeal the current law and to build enforcement capacity for the Competition and Fair-Trading Commission. In 2022, a new law was drafted, supported by a capacity-building training event.



### Indonesian consumers gain trust in the digital economy



Indonesia holds a promising yet untapped potential for e-commerce and could become Southeast Asia's largest retail market (\$162 billion in 2020). However, there is a need to promote the importance of consumer trust and dispute resolution.

In 2021, Indonesia's consumer agency Badan Perlindungan Konsumen Indonesia (BPKN) joined UNCTAD's technical cooperation project, "Delivering digital trading infrastructure and online dispute resolution for consumers as a means to improve international trade and electronic commerce". The project identified a national framework for consumer complaints handling and dispute resolution.

UNCTAD organized a workshop analysing experiences on applied technologies. UNCTAD and BPKN are developing online consumer dispute resolution software to make it easier for consumers to solve their issues.

At the end of 2022, the United Nations Development Account Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises sector (2020-2022) conducted an online course on the connection between competition and how SMEs can develop. In total, 67 out of 141 enrolled participants passed the course. In July 2022, UNCTAD conducted a voluntary peer review on competition law and policy in Bangladesh, which for the first time, covered the SME sector.



## UNCTAD provides tools to access trade data

### Global Trade

UNCTAD produces the “Global Trade Update” (GTU), an online publication providing up-to-date statistics, nowcast estimates, and an outlook on the trends and patterns of international trade. The statistics and themes of the publication have been widely reported in the media. GTU data has been useful for UN documents, analytical papers and policy briefs.

### Market access

UNCTAD collects and updates data on various market access issues such as tariffs, non-tariff measures (NTMs), and voluntary sustainability standards (VSS). Data on NTMs from 109 countries are available on the [TRAINS portal](#), with over 100,000 NTM measures. The methodology is standardized across countries to ensure comparability. The same data is made available through the [Global Trade Helpdesk](#) and [WITS](#) in collaboration with other institutions.

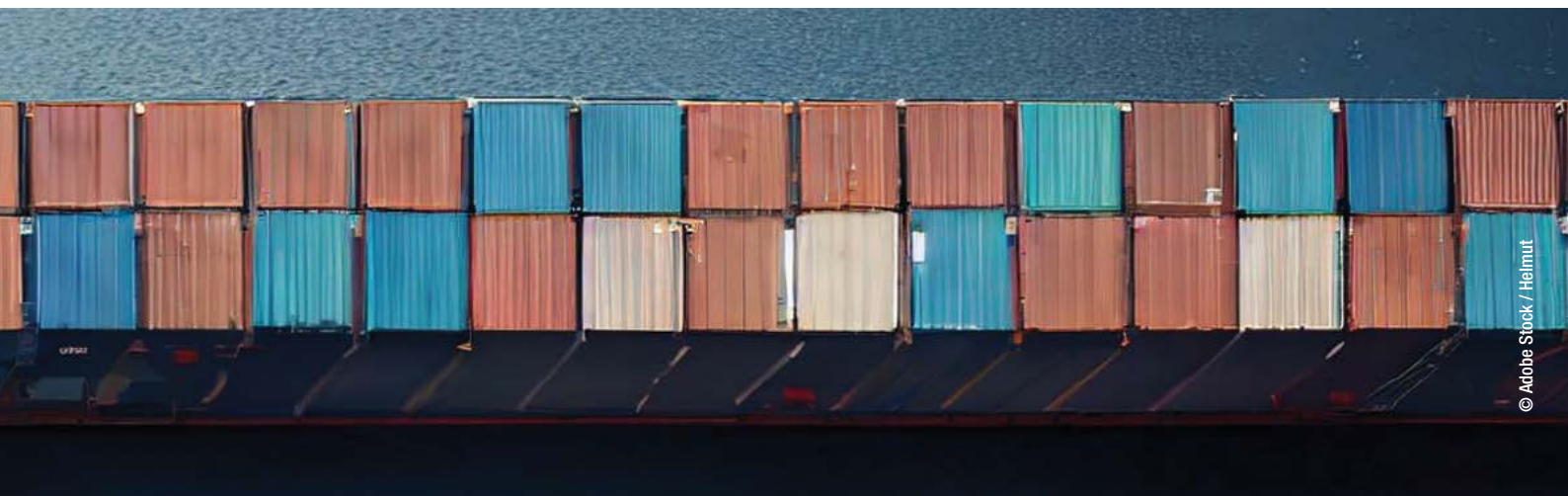
### Flagship report on sustainability and developing countries

UNCTAD is the secretariat for the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards. In 2022 we launched the 5th Flagship Report: [VSS, Sustainability Agenda and Developing Countries Opportunities and Challenges](#), which highlighted the governance gaps between developed and developing countries and the need to harmonize sustainability standards. [Another report](#) presents evidence and data for leveraging market-based tools like VSS to achieve gender equality in developing countries.

### Non-tariff barriers reporting

UNCTAD was involved in developing the official non-tariff barriers reporting, monitoring and eliminating mechanism of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The mechanism allows African micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to report trade obstacles that they face. National focal points (specially selected individuals) were nominated by UNCTAD to monitor and resolve these barriers.





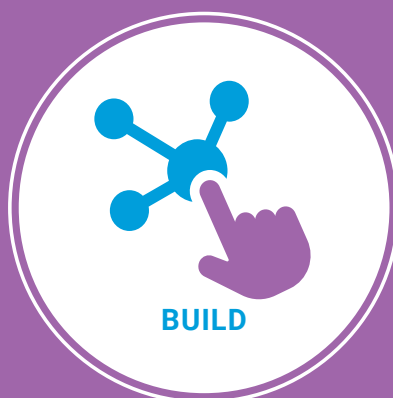
## Training

UNCTAD provides training to governments and the public. This includes training on UNCTAD's VSS Analytical Toolkit and through the NTM Academy, which offers courses on collecting regulations and which offers courses on collecting regulations and NTM data, NTM and sustainable development and analysis of NTMs. The courses are available at <https://elearningtrade.unctad.org/>

- ▶ UNCTAD, through the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, supported 10 national multi-stakeholder platforms and national initiatives and accommodated more than 500 online and in-person participants for the launch of the 5th Flagship Report
- ▶ Users of the AfCFTA non-tariff barriers website increased by 22% from 8,200 in 2021 to 10,000 in 2022
- ▶ In 2022, the NTM Academy ran six different courses on NTM data collection, trade regulations, NTMs and sustainable development, and economic analysis of NTMs
- ▶ Online course on trade and gender, which attracted over 400 participants in 2022



## Technology and Logistics





## **Making technology work for development**

**UNCTAD seeks to strengthen inclusive growth and development through science, technology and innovation. We leverage information and communications technology to build efficient, resilient and sustainable trade logistics services, offering training and capacity-building programmes.**





UNCTAD'S Digital  
Economy Report 2021  
has been downloaded

**120,000**  
times

**Our technology and logistics work includes UNCTAD's largest technical cooperation programme, the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), which administers and harmonizes customs transactions around the world.**

**We produce the Review of Maritime Transport, a key report published annually since 1968. Its 2022 edition called for greater investment in maritime supply chains to help countries better prepare for future global crises, climate change and the transition to low-carbon energy.**

**We also run eCommerce Week, an international event typically attended by 130 countries to discuss the development opportunities and challenges associated with the digital economy.**

### How digital trade drives development

UNCTAD's analysis of G20 members' current laws and regulations in the digital economy fed into the G20 digital economy ministers meeting and the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration. Both reaffirmed the role of data for development.

UNCTAD supported the work on data and development under India's G20 Presidency and the digital economy under China's BRICS Presidency.

UNCTAD supported Indonesia's G20 Presidency as a knowledge partner for the digital economy Working Group's work on data flows, with inputs based on the Digital Economy Report 2021. The report informed two UN General Assembly resolutions on information and communications technologies for sustainable development. It also made a mark in scholarly research, prompting discussions on the risks of fragmentation in digital policymaking.

### Getting ready for eTrade

UNCTAD worked with developing countries to assess their e-commerce environments and ambitions. We conducted eTrade readiness assessments (eT Readies) to determine whether countries were prepared for an e-commerce environment. We also helped countries develop e-commerce strategies and action plans.

UNCTAD supported Kenya's government, the ECOWAS Commission and member States to draft e-commerce strategies. We devised action plans for Jordan and Tunisia. Work on new eT Readies started in Mongolia, Peru and Mauritania, and an eT Ready action plan began in Malawi.

### More digital data needed

UNCTAD launched a new online course based on the revised "Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy".

Thirty-eight representatives from national statistical offices, including 25 women, took part in the training.

In the area of e-commerce and law reform, we conducted a workshop on the Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce for 46 government officials from Kazakhstan, including 24 women.

The eTrade for all initiative welcomed the International Chamber of Commerce as its main private sector counterpart. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Digital Cooperation Organization also joined, raising membership to 35 partners.

The fifth session of the intergovernmental group of experts on e-commerce and the digital economy resulted in policy recommendations on how to recover from COVID-19 in an increasingly digital economy.



## eCommerce Week 2022 in numbers

The 2022 edition of the UNCTAD eCommerce Week took place in April, under the theme “Data and Digitalization for Development”. More than 2,600 participants from 139 countries, including 30 LDCs, attended one or more of the eight high-level events and over 100 thematic sessions organized by 550 speakers and moderators, including 31 “eTrade for all” partners. Of the registered participants, 48% were female, a 4% increase compared with 2019.

# eCommerce Week

25–29 April 2022, Geneva



Data and Digitalization for Development



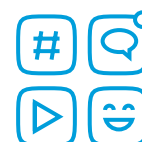
Download  
the report

## eCommerce Week



**450+**  
tweets

**23.7 million**  
people reached on  
Twitter



**1,000+**  
social media  
contributors

**51.3 million**  
people reached on  
news, blogs  
and web

## Trade Logistics

### Ensuring resilient maritime supply chains and seaports

The need for resilient supply chains came to the forefront during the 2020-2022 maritime supply chain crisis. Thanks to UNCTAD's research – including the Review of Maritime Transport – and technical assistance, policymakers and maritime transport stakeholders are better positioned to take informed decisions and action for maritime transport resilience. UNCTAD released a new web portal, “Resilient Maritime Logistics”, analytical reports, maritime statistics, policy briefs and a course entitled “Ports and Maritime Supply Chain Resilience”. The “Guidebook for Ports on Building Capacity to Manage Risks and Enhance Resilience” offers a practical approach to maritime supply chain resilience-building.

A separate course, “Building Port Resilience Against Pandemics” provided practical solutions for port managers. More than 1,500 participants completed simulation exercises designed to enhance participants' e-learning experience.

### No seafarers, no shipping. No shipping, no trade

Seafarers – most of whom are from developing countries – were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The resulting crew change crisis left seafarers stranded on their ships far beyond contracted periods. UNCTAD helped facilitate crew changes, including through our participation in an Ad hoc UN inter-agency task force established by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, as well as a joint ILO-IMO-UNCTAD-WHO statement, which provided 10 recommendations to address the crew change crisis and avoid supply chain disruptions.





Online Trade  
Facilitation Innovation  
Days attracted

**70**

participants from

**100**

countries

**Our digital trade  
facilitation  
solutions helped  
keep ships  
moving during  
the pandemic**

## Facilitating trade in times of the pandemic

Trade facilitation solutions – in particular digital and paperless processes – have become crucial to keeping ships moving and cross-border trade flowing during the pandemic. UNCTAD has been leading global efforts to advance necessary reforms.

Our e-learning platform for the national trade facilitation committees has new training modules, tools and the UNCTAD rapid scan of trade facilitation preparedness in times of crisis. All of these have led to:

- ▶ Improved coordination by strengthening capacity and using the Reform Tracker as a tool to monitor reforms in trade facilitation
- ▶ Increased transparency and simplified trade procedures thanks to our trade information portals
- ▶ Greater supply chain efficiency, thanks to modernized trade processes

The Global Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees provided a platform for global outreach and sharing best practices by reaching 1,300 participants from 150 countries. Trade facilitation innovation days attracted more than 700 registrants, and celebrations for the second anniversary of the Reform Tracker drew 400 participants.

## Commercial law implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic had significant legal implications for commercial contracts in international trade and transport. There is a real need to reduce costly litigation procedures and share better information about commercial contracting practices. UNCTAD published analytical reports on this topic and delivered extensive online training activities. We delivered four online courses specifically aimed at female legal advisers in developing countries. In total, 224 participants from 60 countries took part - 70% from developing countries, 51% female.

## Skilling up for sustainable development

In 2022 UNCTAD's Train for Trade programme boosted the professional skills of 4,746 participants (39% women) from 194 countries or territories. We organized 46 training sessions and a large face-to-face event, the Port Management Week, in May in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), with 93 port professionals representing 41 institutions from 23 countries.

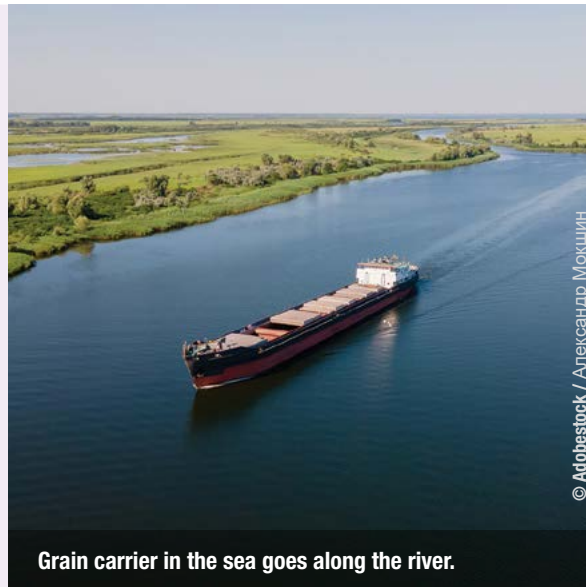
## Gamification and blended learning

Train for Trade continued to use gamification in its training. Its new "Port Endeavor Game" accelerates how port communities adopt the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A needs assessment report published in October revealed how difficult it is for small island developing states (SIDS) to develop their e-trade and digital services. UNCTAD launched a new blended learning project in July based on boosting the digital economy in SIDS, covering the legal aspects of e-commerce, digital identity for trade and development and digital economy statistics.

## Urgent need for seaports to adapt to climate change

Even as developing countries recover from the pandemic, they must continue to build climate resilience. UNCTAD published a policy brief entitled "Climate-resilience of seaports: Adequate finance is critical for developing countries but remains a major challenge", which highlights the urgent need to scale up investment in climate adaptation in the form of grants, rather than loans, for developing countries.



Grain carrier in the sea goes along the river.

### Supporting global supply chains

UNCTAD played an instrumental role in assessing how the war in Ukraine impacted supply chains, energy supply and food security. In February 2022, the crisis required a rapid assessment of impacts on trade and development. Grain shipments came to a halt at the start of the war until the Black Sea Initiative was agreed in July 2022.

The initiative was informed by UNCTAD's near-real time data on ship movements, port activity and vessel calls, shipping costs and vessel routing.

By enabling evidence-based proposals and decisions, the deal allowed Ukrainian grain to flow via Black Sea ports and reach their market destinations, including in food-importing developing regions.

### Automated System for Customs Data programme

In 2022, UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) was used in 102 countries and territories, including 38 LDCs, 23 LLDCs and 41 SIDS. During the year, the programme signed 26 new national projects for a total sum of \$19.7 million.

In October 2022, the ASYCUDA programme and World Customs Organization signed a memorandum of understanding to promote digitalization, facilitate trade and improve customs controls worldwide.

#### Activities in 2022

- ▶ ASYCUDAWorld was implemented or upgraded in Albania, Belize, Chad, Cook Islands, El Salvador, Gambia, Jordan, Montserrat, the State of Palestine, Rwanda, Tonga and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- ▶ Afghanistan's customs agency and the ASYCUDA programme implemented a dedicated system to streamline the process for requesting tax exemptions and reduce the clearance time for exempted and humanitarian goods



- ▶ Burundi's Agency for Development put in place a single window module to automatically manage tax exemptions
- ▶ Jamaica's single window for trade integrated new digitized trade services for key cross-border agencies
- ▶ Mozambique launched eCITES, a permit management system for the international trade of endangered species, developed by ASYCUDA and the CITES Secretariat
- ▶ Timor-Leste's single window now includes the Ministry of Health and the National Directorate of Land Transport
- ▶ Togo became the third country after Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar to install ASYADN, a software module that makes it easier to compile trade statistics by extracting customs data for WTO
- ▶ Vanuatu's electronic exchange of advance data between ASYCUDAWorld and UPU's customs declaration system now ensures that 100% of postal consignments can be accessed via the single window
- ▶ Zimbabwe launched the single window for trade based on ASYCUDA technology



A course led by the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) offered

**300**  
training sessions  
to  
**3,500**  
participants

**Cambodia's  
customs  
revenue  
increased by  
17% from 2021  
to 2022 thanks  
to digitization  
and training**

### Capacity-building

In 2022, ASYCUDA delivered more than **300 training sessions to over 3,500 participants** around the world. The sessions are designed to boost digitization efforts and enhance post-pandemic recovery. This includes the P166 course, UNCTAD's flagship capacity-building programme.

Entitled "Trade Facilitation and Development through Greater Digitalization and Enhanced Connectivity", ASYCUDA's P166 course covered the benefits and reasons for digitalization and connectivity among partner governmental agencies.

### Impact

- ▶ In Afghanistan, 33,370 customs declarations were made by UN agencies and 984 by humanitarian NGOs
- ▶ In Antigua and Barbuda, customs reported that revenue collection for 2022 increased by 12%, nearly returning to pre-pandemic levels
- ▶ In Bangladesh, customs revenue collected during the second half of 2022 increased by 11% compared to the same period in 2021
- ▶ Cambodia's customs revenue increased by 17% from 2021 to 2022
- ▶ Customs revenue doubled following the successful launch of ASYCUDAWorld at the International Airport of N'Djamena in Chad
- ▶ In Gambia, after the launch of ASYCUDAWorld, the Association for Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents registered 127 clearing and forwarding agents and created over 1,000 jobs
- ▶ Papua New Guinea customs recorded a revenue growth of 14% in 2022 compared with 2021
- ▶ In Sri Lanka, 1,178 permit requests to trade endangered species were issued by eCITES in 2022. Annual approval rates increased by 19% from 2021 to 2022. The average processing time for permits fell from 120 hours in 2020 to 27 hours in 2022



## A new catalogue with 45,000 products to diversify economies

In 2022, UNCTAD released a **Catalogue of Diversification Opportunities** which identifies over 45,000 new products with export potential which could help 233 economies to diversify.

The catalogue informs governments and other stakeholders about possible product areas where technology could be used to help economies expand and drive structural transformation.

In addition to accessing the **full catalogue**, users can download **fact sheets** corresponding to individual economies from the UNCTAD website, and the **full dataset** of possible new exports.



## Industry 4.0 must be innovative... and inclusive

UNCTAD released “**Industry 4.0 for inclusive development**”, a publication on the emergence of advanced digital production technologies within Industry 4.0 and their impact on the industrialization process in developing countries.

The report highlights how countries can take advantage of opportunities presented by Industry 4.0 and outlines what governments can do to ensure that Industry 4.0 does not increase inequality.

UNCTAD presented the results of the report at the Entrepreneurial Mobilization for Innovation meeting, in Brazil, in September 2022.



## Technical cooperation in science, technology and innovation

UNCTAD prepared and presented a study on innovation and entrepreneurship in Angola in collaboration with UNDP Angola. The study has helped inform Angola's science, technology and innovation policy and a roadmap for Angola's economic diversification. It focuses on how innovation can drive economic diversification by expanding production and technological capacities to produce goods and services that are new to the country to create more and better paid jobs.

## From natural resources to a knowledge-based economy in Botswana

UNCTAD produced an in-depth analysis of science, technology and innovation policies in Botswana with 27 strategic recommendations. This will help Botswana's capacity-building efforts to transform from a natural resource-based economy to a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy that promotes sustainable development.

The study also included the results of a technology foresight exercise that identified scenarios for Botswana's technological development and key policy areas.

### Knowledge development

In 2022, UNCTAD's capacity-building programme on key issues on the international economic agenda (P166) included three regional courses attended by 69 officials and six courses for Geneva-based delegates. Ranging from economic theories to trade policy and foreign direct investment, the programme's central theme is sustainable development. Building resilience post-pandemic has also been incorporated into the programme. During the year, 63 policymakers completed an online course entitled “Building Resilience and Responding to Shocks”.



## IMPACT STORY

### Cambodia's e-commerce industry projected to reach \$1.78 billion

Cambodia is the top performing country among those that have benefited from an UNCTAD eTrade readiness assessment. The country passed an e-commerce law in November 2019, and a decree in 2020 to ease registration for e-commerce businesses, together with a consumer protection law to safeguard the rights of online shoppers and businesses.

The country developed an e-commerce strategy to drive trade and economic growth with a view to becoming an upper middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

In 2022, Cambodia launched CambodiaTrade.com, an e-commerce platform that provides small and medium-sized enterprises better access to markets. To enhance delivery and distribution, the Cambodia Post is now connected to the ASYCUDA customs management system. The market value of e-commerce in Cambodia has increased to \$970 million, up 19% from 2020, with e-commerce revenue projected to reach \$1.78 billion by 2025.

### eTrade for Women drives impact at scale

Since 2019, UNCTAD has championed the eTrade for Women initiative, combining the transformative power of women entrepreneurship with the positive impact of digital technologies. The initiative supports a growing number of female digital entrepreneurs from developing countries, helping them to thrive as business leaders and become influential voices in the public policy debate.

### Becoming a trusted player at the policy table

UNCTAD has played a critical role in bringing the voice of women to the policy table, to shape more gender-oriented policies and help change the narrative. As an example, the eTrade for Women advocates, appointed by the UNCTAD Secretary-General, are a select group of women leaders in the digital economy, who play a crucial role in building bridges between the public and private sectors.

**The eTrade for Women masterclasses received over 750 applicants from Africa and the Arab region**

### Helping women thrive as business leaders in the digital economy

In 2022, UNCTAD organized three eTrade for Women masterclasses in French-speaking and English-speaking countries across Africa and in the Arab region. These empowerment events boost the skills of women digital entrepreneurs in developing countries. The initiative received over 750 applications for the three masterclasses. Over 85% of the participants rated the masterclasses as “extremely useful” in terms of assessing their business needs and gaining the leadership skills required to grow their businesses.

Our eTrade for Women initiative continued to bring the voice of digital women entrepreneurs to the forefront of policymaking on e-commerce and the digital economy. The third cohort of digital advocates trained close to 80 women digital entrepreneurs across Africa and the Arab region.

A new paper entitled “Fostering Women Entrepreneurship in the Digital Economy” outlined concrete steps to help more women develop successful digital businesses.

### Patricia Zoundi Yao: Digital entrepreneur and innovation ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire



Ms. Yao led UNCTAD's first eTrade for Women masterclass in Africa.

Patricia Zoundi Yao is a digital entrepreneur from Côte d'Ivoire and the eTrade for Women advocate for Western Africa. In this role, she inspires other women digital entrepreneurs, advocates for gender-inclusive digital ecosystems and influences policy decisions. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Executive Council of the Small and Medium Businesses Movement of Côte d'Ivoire, representing over 2,500 SMEs. In 2022, she took part in the regional consultations on the e-commerce strategy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) supported by UNCTAD. She's an active member of eTrade for Women through the initiative's Advisory Board.

### Connecting women digital entrepreneurs across the world

In 2022 eTrade for Women continued supporting digital women entrepreneurs through its community networks of women business founders. Since their launch in 2021, the communities have grown rapidly, reaching almost 200 women-owned businesses in over 40 developing countries. In 2022 the initiative organized more than 20 activities, from training workshops on business-related skills to inspirational talks.

### IMPACT STORY

#### Port programme opens ocean of opportunities for Bolivia

A river port in the landlocked nation that joined UNCTAD's port management programme is helping importers and exporters overcome logistics challenges.



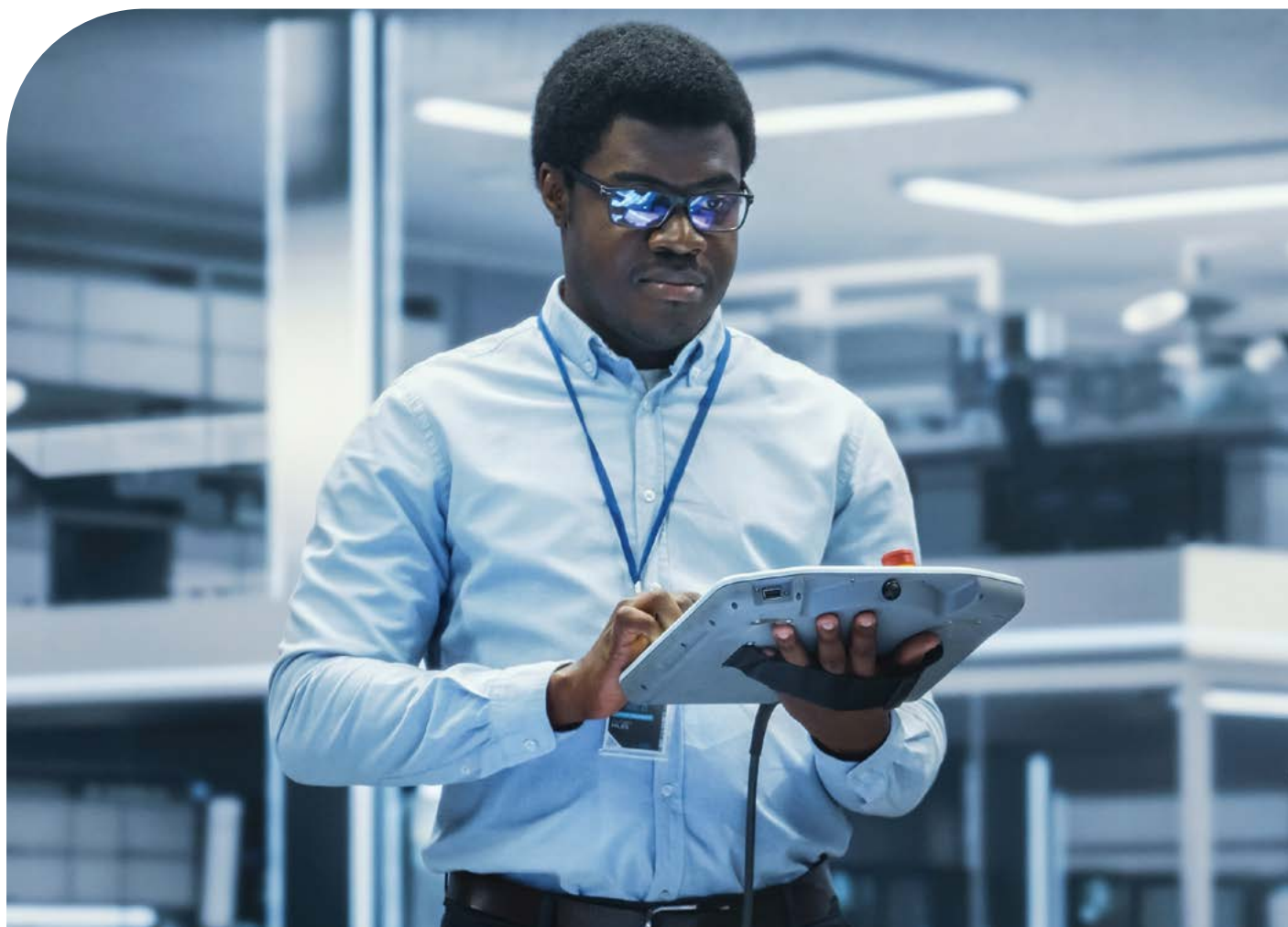
Bismark Rosales is the general manager of the port, located on the Paraguay-Paraná waterway.

© Port of Jenner



Read  
the full story





## Africa and least developed countries







## **Accelerating access to the global economy**

**UNCTAD seeks to beneficially integrate Africa, the least developed countries, small island developing states and other groups of countries in special situations into the global economy. We do this by developing national policies and encouraging international support measures that foster economic development and reduce poverty and inequalities.**

**UNCTAD's work in Africa, least developed countries, small island developing states and beyond aims at helping vulnerable economies achieve sustainable development by providing policy advice, technical assistance and mobilizing international support.**

**We support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for least developed countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries and the SAMOA Pathway for small island developing states.**

**Every year, our highly researched publications recommend ways to ensure structural transformation and advance sustainable development in these countries.**

### **Report recommends that Africa diversify into niche economies**

In 2022, UNCTAD contributed to policy dialogues and technical efforts to boost economic diversification, integrate regional trade and increase innovative and sustainable development financing.

UNCTAD's [Economic Development in Africa Report 2022](#), entitled "Rethinking the foundations of export diversification in Africa: The catalytic role of business and financial services" provided African policymakers and the private sector with tools to leverage high knowledge-intensive services. The report provided strategic recommendations for achieving higher value-added diversification and structural change under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We organized three webinars on the findings of the report, highlighting the importance of export diversification in Africa.

### **Least developed countries reduce vulnerabilities by joining global economy**

High on the agenda was how to prioritize capacity development for LDCs through research and technical assistance. Both will help LDCs integrate into the global economy and undertake structural transformation. This will reduce vulnerabilities and develop countries' productive capacities.

We published the [Least Developed Countries Report 2022](#), entitled "The low-carbon transition and its daunting implications for structural transformation" in November 2022. We launched the report in Geneva and presented it to policymakers in Senegal, Bangladesh and China, where it generated demand for collaboration and policy dialogue.

### **Supporting least developed countries to graduate**

In 2022, we supported Cambodia, the Comoros, Djibouti, Senegal and Zambia - countries that have prequalified for graduation and are due to be reviewed by the Committee for Development Policy. In dialogue with national stakeholders, we discussed each country's eligibility to graduate with momentum and explained the processes and consequences of graduation. We prepared vulnerability profiles mandated by the UN General Assembly, mapped the next phases of the graduation process and provided inputs to the countries' graduation assessments.

Discussions at the 24th plenary session of the Committee for Development Policy focused on assessing LDCs that were in the process of graduating or had recently graduated. These include Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In Bhutan, UNCTAD contributed to the Smooth Transition Strategy being prepared by the country's National Happiness Commission.

In Bangladesh, UNCTAD participated in the “High-level Panel Discussion on Sustainable Graduation in the Challenging Situation: Perspectives from Bangladesh and the Region in the light of Doha Programme of Action”, held during the 78th UNESCAP Commission Session. We contributed to the Productive Transformation Policy Review of Bangladesh, led by the OECD Development Centre. We finalized the project entitled “Helping least developed countries pursue structural economic progress towards and beyond graduation”, implemented from May 2018 to July 2022.

### Boosting productive capacities to achieve inclusive, sustainable development

UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index - <https://pci.unctad.org> - measures countries' capacity to achieve social and economic transformation. We highlighted the need for policymaking in developing countries to focus on fostering productive capacities and kick-starting structural economic transformation. This approach will significantly help member States build socioeconomic resilience to unforeseen shocks and achieve the SDGs.

LDCs in the process of graduating have committed to ensuring their domestic policies centre on fostering productive capacities:

- ▶ Rwanda dedicated two successive conferences of the Economic Policy Network to debating how to foster economy-wide productive capacities in the country.
- ▶ Lao PDR included a commitment to develop its graduation and productive capacities in its 9<sup>th</sup> social and economic development plan.

### Data highlights comparative advantages for development

UNCTAD's evidence-based, data-driven processes were used in 32 countries and served to identify comparative advantages and spotlight the binding constraints that may hinder development.

Our analyses contribute to gap assessments in national productive capacities. These gap assessments feed into multisectoral and multiyear intervention programmes, and encourage a shift away from traditional, sector-specific and short-term interventions.

We completed three national productive capacities gap analyses in Angola, Ethiopia and Zambia to identify gaps in productive capacities and provide policy recommendations that would advance structural transformation and sustainable development.

In total, needs assessment missions and the work of developing productive capacities as key to achieving structural transformation and sustainable development were conducted in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, as well as Cambodia (for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Timor-Leste), Kazakhstan, at the SPECA Economic Forum, (for Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) and Argentina, (for Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru), as well as in Switzerland.

Consultations were held with representatives of the Government of Botswana, Mongolia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

### Strategies support policymakers to transform economies

In 2022, training workshops in Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tanzania enhanced policymakers' capacities to develop country-specific strategies to develop productive capacity and reduce poverty.

## UNCTAD's national productive capacities gap assessments help countries devise long-term, holistic programmes

Capacity-building activities focused on productive capacities reached more than 500 policymakers and technical experts from 37 countries, including 18 LDCs and 8 LLDCs. From LDCs alone, the number of trainees exceeded 350.

- ▶ **We conducted seven capacity-building workshops on productive capacities**, benefitting policymakers in Africa (Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia).
- ▶ **We organized four workshops** on the Productive Capacities Index for statisticians in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia, encouraging stakeholders to use the index when addressing development challenges.
- ▶ **We held national workshops** on how developing productive capacities can eradicate poverty in Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tanzania. Participants said these events significantly improved their ability to formulate quality policies and strategies to enhance productive capacities and boost structural transformation.
- ▶ In Burkina Faso and Tanzania **we reviewed trade and industrial policies**, preparing an operational strategy document on enhancing productive capacities and assigning a policy implementation advisor in the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In Tanzania, 89% of respondents to a survey at the national workshop indicated that the workshops improved their ability to formulate quality policies and strategies, with 90% in Rwanda and 82% in Burkina Faso.

Outreach activities and consultations targeted more than 60 institutions attended by 145 representatives. Training activities organized for the G77 and other regional groupings on the PCI and productive capacities helped generate awareness among 51 governments, including 17 LDCs and 18 LLDCs.

We conducted needs assessment missions and policy research on the drivers of income and wealth inequalities in vulnerable developing countries. In December 2022, we presented some of this research at the Geneva Trade and Development Workshop.

### African countries work to combat illicit financial flows

In 2022, a number of African countries used UNCTAD's statistical measurement tools to produce estimates on illicit financial flows (IFFs) and develop evidence-based policy responses to curb IFFs and mobilize resources. We provided technical assistance to Burkina Faso and Zambia, giving policy practitioners greater capacity to measure commercial illicit financial flows and identify inherent risks, especially in the extractive sector. We encouraged stakeholders to develop evidence-based policy responses that would generate domestic revenue, advance national development objectives and achieve the SDGs.

### Support to least developed countries in negotiations

In collaboration with the European University Institute, UNCTAD assisted delegates from the WTO least developed countries' group to prepare for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. We prepared draft texts on rules of origin, which have been adopted by all WTO members.

### Enhancing rules of origin and the use of trade preferences

UNCTAD's research aims to identify best practices on rules of origin and related administrative procedures. We have developed clear websites that enhance monitoring when using trade preferences or when applying trade facilitation concepts to rules of origin certification procedures. Workshops took place in Argentina, Cambodia and Switzerland, and we collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to train G77 delegates in Geneva on financial integration, foreign debt and illicit financial flows, development finance, public finance and mobilizing resources.





## Angola in focus

### From oil dependency to emerging green sectors

The EU-UNCTAD joint programme for Angola, Train for Trade II, has helped the country develop its productive capacities, undergo structural transformation and diversify its economy, with a focus on green sectors. The programme builds capacity across the country's institutions and resources, identifies non-oil green products and facilitates integration into the regional and global economy to generate sustainable revenues for achieving the SDGs. In 2022, further capacity-building activities focused on enabling Angola to graduate with momentum. Angola's transformative and sustainable policy efforts have made it a flagship case for implementing the SDGs.

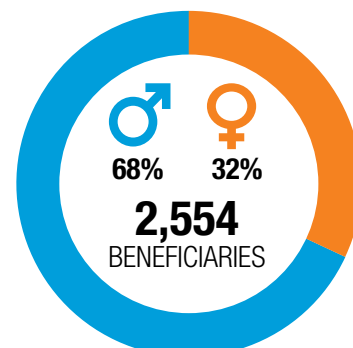
### A structured, stable path to diversification

Some of the interventions for Angola included diverse cross-sectoral efforts to bolster trade facilitation and support emerging green sectors. To realize this, 23 ministries and public and private institutions worked together to develop policies to diversify the economy and explore export opportunities in green sectors.

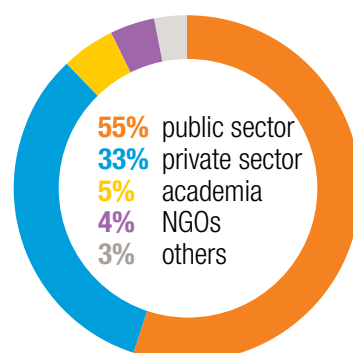
UNCTAD is supporting efforts aimed at developing the blue economy and meeting international standards for fisheries exports. We designed a policy for apiculture in Angola, supported by training and extension services.

UNCTAD has supported Angola to boost trade facilitation and protect intellectual property rights, develop logistics hubs and finance green sectors. We have conducted Empretec entrepreneurship training. UNCTAD has also implemented activities aimed at promoting investment in agribusiness, improving statistics of foreign direct investment, mobilizing institutional investment and bolstering trade negotiation techniques.

### Impact of the EU-UNCTAD Programme for Angola



from



## IMPACT STORY

### Angola implements the global goals

Angola is heavily dependent on oil, making it extremely vulnerable to external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Train for Trade substantially improved the capacity of Angola's national policymakers thanks to a holistic approach across seven interlinked economic policy areas. The programme has helped to draft and implement better policies and trained entrepreneurs to reap emerging opportunities. As a multisector programme, Train for Trade II contributes to most SDGs by comprehensively building productive capacities for sustainable diversification. In 2022 Angola was selected as a global success story on how to implement the SDGs.

## UNCTAD's work in Angola encourages exports of manufactured goods and value-added services

- ▶ Angola's exports of non-oil products have grown since 2016 in real terms and the value of total exports of the country to Southern African Development Community countries is on an upward trend
- ▶ Management of the local Empretec entrepreneurship training programme, part of Train for Trade II, was handed over to a national private sector association which now functions as the Empretec host institution in the country



A worker operates in a beverages factory in Angola.

## Young people gain a better understanding of economic development

In 2022, UNCTAD's Regional Office for Africa boosted social media activities to increase visibility on the continent. We trained young people through our internship programme, improving their knowledge of the economic and development context in Africa, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

### IMPACT STORY

#### Training sessions lead to better policymaking

In 2022 our work on productive capacities identified economy-wide development challenges and gaps, provided countries with specific policy recommendations and highlighted eight viable new green economic sectors. These new sectors can contribute to economic diversification and develop value chains and exports, as exemplified in the EU-UNCTAD Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. Our training sessions raise awareness about the Productive Capacities Index and the value of this tool for evidence-based, data-driven policymaking. Some countries, such as Rwanda and Lao PDR, have made policy discourse and dialogue an integral part of their work and formalized the best ways to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation.

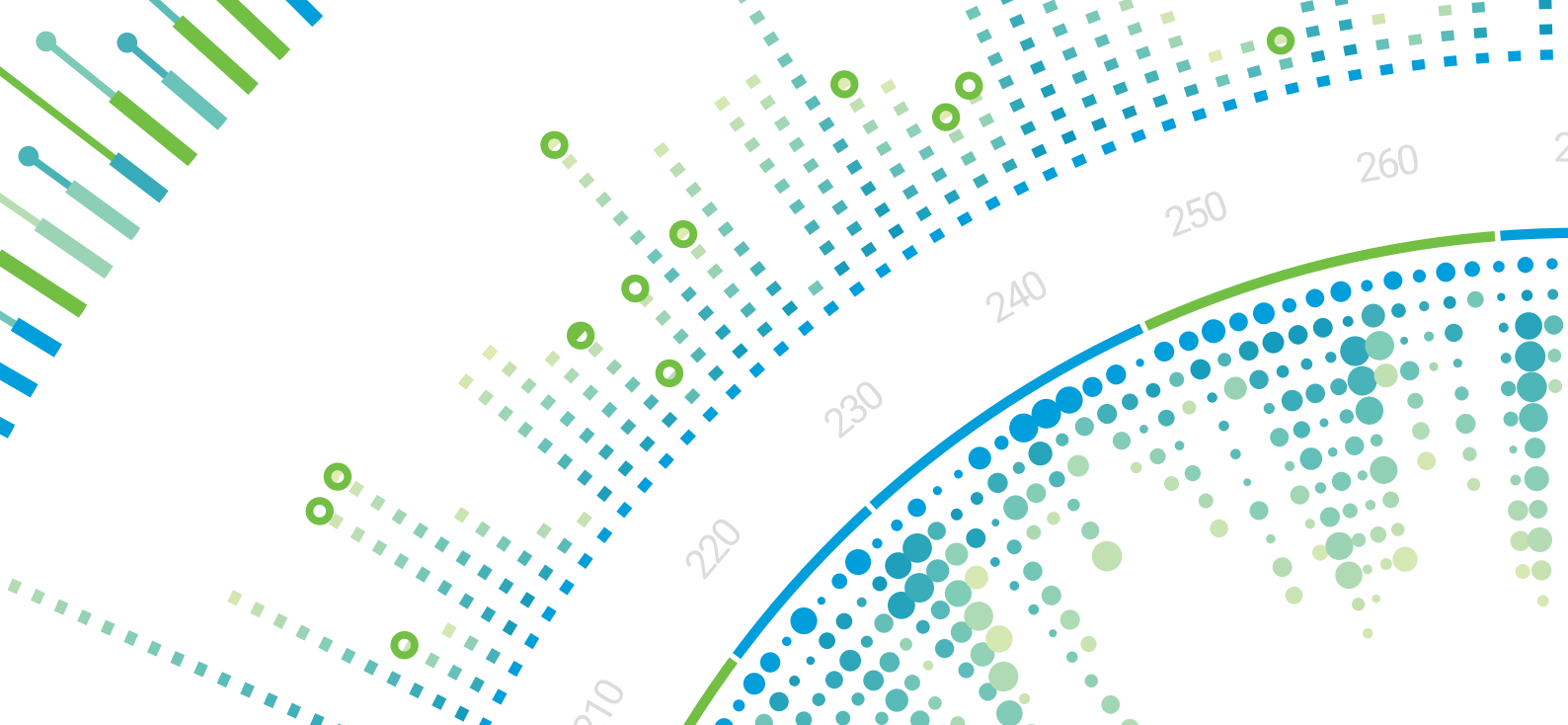
## Developing strong partnerships

UNCTAD continually develops and nurtures strategic partnerships, creating lasting alliances driven by practical and inclusive approaches to economic transformation and diversification.

Some of the partnerships and collaborations that we continued to develop in Africa over the year include with the AfCFTA Secretariat, the UN Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs, the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Africa Think Tank Network, the Africa Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the African Union Commission and the Centre for the Study of African Economies Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

We carried out various inter-agency efforts to mobilize resources to finance Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery and seek energy sustainability. In academia, we continued partnering with African universities, including Addis Ababa University, Makerere University and the University of Ibadan, working with graduates to bridge the gap between academic theory and practice on African trade and development issues.

**Collaborating with African universities enables students to bridge the gap between academic theory and practice on trade and development issues**



## Statistics

**UNCTAD compiles, validates and processes a wide range of data collected from national and international sources for almost all economies of the world. We ensure the numbers add up to inform and improve policy recommendations.**

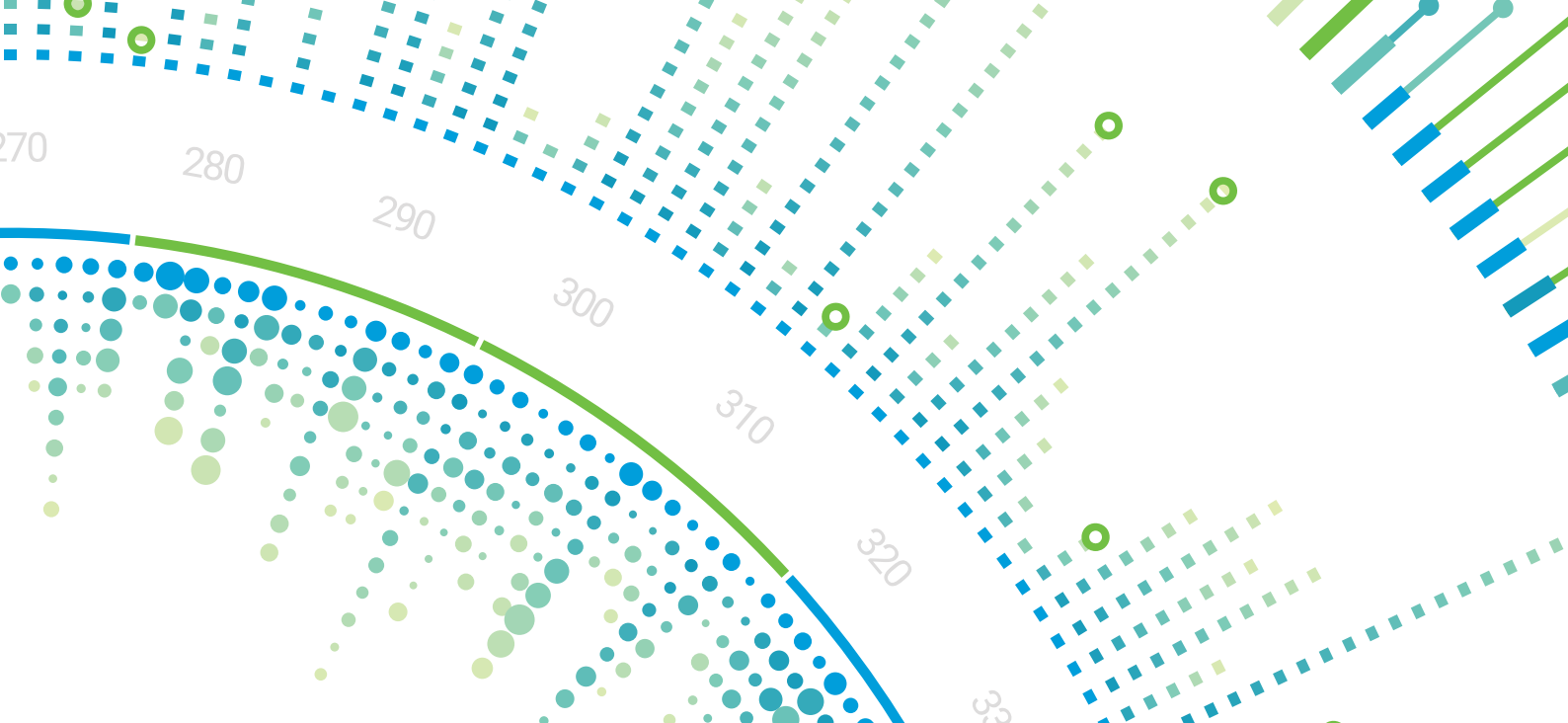
**The first ever framework to measure South-South cooperation will empower Southern countries to collect their own data on development support**

**When did the world reach 8 billion people? Which region increased its trade by 23% in 2022? Which four industries performed best before and during the pandemic? UNCTAD's statistics work in 2022 explored these questions and more through the Handbook of Statistics, SDG Pulse and Inclusive Growth Index, measuring in data the world's collective progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.**

In June 2022, UNCTAD launched a new, fully data-driven nowcast of global trade and economy applying AI-powered modelling. We also finalized pilots with 22 countries on three continents to measure illicit financial flows with concepts and methods UNCTAD developed with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. We now have tested methods to measure illicit flows from tax and commercial malpractices, as well as flows from activities like drug and wildlife trafficking, people trafficking and migrant smuggling.

In March 2022 at the Statistical Commission, UN member States endorsed the first ever framework to measure South-South cooperation, developed by the global South with support from UNCTAD. This framework will inform a new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator on mobilizing additional financial resources to support developing countries, and will include data from the North and the South for the first time. This is a historic opportunity for Southern countries to inform global development finance debates with their own data, with UNCTAD's capacity development support.





### **Towards better data on productive capacities**

The Productive Capacities Index (PCI) is an example of a necessary drive towards evidence-based policies. UNCTAD paid particular attention to reviewing, enhancing and documenting the methodology of the PCI. It considered updates from organizations that produce internationally comparable input variables. Statisticians from UNCTAD travelled to Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia to train over 100 local government representatives and academics to interpret the PCI and take steps to improve the usefulness of the index in a country context.

### **New Trade in Services Statistics Information System in West Africa**

By the end of 2022 at the request of the West African Monetary and Economic Union, UNCTAD developed “TISSTAT”, an information system for collecting and processing data on international trade in services. TISSTAT is now used by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo to inform trade policy. The system manages national surveys, data storage, input, consistency checking and reporting.

### **UNCTAD and Egypt estimated SDG achievement costs and illicit financial flows**

Egypt faces huge funding gaps to mobilize funds to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, UNCTAD continued its project to develop national capacities and put systems in place to measure financing needs and gaps. During a series of national workshops, UNCTAD presented hands-on methods of statistical measurements of illicit financial flows. An SDGs costing model was also developed. This, together with improved knowledge and a skills base to collect national data, helped Egypt to compile estimates and formulate policies to curb illicit financial flows and achieve its 2030 Agenda goals.

### **UNCTAD delivered training on illicit financial flows and first estimates now exist**

UNCTAD organized 33 workshops to enhance national capacity to measure illicit financial flows within three projects with partner organizations. A total of 1,561 participants attended these capacity-enhancement activities, a quarter of whom were women. While challenging, illicit financial flows can be estimated. This paves the way for all countries to start reporting data on the SDG indicator and enable more targeted policies to address illicit finance.

**When studying profit shifting, Nigeria found that some multinationals make transfers almost exclusively to affiliates in tax havens**

### Data centre a go-to resource

The **UNCTADstat** data centre contains UNCTAD-produced and collected official statistics. In 2022, it recorded over 850,000 sessions with over 9.6 million page views and 446,800 data downloads by close to 520,000 users from every UNCTAD member State.

### Improved capacity to compile and use international trade statistics

In 2022, jointly with the World Trade Organization and the UN Statistics Division, UNCTAD Statistics and the TrainForTrade programme trained 2,361 people from 180 different countries, including 66 working in international organizations. We trained people on how to compile and use international trade statistics. Of the attendees, 55% were male and 44% female; 79% successfully passed the training and received the certificate. Feedback questionnaires showed that 88% reported they were satisfied with the training.

## IMPACT STORY

### Reliable statistics on illicit financial flows

The world needs more comparable, reliable statistics on illicit financial flows (IFFs). Better statistics will shed light on which activities, sectors and channels are most prone to illicit finance and will inform the actions needed to curb this drain on national resources.

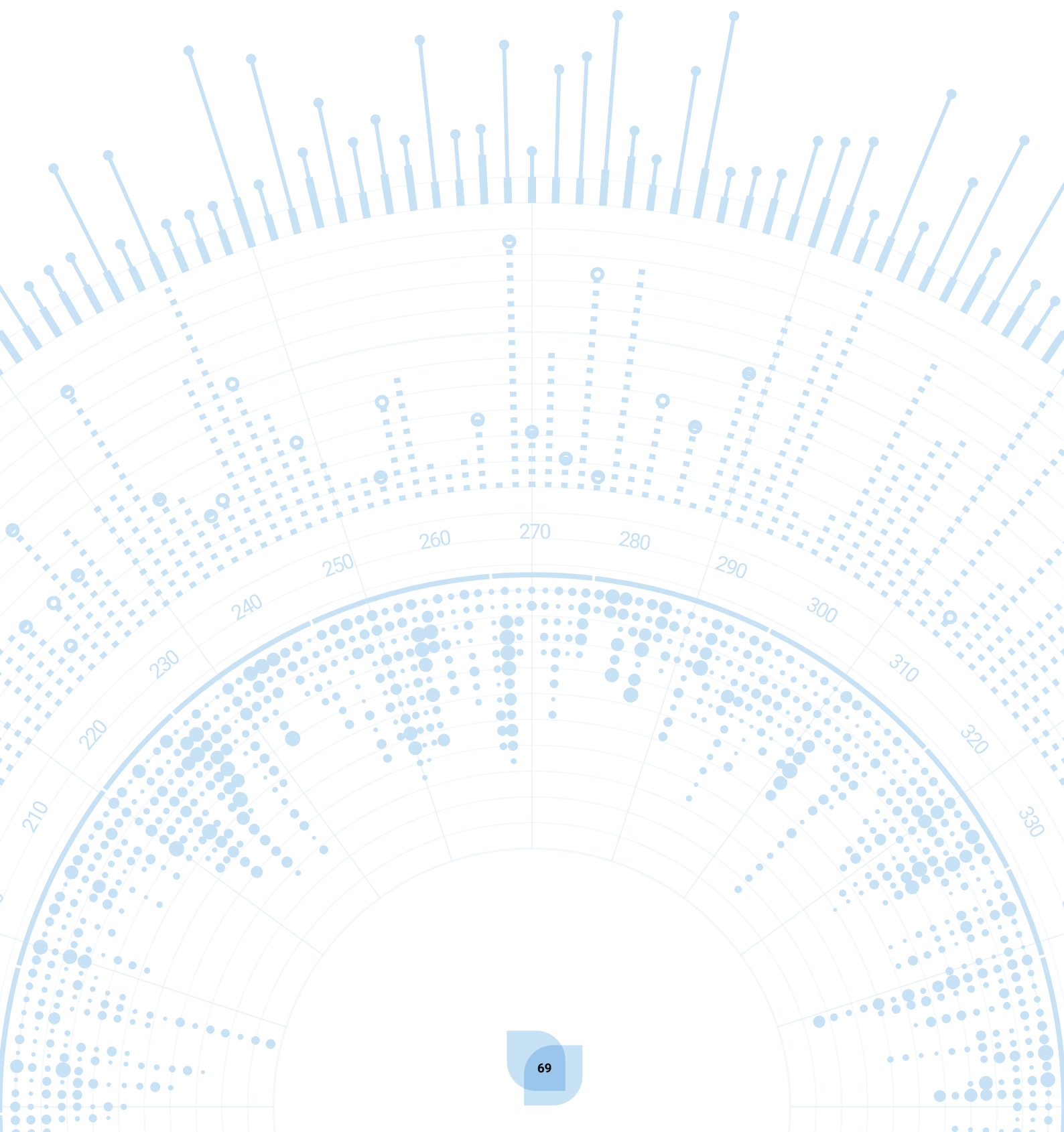
UNCTAD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the custodians of SDG indicator 16.4.1 on IFFs, developed concepts and methods to measure IFFs in consultation with a global task force. We also delivered training to national statisticians and experts, and pilot tested methods in 12 countries across Africa, six countries in Asia and four countries in Latin America.

- ▶ **Namibia's pilot study analysed IFFs related to trade misinvoicing.** It revealed illicit finance leaving and entering the country bundled within six commodities: diamonds, diesel, petrol, gold, uranium and fish.
- ▶ **Nigeria studied the global distribution of profits and corporate taxes from multinationals** to gain a better understanding of profit shifting. It found that some multinationals make transfers almost exclusively to affiliates in tax havens.
- ▶ **Egyptian authorities simultaneously studied both tax and commercial (trade misinvoicing and profit shifting by multinationals) and crime-related (drug trafficking) IFFs.** They established a new department for the statistical measurement of IFFs within the customs authority, aided by capacity-building support in the form of an integrated SDGs financing project.

## New biodiversity data tool

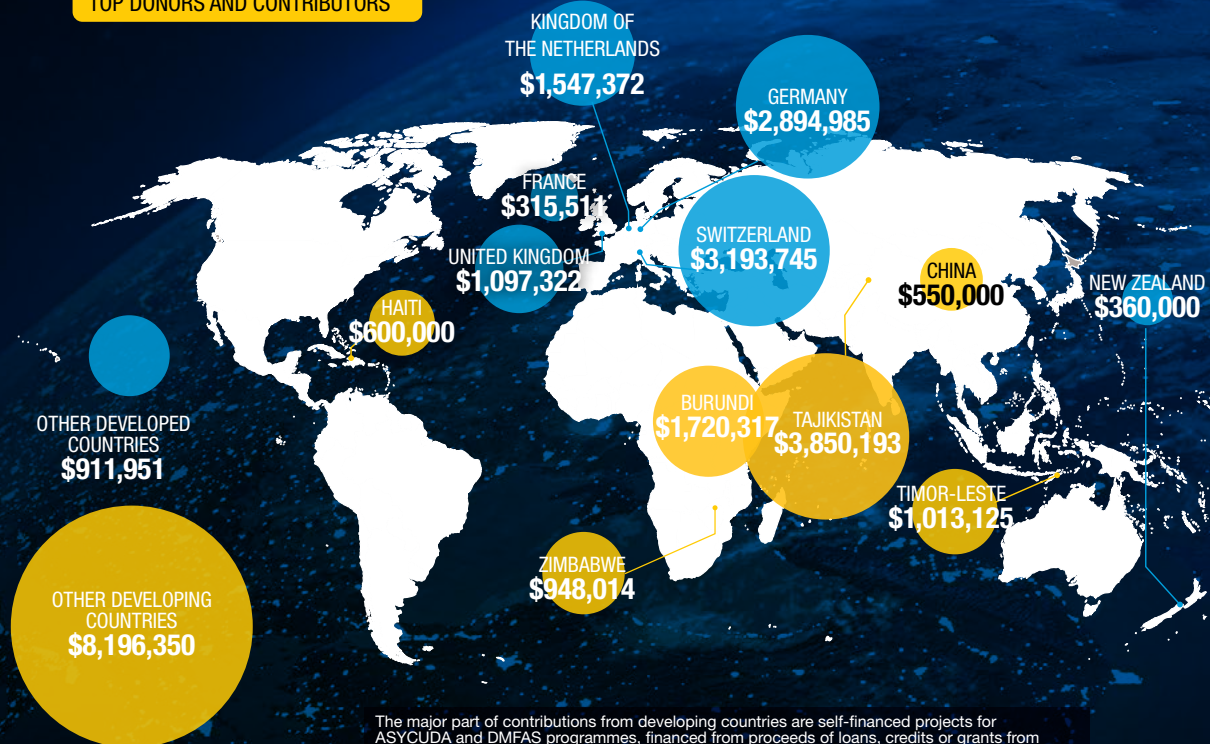
In September 2022, we launched a new online tool on UNCTADstat with groundbreaking data on global imports and exports of biodiversity-based products named the **Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) statistical tool**. This tool provides complete, comparable data and related indicators on 1,814 products for any country and year since 2010.

UNCTADstat also provides other thematic datasets underpinning our analytical and policy work, such as on digital economy, maritime trade, ocean trade, plastics trade, creative economy and more.



## Our donors and contributors

### TOP DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

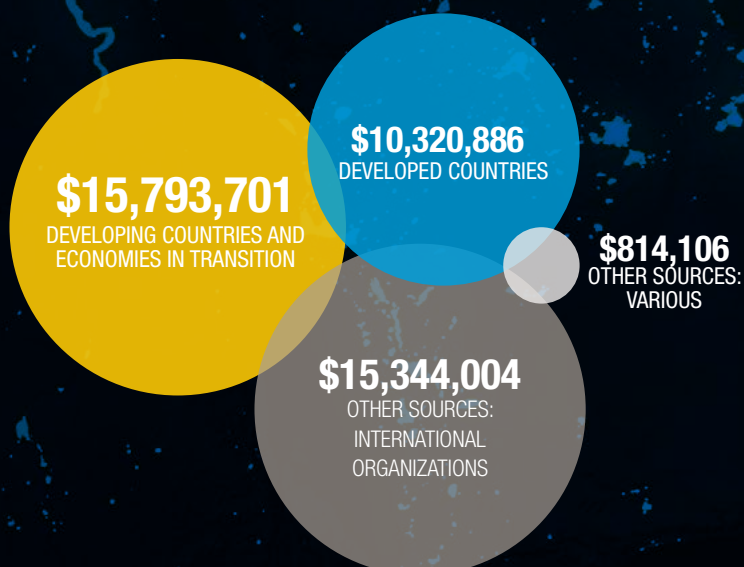


The major part of contributions from developing countries are self-financed projects for ASYCUDA and DMFAS programmes, financed from proceeds of loans, credits or grants from international financial institutions.

Note: Reflects financing from member States, public donations and United Nations organizations.

### TOTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022

# \$42,272,697



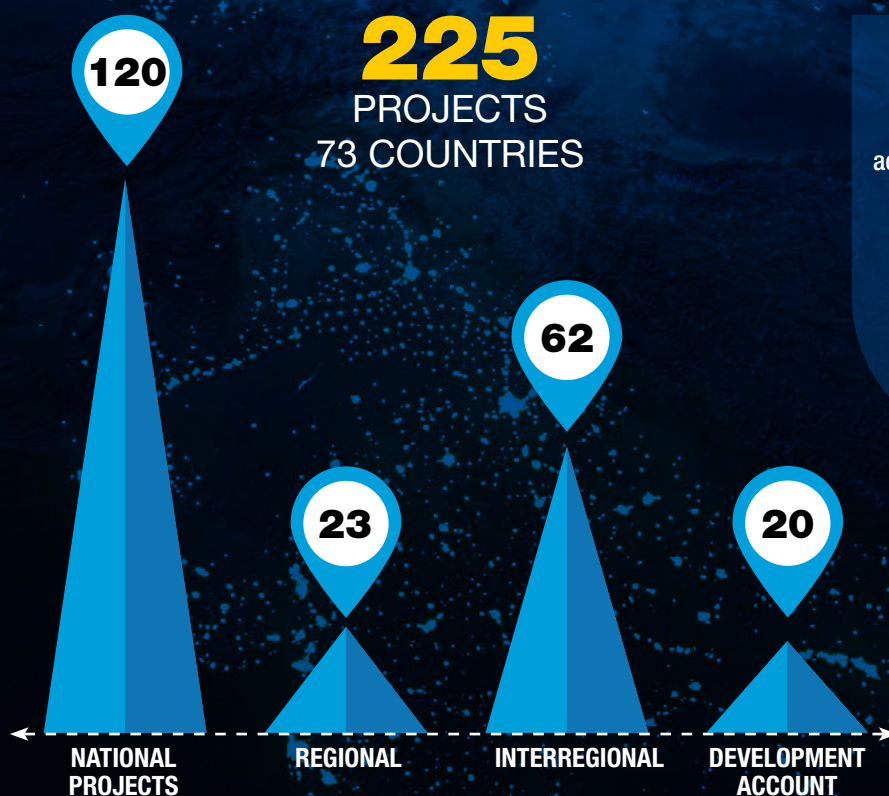
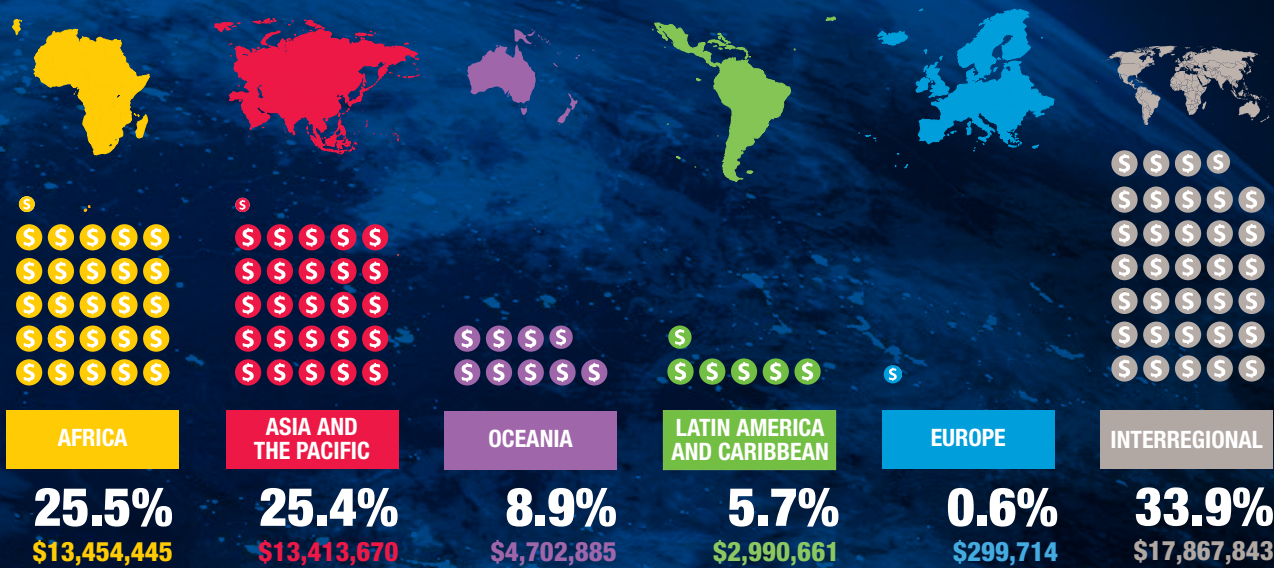


## Our projects and geographical coverage

### DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECT EXPENDITURES BY REGION, 2022\*

Total project expenditures:

**\$52,729,218**



**225**  
PROJECTS  
73 COUNTRIES

**ASYCUDA**  
continued to be the largest  
technical assistance  
activity of UNCTAD, accounting for  
**44.51%**  
of total technical cooperation  
delivery in 2022,  
followed by  
**DMFAS**  
accounting for  
**11.57 %**



See the *UNCTAD Toolbox*

## Management highlights

In 2022, we signed 15 new UN sustainable development cooperation framework agreements and contributed to 20 common country assessments

### UNCTAD's role within the UN family

UNCTAD is a member of the Chief Executives Board, which is chaired by the UN Secretary-General and provides broad guidance, coordination and strategic direction for the UN system in the areas under the responsibility of Executive Heads.

UNCTAD is committed to the United Nations Development System Reform and works with UN resident coordinator offices and partner entities from the UN inter-agency cluster on trade and productive capacity. In 2022, we signed fifteen new UN sustainable development cooperation framework agreements and contributed to 20 common country assessments.

### Management commitments

We hold ourselves to high standards of ethics and integrity. This includes proactively identifying and mitigating any potential conflicts of interest, zero tolerance of sexual harassment and abuse, and taking our environmental responsibility seriously. Each year in a leadership dialogue, managers discuss the ethical challenges we face in our work.

In 2022, the topic was "Living the UN Values: What this means in practice for each of us"; and in 2021, the topic was "The accountability system in the UN Secretariat".

UNCTAD is part of the United Nations Secretariat and operates under the United Nations Secretariat accountability framework.

### Transparency and oversight

It is important for UNCTAD to have robust, independent oversight of our activities. We strictly adhere to all recommendations.

Entities that assure UNCTAD's independent oversight include the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), which constitutes the internal oversight body of the UN, and the Board of Auditors, through which member States' supreme audit institutions provide external audits to the UN on a rotating basis.

In the last five years, the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted **four audits** at UNCTAD. The audits focused on our automated system for customs data (ASYCUDA), our intergovernmental support service, our statistical services and financial reporting for our programme on strengthening institutions and capacities in competition and consumer protection policies.

We implemented all recommendations arising from the audits.

### Financial disclosure programme

We continued to adhere to the **UN Financial Disclosure Programme**, which identifies, resolves and mitigates conflict of interest risks arising from staff members' personal financial assets, liabilities, investments and outside activities.

All staff members at director level and above, and those with specific financial and procurement responsibilities are required to complete a confidential online annual disclosure of their assets, liabilities, outside activities and affiliations for themselves, their spouses and dependent children.

## Zero tolerance of sexual harassment and abuse

We have made multiple commitments to keep our staff and conference participants safe. We adhere to UN Secretary-General António Guterres's initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and the UN's Model Code of Conduct to prevent harassment at UN system events.

We require that all our partners affirm their zero tolerance for sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, and firmly commit to preventing incidents. Our due diligence process also requires that prospective partners do not have any convictions, charges, or investigations relating to sexual abuse and/or harassment.

## Gender parity

As UNCTAD works towards full gender parity, the portion of female staff increased by 4% (from 35% to 39%) between December 2020 and December 2022. However, much remains to be done and progress on this front takes many guises. In a historic milestone, UNCTAD welcomed its current and first female Secretary-General, Rebeca Grynspan in 2021.



The portion female staff increased by

**4%**

between  
December 2020 and  
December 2022

## Environmental responsibility

We are doing our part to combat climate change by integrating environmental sustainability into our facilities and operations.

Since 2007, the United Nations Environment Programme annually collects and analyses environmental impact information for each UN system entity and publishes this data, most recently in the **Greening the Blue Report 2022**.

UNCTAD is a non-resident agency co-located at the Palais des Nations and all our operations are managed by the United Nations Office at Geneva. This includes offsetting emissions, managing waste and water, energy efficiency, sustainable cafeterias, park management and others.

At entity level, we have found ways to become more sustainable. We eliminated all 400 printers in the organization and replaced them with network printers. We replaced most desktop computers at UNCTAD with laptops. This has resulted in more flexibility for us to telecommute, which has now become a common practice within the organization. It also created an enabling environment in which we have digitized most of our files and workflows, eliminating the need for most paper documents. As a result, we significantly reduced printing-related emissions by consuming less supplies, paper and energy.

UNCTAD continues to learn from the pandemic to host and engage in virtual and hybrid events when appropriate. This reduces carbon emissions due to less travel and the need for paper documents.

We purchase annual carbon offsets for our limited travel. Our ministerial quadrennial conference is paper smart and mostly uses digital technologies. All our services, including research and policy advice to clients throughout the world, are also available online.



## New York office

The UNCTAD New York office supports intergovernmental processes, including negotiations, and represents the Secretary-General to ensure UNCTAD's thought leadership feeds into New York proceedings and negotiations. For the 77th session of the General Assembly, UNCTAD's event entitled "The role of trade and logistics in getting food and energy to all" served as the official side event for the UN Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee).

The office also supported negotiations for six resolutions focused on international trade and development, external debt sustainability, investments for sustainable development, ICT for sustainable development, illicit financial flows and entrepreneurship for sustainable development. These resolutions were updated based on reports drafted by UNCTAD on behalf of the Secretary-General, as well as other publications.

The New York office also followed resolutions on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. It also facilitated discussions that led to a new resolution on the social and solidarity economy and organized a briefing to member States, entitled "New York Forum on Trade and Development Report 2022: Looming crises and financial options".

The office also co-produced policy briefs under the new economics for sustainable development workstream of the UN Economist Network, focusing on the purple/care economy, the yellow/attention economy, the social and solidarity economy, the orange/creative economy and the blue and green economy.

## IMPACT STORY

### UNCTAD event during UN Economic and Financial Committee

#### The role of trade in getting food and energy to all

In October 2022, UNCTAD organized the official side event of the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly on the theme of "The role of trade and logistics in getting food and energy to all".

The event helped build political support for the renewal of the Black Sea Initiative in November 2022. It also showcased how UNCTAD's analytical and capacity-building work could be leveraged to tackle global supply chain disruptions and mitigate a crisis in food and energy security.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan stated how the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency and the war in Ukraine had accelerated a global cost-of-living crisis for tens of millions. She called for the renewal of the Black Sea Initiative, and the withdrawal of trade restrictions by global suppliers. She called on governments to avoid a scramble for commodities by managing demand, especially for energy, and to shorten food supply chains and urged the facilitation of fertilizer exports to ensure adequate supplies of food in the coming year.



Secretary-General Grynspan speaks at the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly.



## Our senior leadership in 2022



► **Rebeca Grynspan**  
**Secretary-General**



► **Pedro Manuel Moreno**  
**Deputy Secretary-General**



► **Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright**  
**Director**  
Division on Globalization and  
Development Strategies



► **Ms. Teresa Moreira**  
**Rotational Officer-in-Charge**  
Division on International Trade  
and Commodities



► **Ms. Miho Shirotori**  
**Rotational Officer-in-Charge**  
Division on International Trade  
and Commodities



► **Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne**  
**Director**  
Division on Technology  
and Logistics



► **Mr. James Zhan**  
**Director**  
Division on Investment and  
Enterprise



► **Paul Akiwumi**  
**Director**  
Division for Africa, Least Developed  
Countries and Special Programmes



► **Ms. Anu Peltola**  
**Officer-In-Charge**  
Statistics Service



► **Mr. Adnan T. Issa**  
**Director**  
Programme Support and  
Management Service



► **Miguel Bautista**  
**Director**  
Intergovernmental Outreach  
and Support Service



## Our team

**The UNCTAD team is committed to advancing the sustainable development agenda and supporting developing countries, especially the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate beneficially into the global economy. We thank everyone for their dedication.**

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We had  
**698 people**  
in our team  
in 2022

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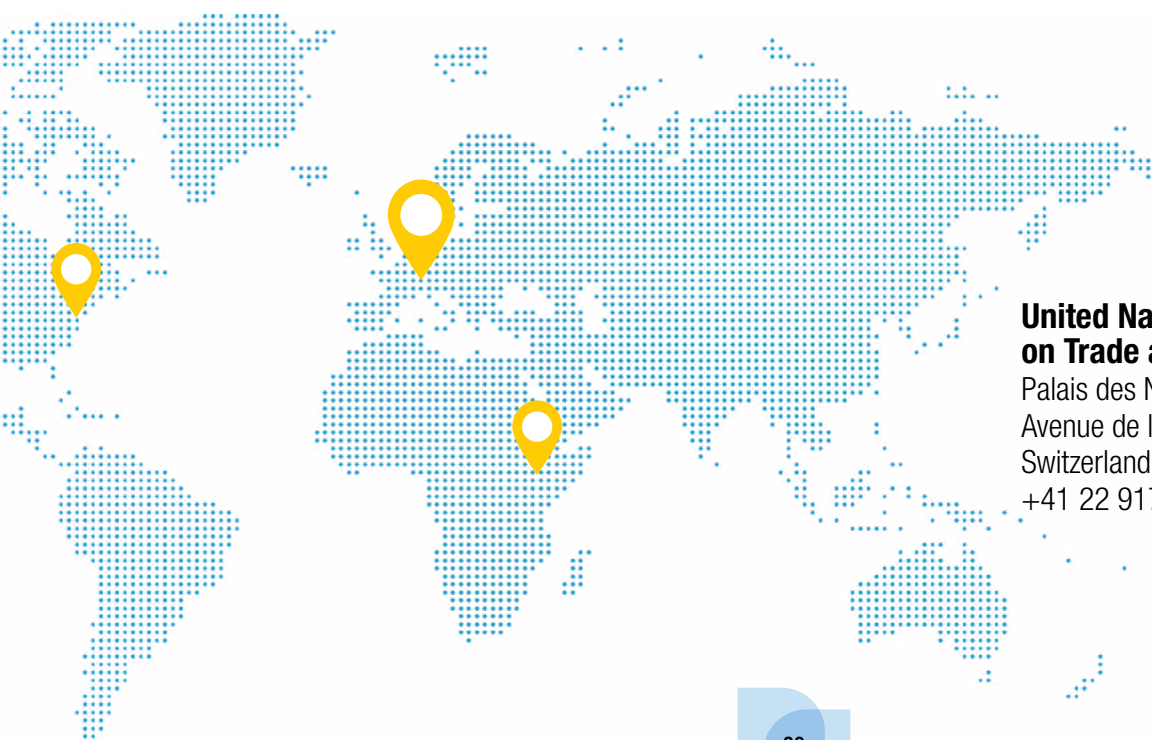
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