

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD

The main visual of the cover is a silhouette of two men in business suits shaking hands. They are positioned in the center-left of the frame. The background is a stylized world map with a grid, set against a sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind the figures.

A COMPENDIUM OF UNCTAD PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR



UNITED NATIONS

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A large background image showing the silhouettes of two men in business attire shaking hands. The man on the right is carrying a briefcase. They are standing in front of a world map, with a bright sun or light source behind them, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a mix of blue and orange tones.

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“ *Civil society are our key partners on the new paths to sustainable development.* **”**

**UNCTAD Secretary-General
Mukhisa Kituyi**

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the United Nations focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development.

UNCTAD aims at helping to shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about inclusive and sustainable development. Furthermore, its work seeks to maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities for developing countries and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis.

UNCTAD work is built on three pillars: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance. As a think tank, UNCTAD publications, policy briefs and technical papers help policymakers take informed decisions when designing trade-related policies. UNCTAD is also a forum that helps build consensus on trade and development issues. In addition, it carries out direct technical assistance at the request of its member countries.

Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1964, UNCTAD has recognized the important role of civil society in its work. Civil society organizations bring fresh ideas, information and expertise to UNCTAD, as well as information about what is happening on the ground in developing countries. They also play an important advocacy role. At UNCTAD XIII, for example, they helped draw attention to current development challenges and urged that UNCTAD be strengthened in order to address them.

UNCTAD therefore welcomes the opportunity to work with civil society (including non-governmental organizations, trade unions, academia and business associations), parliamentarians and the private sector on trade and development policy issues and concrete development-oriented projects. Formal and informal mechanisms have been set up to allow civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector to participate in and contribute to its programmes and activities. This includes contributing to publications and documents, participating in conferences, workshops and seminars, and supporting technical assistance activities.

This compendium summarizes the different ways civil society, parliamentarians and private sector actors can engage in and contribute to UNCTAD work. It provides information on the opportunities that exist for this purpose and gives examples of specific partnerships and cooperation with UNCTAD.

CHANGES IN GLOBAL ECONOMY AND
MULTILATERAL GOVERNANCE: HOW CAN
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OPTIMIZE
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SYSTEM?



I. AN INTRODUCTION TO HOW CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGE IN UNCTAD WORK

A. THE THREE PILLARS OF UNCTAD WORK

UNCTAD work is built on three pillars: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance. Those pillars can in turn be seen as reflection, dialogue and action, respectively.

Reflection: Research, policy analysis and data collection

Research, policy analysis and data collection is at the core of UNCTAD work. The aim is to help policymakers make informed decisions and take effective steps to establish a fair global economic system. UNCTAD publications and documents also support the debates carried out during meetings of government representatives and experts.

Civil society and private sector actors contribute to UNCTAD publications and documents by providing inputs, including statistics and case studies, commenting on initial drafts and participating in the peer review process. Moreover, UNCTAD Discussions Papers are often written by external experts, many of whom are staff of civil society organizations and academic institutions.

For example, private sector actors shared data for the global mapping of cyberlaws in the *Information Economy Report 2015*, academics from least developed countries took part in the peer review of *The Least Developed Countries Report 2015* and a civil society representative was the author of an UNCTAD Discussion Paper (no. 217) on the internationalization of finance and changing vulnerabilities in emerging and developing economies.

UNCTAD publications are available at unctad.org/publications.

The UNCTAD Discussion Paper series is available at unctad.org/discussion-papers.

Dialogue: Debates and discussions on development issues

UNCTAD is a forum where representatives can freely debate and discuss how to establish a better balance in the global economy. This helps build trust, assess development challenges and opportunities and reach consensus on key trade and development issues.

To promote dialogue and build consensus on trade and development issues, UNCTAD organizes and facilitates different debates and exchanges throughout the year in Geneva, Switzerland, and around the globe.

Many UNCTAD meetings and events are relevant to representatives of civil society and the private sector. These include the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Board, as well as UNCTAD commissions, expert meetings and forums.

Civil society and private sector representatives may be invited as panel members, resource persons or discussants. For example, at the sixty-second session of the Trade and Development Board in September 2015, participants heard from a number of civil society and private sector representatives from different regions who exchanged views on substantive issues debated during the session.

A complete list of upcoming UNCTAD events is available on the UNCTAD website: unctad.org.

Action: Technical assistance

UNCTAD carries out technical assistance tailored to the needs of the developing countries, with special attention paid to the needs of the least developed countries. Technical assistance, including capacity-building activities, draw on UNCTAD research and on the policy suggestions that arise during its meetings.

In 2015, UNCTAD had over 200 ongoing technical cooperation projects. Civil society and the private sector took part in many of those projects as technical experts, trainers, evaluators and participants. Moreover, during field missions, UNCTAD staff members often consult with civil society organizations and private sector actors to gain a better understanding of how trade and development issues affect local communities.

Details on UNCTAD technical assistance, including capacity-building activities, are available at unctad.org/technicalcooperation.

B. OTHER EVENTS DESIGNED IN CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The Public Symposium

The Public Symposium is the annual UNCTAD outreach event where government officials, civil society representatives, academics, the private sector and other stakeholders come together to engage in open and interactive dialogue on priority development-related issues.

For example, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD, the 2014 debates at the Public Symposium explored how widening inequality poses a challenge to sustainable development – an issue that was raised as far back as 1964, when UNCTAD member States spoke of persistent “extremes of wealth and poverty” as a major risk to development and peace.

Civil society, parliamentarians, journalists and media representatives, and the private sector help select the themes and sub-themes of the Symposium and define the concept of the meetings. They also coordinate and lead discussions at small group sessions, and contribute as moderators, resource persons and discussants.

More information on the Public Symposium is available at unctad.org/symposium2014.

The Civil Society Forum at UNCTAD Conferences

The Conference, the highest decision-making body of UNCTAD, meets every four years at the ministerial level to address emerging issues in trade and development and to review its mandate. The Civil Society Forum has been organized as part of the official programme of the Conference.

The São Paulo Conference (UNCTAD XI, June 2004), the Accra Conference (UNCTAD XII, April 2008) and the Doha Conference (UNCTAD XIII, April 2012) encouraged greater participation and contribution of civil society and the private sector in the debates and round tables organized.

Recent UNCTAD Conferences have benefited from active civil society participation and particularly acknowledged the positive contribution that non-governmental actors bring to the work of UNCTAD and its member States.

Starting before and running in parallel to the Conference, the Civil Society Forum provides different opportunities for participating civil society organizations to discuss and formulate their views on the issues debated as part of the Conference agenda. The Civil Society Declaration is delivered at the opening plenary of the Conference.

Hearings with civil society and the private sector

Organized as part of the debates of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for each Conference, hearings are held prior to a Conference to provide civil society organizations the opportunity to contribute to the preparatory process and comment on the pre-Conference negotiating text. The summary reports of the hearings are submitted as input into the discussions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

More information on the previous Civil Society Forum is available at unctad.org/cso/unctad-conferences.

Civil society accreditation to the Public Symposium, Civil Society Forum and UNCTAD Conferences

Arrangements are made to enable civil society's participation and contribution to the Public Symposium, the Civil Society Forum and the preparatory process for UNCTAD Conferences.

For more information on registration and accreditation on these events, please contact the UNCTAD Civil Society Outreach Unit at the following address:

UNCTAD Civil Society Outreach Unit
Communications, Information and Outreach
Palais des Nations, Office: E-7095
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
E-mail: cso@unctad.org

C. OBSERVER STATUS WITH UNCTAD

Civil society organizations wishing to establish close working relations and a firm basis for cooperation with UNCTAD are advised to apply for observer status.

Organizations that are granted observer status are invited to attend the public sessions of UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings and conferences. They can make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities, as well as circulate written material on matters related to the agenda of a meeting.

Organizations that enjoy observer status with UNCTAD have unique opportunities to contribute to debates and exchanges on the UNCTAD agenda and to be heard by member States.

The benefits of observer status for civil society organizations include the following:

- Observer role in meetings of the quadrennial conference, the Trade and Development Board, expert meetings and commissions: Organization representatives receive an official notification and invitation to make an oral or written statement, speak on a panel or organize a side event.
- Close working relationship with UNCTAD: Organizations have an opportunity to collaborate on research and projects, and contribute to policy dialogue with members of the secretariat.
- Consultative role: As an observer, organizations are part of a United Nations-wide network of civil society organizations that bring valuable expertise to consultations on critical issues.
- Access to United Nations grounds in Geneva: Representatives of the organization are entitled to a ground pass, which allows them to attend all public meetings and events.

Civil society organizations with observer status include development-related bodies, umbrella associations representing a wide range of national and international member organizations, chambers of commerce, trade unions, professional associations and specialized bodies in specific sectors such as trade, sustainable development, transport, banking, insurance, environment and commodities.

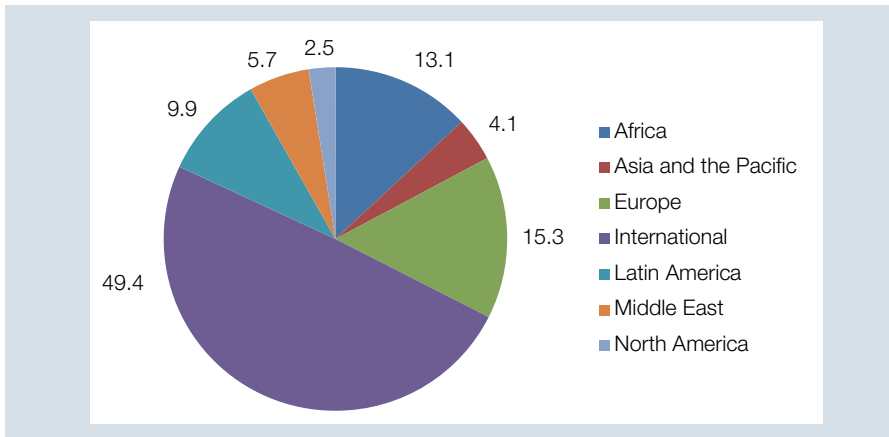
Organizations are granted status in two different categories depending on their areas of work:

- **General observer status.** This status is granted to organizations which exercise functions and have a basic interest in most of the activities of the Board and of its subsidiary bodies. Their representatives can participate in the public meetings of all intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD.
-

- **Special observer status.** This status is granted to organizations which have a special competence only in specific areas of the work of UNCTAD. Their representatives are entitled to participate in public meetings on specific matters falling within the terms of reference of the Board or of one or two of its subsidiary bodies.

As of June 2015, there are 221 organizations with observer status: 130 in the general category and 91 in the special category. Fifty per cent of those organizations have a global reach; the other half focus on specific regions and countries.

Non-governmental organizations holding observer status with UNCTAD, by region (Percentage)



UNCTAD established consultative relations with civil society organizations in order to secure information or advice from organizations with a special competence on subjects for which relationship arrangements are made and to enable stakeholders representing important elements of public opinion to express their views.

Civil society organizations interested in applying for observer status should contact the UNCTAD Civil Society Outreach Unit. The process is outlined below:

- First, an organization decides whether it would benefit from observer status with UNCTAD. Does the organization work on areas related to trade, finance, investment, technology and economic development?

- Next, the organization completes the application form, in either English or French. The form requests key information about the organization.
- The Civil Society Outreach team works with the organization to ensure that all required information is provided.
- Once the application is completed, a report is finalized providing information about the organization.
- A formal request for consideration by member States is presented to the subsequent meeting of the Trade and Development Board. The Board meets in annual session in September, and in executive session three times during the year.
- Member States make the final decision to grant observer status to an organization
- The Civil Society Outreach team communicates the decision to the organization.

More details on observer status and how to apply are available at unctad.org/cso.



II. UNCTAD COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The following section provides examples of UNCTAD work with civil society and the private sector. They are grouped by the five main areas of work:

- International trade and commodities
- Investment and enterprise
- Technology and logistics
- Globalization and development
- Africa, least developed countries and special programmes.

A. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMODITIES



As we work for policymakers, our involvement with civil society and the private sector is crucial since they are ultimately the actors of economic life.



**Guillermo Valles, Director, UNCTAD Division
on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities**

For more information on partnerships in trade and commodities, please contact the UNCTAD Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at ditcinfo@unctad.org.

More information is also available at unctad.org/ditc.

BioTrade Initiative and BioTrade Congresses

Objective: Promote biodiversity products in developing countries

Launched in 1996, the BioTrade Initiative fosters the development of biodiversity products and services and promotes the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity resources in developing countries.

The initiative conducts economic and market assessment research, undertakes training and capacity-building, develops alternative partnership arrangements and strategies for biological resource conservation and development, and promotes information dissemination, networking and active private sector involvement. For

example, UNCTAD has set up three partnerships with the fashion industry to strengthen collaboration with this economic sector in efforts to support biodiversity and sustainable use of the environment.

Annual BioTrade Congresses have been held since 2012. They provide a platform for the public and private sectors, civil society and international and regional organizations to share experiences on and explore avenues for how to foster business engagement in biotrade activities. For example, at the third Congress (2014), businesses working in cosmetics, traditional medicine, fashion design and tourism discussed the importance consumers give to sustainability and how this affects branding strategies.

Biofuels Initiative

Objective: Assist developing countries in engaging in the biofuels market

Launched in 2006, the Biofuels Initiative works closely with intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, and provides economic, legal and trade policy analysis, capacity-building activities and consensus-building tools regarding the biofuels market. It participates in the activities carried out by UN-Energy, the Nairobi Framework, Global Bioenergy Partnership and Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels.

The initiative aims at sharing lessons from successful cases and providing policy guidance, ideas and examples on how to address the possible technical, policy and economic challenges countries might face when engaging in this market.

Organic agriculture

Objective: Engage with stakeholders to develop organic agriculture in developing countries

UNCTAD works with policymakers, researchers, farmers and civil society to support organic agriculture development.

For example, UNCTAD initiated the Lao Organic Agriculture Forum in 2012, under the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity project on enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The forum is a platform for stakeholders interested in organic agriculture development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to share information and experiences. Participating stakeholders include producer organizations, trader associations, environmental groups, research institutions and consumer associations. The third forum was held in 2014 in Vientiane.

UNCTAD also supported the Government of Uganda in elaborating an organic agriculture policy, and then worked with the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda in 2013 to help develop an implementation plan to operationalize the policy.

Green economy and trade

Objective: Engage with stakeholders on issues affecting green economic sectors and trade

Through ad hoc expert meetings, UNCTAD works with representatives of non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector on issues affecting “green” economic sectors and trade.

Representatives from Governments, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector participated in the two ad hoc expert group meetings in 2013 and 2014 where the issues of domestic performance requirements in green sectors and trade remedies involving renewable energy were discussed. The meetings provided institutional space and facilitated a discussion across the boundaries of analysis, policy and business practice.

Consumer protection issues

Objective: Foster discussion between stakeholders on issues related to current and future challenges and trends regarding consumer protection

Since 2011, UNCTAD has organized the annual International Consumer Protection Forum, within the framework of its technical assistance programme on competition and consumer protection policies for Latin America (Competition Policies for Latin America, COMPAL). The forum is designed to foster discussion on policy issues among COMPAL beneficiaries. It provides a space for policymakers and other relevant stakeholders, such as businesses, consumer associations, academia, practitioners and the public at large, to exchange views on current and future challenges and trends regarding consumer protection.

UNCTAD engaged the private sector and civil society in all stages of the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection. Civil society organizations and private sector actors participated in the three ad hoc expert group meetings on consumer protection (2012, 2013 and 2015) and submitted comments and proposals for two background reports and the draft resolution on consumer protection.

Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum

Objective: Promote cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region on addressing problems related to competition law enforcement

Initiated in 2011 in collaboration with UNCTAD, the forum is an informal regional cooperation network that aims to promote competition culture, including competition advocacy, and strengthen the enforcement of competition law in regulated sectors (energy, telecoms, transport, etc.) in the region. Participants include representatives of competition authorities, sector regulators and civil society.

Research Partnership Platform on Competition and Consumer Protection

Objective: Contribute to developing best practices in the formulation and enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws

UNCTAD created the platform in 2010 to contribute to the development of best practices in the formulation and effective enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws and policies. Currently, over 50 institutions consisting of research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations, corporate affiliates and competition agencies are part of the platform.

Through the platform, these institutions can undertake joint research and other activities with UNCTAD, and exchange ideas on the particular issues and challenges in the area of competition and consumer protection that developing countries and economies in transition face.

Global Services Forum

Objective: Foster dialogue between stakeholders in the services sector regarding issues of trade in services and sustainable development

UNCTAD launched the Global Services Forum in 2012 on the occasion of UNCTAD XIII (Doha) to provide a global platform dedicated to discussing development issues related to services. It is open to all players in the services sector, including Governments, the business world, academia, coalitions and associations of services industries, international organizations and services regulators.

Sustainable Commodity Initiative

Objective: Promote the adoption of sustainable practices into commodity production and trade

The initiative is a joint project between UNCTAD and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. It aims at discovering ways to ensure that sustainable practices are integrated into commodity production and trade to enhance social, environmental and economic welfare on a global scale. Other partners include international commodity organizations, enterprises, non-governmental organizations and Governments.

Creative Economy Academia Exchange Network

Objective: Promote cooperation and exchanges on issues related to the creative economy

UNCTAD has been liaising with academia, artists, creative professionals and civil society to build a network that promotes international cooperation, strategic alliances, research exchanges and advocacy in areas related to the creative economy.

This initiative is a work in progress aimed at becoming an open collaborative web space that provides a platform for professors, researchers and students to share knowledge and information and to gradually improve and expand the coverage of academic institutions both in terms of the scope of the research and geographic regions.

Gender mainstreaming in macroeconomic policies

Objective: Build key stakeholders' capacities to mainstream gender in macroeconomic policies

UNCTAD builds the human and institutional capacities of policymakers and trade practitioners in order to mainstream gender in macroeconomic and trade policies. The ultimate objective is to make trade instrumental in the achievement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment as a means of ensuring inclusive development.

The work is carried out in part through country case studies on the links between trade, gender and development. In addition, UNCTAD organizes national workshops and fact-finding missions to gather real-life information and insight into the gender effects of trade policies in target countries, to present and discuss the findings of those studies and to explore policy options for maximizing the social inclusiveness of trade liberalization, with a focus on women. UNCTAD involves and partners with local stakeholders in civil society and the private sector.

Global Commodities Forum

Objective: Build consensus on topical commodities issues and seek potential solutions

The annual Global Commodities Forum is a platform where representatives of Governments, the private sector and civil society debate potential solutions to the perennial problems associated with the production and trade of commodities.

As a multi-stakeholder event, the Forum involves partners from throughout the commodities sector. At a basic level, many companies and civil society organizations nominate and sponsor the travel of their representatives to speak on a specific topic at the Forum. In several instances, UNCTAD has partnered with private sector groups and civil society organizations to organize round tables at the Forum and identify relevant speakers. These collaborations are crucial for keeping the Forum relevant and enriching.

Oil, Gas and Mines

Objective: Create better linkages between extractive sectors and other domestic sectors and promote effective multi-stakeholder partnerships

The Oil, Gas and Mines conference is an annual forum for sharing experiences and debating issues related to the extractive industries, such as investment, finance, legal and regulatory issues, revenue and resource management, and local participation.

Civil society and the private sector are key stakeholders. Civil society organizations play an important role in the conferences and mobilize their members to be actively involved and share their experiences on the topical issues discussed at the event. The private sector is a key sponsor of the conferences.

UNCTAD collaborates with all stakeholders in the extractive industries and reflects their views and experiences on the topics in the conclusions and recommendations of the conference.

Trust Fund Project on Iron Ore Information

Objective: Provide information on the world iron ore market

UNCTAD launched the project in June 1989 to continue the collection and dissemination of information on iron ore, formerly carried out by the Association of Iron Ore Exporting Countries. UNCTAD works in close cooperation with

professionals interested in the iron ore market, whether as producers, purchasers, traders, shipping agents, suppliers of goods or services to the industry, and analysts and consultants.

The Trust Fund market report and statistics provide the only global up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive information on developments in the world market for iron ore. The reports have served between 120 and 150 private clients yearly, depending on the year. The project budget comes mainly from private sector contributions (about 80 per cent).

B. INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE

 *When it comes to investment and enterprise for development, the voice of civil society is critical. The UNCTAD World Investment Forum has been designed as a global platform involving all investment-development stakeholders, and we very much value the participation of civil society organizations in this global event.*

James Zhan, Director, UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise



For more information on partnerships in investment and enterprise, please contact the UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise at diaeinfo@unctad.org.

More information is also available at unctad.org/diae.

World Investment Forum

Objective: Facilitate dialogue and action on investment-related challenges

The World Investment Forum is a multi-stakeholder event designed to facilitate dialogue and action on the world's key and emerging investment-related challenges. It provides an opportunity and platform for interaction between global leaders, senior policymakers, chief executive officers, investors, sovereign wealth fund executives, parliamentarians, capital market executives, investment treaty negotiators, investment promotion agencies, academia and civil society representatives from countries around the world.

International investment agreements

UNCTAD work in this area aims at enhancing the sustainable development dimension of international investment agreements. This is done by conducting research and analysis on key international investment issues and developing tools, such as the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, to help policymakers formulate more balanced international investment policies.

To complement the policy toolkits it develops, UNCTAD partners with relevant civil society organizations, in particular the International Institute for Sustainable Development, to deliver training, seminars and workshops that guide policymakers on how to strengthen the development dimension of national investment policies. For example, UNCTAD jointly organized regional training workshops with International Institute for Sustainable Development in 2013 and 2015 for policymakers from the South-East Asia region. The workshops focused on the new generation of investment policy for sustainable development and on developing investment treaty models. International Institute for Sustainable Development staff contributed to the content of the workshop and delivered specific training sessions.

Investment Advisory Council

Objective: Provide framework for consultations between businesses and governments to explore ways of attracting foreign direct investment into developing countries

Established in 2001, the Council is a joint initiative by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. It cooperates closely with the United Nations Global Compact and provides a framework for consultations between business and government leaders to explore practical ways of attracting increased foreign direct investment into developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

Investment guides

Objective: Provide up-to-date information regarding investment in beneficiary countries

The investment guides (“iGuides”) are joint publications between UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. They aim at raising awareness among the global investment community of the opportunities and conditions for investment in beneficiary countries. The investment guides currently cover 25 countries in Africa and Asia.

Investment Policy Hub

Objective: Provide up-to-date information regarding investment policies and international investment agreements

The Investment Policy Hub is an online platform for investment policies that allows users to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events, follow experts on a blog-like forum, explore the investment policy databases and find all investment policy-related publications on one page.

At times, representatives of relevant civil society organizations contribute to featured discussions for the Hub's blog.

Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment

Objective: Promote socially and environmentally responsible investment in agriculture

In 2010, in response to increasing interest in investment in agriculture in developing countries, UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Bank drafted the set of Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment. The principles aim at reducing the negative externalities and raising the likelihood of positive impacts from investments in agriculture.

In this context, UNCTAD collaborates with the International Institute for Sustainable Development on an ongoing basis. This includes working together on meetings, workshops and publications. For instance, UNCTAD takes part in seminars that the Institute organizes with African parliamentarians. Sessions are, for example, dedicated to UNCTAD research on responsible agricultural investment. The two organizations have also published a joint report, titled *Investment Contracts for Agriculture: Maximizing Gains and Minimizing Risks*.

UNCTAD also collaborates with organizations such as Oxfam and the International Institute for Environmental Development on an ad hoc basis.

Investment Policy Reviews

Objective: Shape investment policies for sustainable development

Investment Policy Reviews are country specific and seek to improve investment frameworks to ensure that foreign direct investments in a country result in development gains.

Each review benefits from the views of and insights from government agencies, private sector representatives, academia and civil society organizations. These organizations are consulted at the fact-finding stage and during national stakeholder discussions of the draft reports.

Business Schools for Impact

Objective: Teach the skills required to invest and operate in low-income regions, creating awareness among students about businesses with positive social impact

UNCTAD has built a platform for business schools worldwide, in collaboration with the Global Business School Network, the Global Alliance in Management Education, top business schools and international initiatives, such as Business Call to Action, empowerwomen.org and Principles for Responsible Management Education. The Business Schools for Impact platform aims at developing and sharing teaching materials, experience and ideas in order to help change mindsets and teach the skills required to invest and operate successfully in low-income regions and create businesses with positive social impact.

Empretec

Objective: Provide training to entrepreneurs to assist in poverty reduction and development

Launched in 1988, Empretec (Entrepreneurial Development Programme) is an UNCTAD capacity-building programme that supports aspiring entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, small businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries with the objective of contributing to the development of a dynamic private sector. By 2014, Empretec had been established in 35 countries, and over 340,000 entrepreneurs had attended trainings and received follow-up support services.

Business Linkage Programme

Objective: Transform linkages between multinational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises into sustainable business relationships

UNCTAD advises member States on strategies to maximize the benefits generated by foreign investments for the local economies in which they occur. UNCTAD often partners with the private sector to enhance the impact of the Business Linkage Programme. Common challenges faced by local suppliers that the programme addresses include limited capacity to provide inputs or services that meet transnational corporation standards or develop the right entrepreneurial mindset to do business with large foreign companies.

Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative

Objective: Enhance corporate transparency and encourage responsible long-term approaches to investment

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how stock exchanges, in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies, can enhance corporate transparency on environmental, social and corporate governance issues, and encourage sustainable investment.

More than 20 stock exchanges (including the NASDAQ and LSE), representing roughly 17,000 listed companies, have signed up to promote sustainable development in their markets.

Intellectual property

Objective: Organize round table discussions on recent trends in intellectual property and development issues.

UNCTAD organizes round-table discussions on an ad hoc basis with Geneva-based civil society organizations to discuss recent trends in intellectual property and their implications for development. The discussions also include in particular the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, delegations from Geneva-based permanent missions and intergovernmental organizations.

C. TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

 ***Participation of civil society is essential for us to really understand what people need. This is as true for the information society, as for other issues that we tackle on science, technology, innovation and logistics.***

Anne Miroux, former Director, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics



For more information on partnerships in technology and logistics, please contact the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics at dtlinfo@unctad.org.

More information is also available at unctad.org/dtl.

World Summit on the Information Society Forum

Objective: Provide opportunities to network learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) implementation.

UNCTAD is a co-organizer of the Forum, along with the International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Development Programme. It is a mechanism for the coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities, the exchange of information and the sharing of best practices, and continues to provide assistance in developing partnerships to advance development goals. Civil society organizations and private companies are among the Forum's strategic partners.

For example, the agenda and programme for the 2015 WSIS Forum were built on the basis of submissions received during an open consultation process, which actively engaged governments, civil society, the private sector and intergovernmental organizations. The WSIS secretariat received more than 120 formal submissions. Moreover, within the context of WSIS implementation, UNCTAD is a co-facilitator of the action line on e-business, organizing sessions with speakers from the private sector and civil society.

Information Economy Report

Objective: Analyse current trends and major international policy issues regarding information and communications technologies and their impact on trade and development

Each *Information Economy Report* benefits from insight from government agencies, private sector representatives, academia and civil society who provide substantive inputs and comments on draft versions of the report through a peer review process. Past contributors include Google, Paypal, the Instituto Latinoamericano de Comercio Electrónico, Mercadolibre, Learning Initiatives on Reforms for Network Economies Asia, Research ICT Africa, Telegeography and the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, with which UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding in 2015.

Technology and Innovation Report

Objective: Provide policy-relevant analysis and recommendations on issues in science, technology and innovation that are important for developing countries

The *Technology and Innovation Report* series investigates pressing issues of science, technology and innovation for development. Each report is based on work with or benefits from insight from government agencies, private sector representatives, academia and civil society who, based on the topic in question, are invited to provide inputs. Prior to publication, ad hoc expert group meetings are held to discuss and review the draft report.

Past participants in such meetings include the International Institute for Sustainable Development, The Energy and Resources Institute, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, South Centre and Center for Energy Environment and Engineering. The report series has also received inputs from international agencies such as the International Renewable Energy Agency and the South Centre, and regional and national agencies such as the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews

Objective: Identify the key strengths and weaknesses of national innovation systems and establish strategic priorities for improvement

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews are country specific, diagnose the national system of innovation and assess the science, technology and innovation policies in place. This may include in-depth studies of specific sectors and institutions that are of particular relevance to the country under review.

Because the reviews take stock of innovation policies and look at national innovation systems, the business sector is a main stakeholder. Along with private companies, each review benefits from insight from government agencies, academia and civil society organizations. These organizations are consulted at the fact-finding stage and during national stakeholder discussions of the draft reports. Moreover, businesses and civil society organizations help draw the public's attention to the policy recommendations of the reviews and stimulate policy dialogue on the role of science, technology and innovation in national development.

Finally, UNCTAD provides trainings to complement the reviews and strengthen national capacity in policymaking concerned with science, technology and innovation in developing countries.

E-commerce and Law Reform Programme

Objective: Support developing countries in their efforts to establish legal regimes that address the issues raised by the electronic nature of information and communications technologies

Since 2000, UNCTAD has helped build the capacity of policymakers to understand the underlying development issues of e-commerce. The assistance targets in particular ministry officials in charge of law reform who need to learn more about the legal implications of information and communications technologies, parliamentarians who have to examine new cyberlaws and legal professionals who enforce new legislation.

As part of this programme, UNCTAD organizes meetings to help countries review their legal frameworks, share experiences and learn from each other. The meetings are open to relevant civil society organizations and businesses and benefit greatly from their expertise. Often, representatives from civil society organizations and private companies are invited to speak on panels during the meetings. For example, the 2015 expert meeting on cyberlaws and e-commerce regulations featured speakers from Ebay and Jumia Africa.

Project on leveraging information and communications technologies in support of women's entrepreneurship

Objective: Empower women entrepreneurs through the use of information communications technologies

The project combines research and analysis, trainings and workshops, and awareness-raising activities to improve the policy environment for development of women's entrepreneurship, by leveraging information communications technologies (ICTs).

As part of the project, the International Labour Organization and UNCTAD partnered to integrate the ICT dimension into the International Labour Organization guide for assessing the environment for women's entrepreneurship development. The revised guide is the first version that takes the ICT dimension systematically into account and will be used to assist policymakers and development partners to identify policy recommendations to improve that environment, particularly in developing countries.

UNCTAD and the International Labour Organization organized a focus group of women entrepreneurs in the United Republic of Tanzania to collect information on their use of ICTs and test the ICT component of the guide for assessing the environment for women's entrepreneurship development.

National trade facilitation bodies

Objective: Provide a repository of case studies from countries that have set up national trade facilitation bodies

National trade facilitation bodies are important platforms for institutional coordination and stakeholders' consultation with balanced private and public sector participation.

National trade facilitation bodies enable the planning and implementation of successful trade facilitation reforms. UNCTAD has actively participated and supported the establishment of national trade facilitation bodies in developing countries. In line with this long-standing commitment, UNCTAD has led a joint effort with the participation of the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to create a repository containing case studies from countries that have set up national trade facilitation bodies.

Review of Maritime Transport

Objective: Provides an analysis of structural and cyclical changes affecting seaborne trade, ports and shipping, as well as an extensive collection of statistical information

Each *Review of Maritime Transport* benefits from insight from government agencies, private sector representatives, academia and civil society organizations. These organizations take part in the peer review process of draft reports and are consulted through a readership survey. The International Association of Ports and Harbours, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association and the International Association of Maritime Economists are among the regular contributors to the reviews.

Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter

Objective: Update stakeholders of trade and transport on the latest news, current events and projects in the area of trade facilitation and international transport.

The *Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter* is published quarterly. Experts from partner organizations, including civil society and the private sector, contribute with articles and are among the subscribers to the newsletter.

The newsletter is also a tool for spreading news and information on projects from partner organizations, such as the International Association of Ports and Harbours, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, the International Association of Maritime Economists and Global Express Association.

Train for Trade Programme

Objective: Strengthen port management skills and improve port efficiency in member ports

Launched in 1989, the Train for Trade Programme provides tailor-made technical assistance to developing countries to address their trade-related human and institutional capacity needs. The ultimate goal is to help them increase their participation in international trade in an equitable and sustainable manner.

The target audience consists of policymakers, trade practitioners and training institutions. The programme builds partnerships with Governments, the private sector, civil society and academia to develop and deliver its activities.

For example, since 1996 the Train for Trade Programme has built formal partnerships with ports from Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, and with private companies working in the maritime sector, such as CGA CGM and Campbell Johnston Clark, to deliver its port training programme in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These partners host expert meetings and training workshops, and provide experts from the maritime and shipping industry to assist in updating training manuals, delivering course modules and mentor participants as they complete their end-of-programme case studies.

Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development

UNCTAD established the Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development in 2002 to examine the evolution of its training and capacity-building activities and identify opportunities for improvement. The Advisory Group is open to relevant international organizations, private companies, civil society organizations and academic institutions. Representatives from the private sector are regularly invited to speak at the meetings. For example, speakers at the 2013 and 2015 sessions included representatives from Google, Nestlé and eLimu.


Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda (Paragraph 166 course)

Objective: Enable officials and other individuals from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to become better informed on key issues on the international economic agenda

The Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda is open to policymakers, academics and other stakeholders, including parliamentarians, who deal with international economic issues. It is based on the development perspective of UNCTAD and focuses on the linkages between trade, finance, investment, technology, logistics and macroeconomic policies, in the context of major economic trends and debates in multilateral forums.

The programme has built partnerships with regional universities, who contribute to the organization and delivery of the courses. These universities provide national experts who deliver parts of the course at the regional level and contribute to the course content through case studies of policies that have been successful. Among the partners are Eafit University (Medellín, Colombia), University of Belgrade and University of Mauritius.

D. GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

 ***Civil society groups have, over the past two decades, moved from the fringes to the centre of development debates. Their willingness to confront hard policy issues, such as debt restructuring, corporate tax evasion and financing development, with solid research, bold solutions and dedicated activism makes them natural partners for our work in globalization and development strategies.***

Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies



For more information on partnerships on the topic of globalization and development, please contact the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies at gdsinfo@unctad.org.

More information is also available at unctad.org/dgds.

International Debt Management Conference

Objective: Facilitate exchanges between Governments and civil society on current issues in public finance, debt management and debt crisis prevention

The International Debt Management Conference was established in 1997 and is held every two years to provide a regular forum for Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to share experiences and exchange views on current issues in public finance, debt management and debt crisis prevention.

Representatives from relevant civil society organizations regularly contribute to the Conference discussions as panellists. They also contribute to the general debate and discussions through written and oral statements.

Debt Management and Financial Analysis System partnership with Debt Relief International

Objective: Strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage their debt in an effective and sustainable way

The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme and Debt Relief International actively collaborate on country projects and debt management capacity-building activities. Debt Relief International staff also contribute to UNCTAD and DMFAS events, such as the Debt Management Conferences.

Virtual Institute

Objective: Help academic institutions strengthen their teaching and research capacity in the areas of trade, investment and development, and increase the policy orientation and relevance of their work

The Virtual Institute seeks to create a global network of higher learning and research on trade and development issues and to equip future generations of decision makers with the capacity to make informed choices about the economic development of their countries.

It provides open access to selected UNCTAD resources and teaching tools to help interested institutions develop their own high-quality training materials. Its workshops and courses have attracted participants from academic institutions, think tanks, Governments, civil society and the private sector.

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Objective: Promote economic development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people since 1979 through policy-oriented research studies and reports, advisory services and technical assistance, and by building international consensus on the needs of the Palestinian economy. This work is carried out in close collaboration with the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS, its Arabic acronym). The partnership includes continuous consultations during research projects and peer reviews of publications and reports. For example, every year UNCTAD publishes its report on assistance to the Palestinian people in collaboration with MAS.

UNCTAD has also been partnering with the Palestinian Shippers' Council since its establishment in 2006. For example, the Council was a partner on the capacity development for facilitating Palestinian trade project (2011–2015). Their involvement was crucial in ensuring the training structure and material was adapted to the Palestinian context.

E. AFRICA, LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

 *The role of private sector and civil society actors is critical in fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in least developed countries.*

Taffere Tesfachew, Director, UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes



For more information on partnerships in Africa and least developed countries, please contact the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes at aldc@unctad.org.

More information is also available at unctad.org/aldc.

Development of geographical indications

Objective: Promote traditional food products and the local community through “made in” initiatives and geographical indications

UNCTAD works with civil society and private producers (along with national Governments) to promote traditional food products, and the territory where they are grown, through geographical indication laws and branding techniques linked to “made in”.

For example, UNCTAD co-organized a workshop with the organization Slow Food in 2014. The main participants were representatives of rural communities in least developed countries. The workshop addressed the challenges they face in promoting and marketing traditional products.

Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports

Objective: Upgrade the technical knowledge and expertise in beneficiary countries to overcome challenges posed by international standards on fish exports

UNCTAD works closely with the private sector to implement the project at the country level, in particular fisherfolk, fish processors, packaging agencies and fish exporters. Likewise, civil society actors such as research and academic institutions, trade associations, non-governmental organizations in the area of environmental protection, and consumer and producer associations are involved.

Indices for benchmarking productive capacities in landlocked developing countries

Objective: Strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop productive capacity indices and use them to support evidence-based policymaking

The project assists in defining the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators for productive capacity indices. Policymakers, statistical offices, programme evaluation and monitoring agencies, institutions participating in research and development, science and technology centres, private sector and civil society actors, regional organizations and relevant United Nations agencies participate in this project.

For example, UNCTAD organized a side event on indicators for benchmarking productive capacities during the Ministerial Meeting on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-building in the Least Developed Countries held in Benin in 2014. Representatives from civil society organizations took part in the side event and contributed to the discussions.

III. CONTACTING THE UNCTAD CIVIL SOCIETY OUTREACH UNIT

The Civil Society Outreach Unit helps civil society engage in the work of UNCTAD and fosters ongoing dialogue between civil society and UNCTAD through consultations and information sessions. The team coordinates and liaises with member States, United Nations focal points and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service on matters and activities related to civil society.

The team maintains and develops working relations and partnerships with a range of civil society actors: parliamentarians, academia, trade unions, business associations and non-governmental organizations.

The following are some of the main activities of the Civil Society Outreach Unit:

- Keeping civil society organizations informed about UNCTAD activities and publications through social media and a bi-weekly e-alert, which reaches several thousand civil society representatives
- Posting relevant news and views from UNCTAD and civil society on its webpage at unctad.org/cso
- Helping UNCTAD divisions to find speakers and experts for meetings and events in Geneva and abroad, and partners for technical cooperation projects
- Advising civil society organizations on obtaining observer status with UNCTAD and managing the process for granting observer status
- Updating and issuing on a regular basis official lists of civil society and intergovernmental organizations that have observer status
- Managing accreditation of civil society organizations for UNCTAD meetings.

The Public Symposium, organized by the Civil Society Outreach Unit, is the annual UNCTAD outreach event where government officials, civil society representatives, academics, the private sector and other stakeholders come together to engage in open and interactive dialogue on critical issues in development.

The unit is responsible for managing the accreditation of civil society organizations for the Symposium and for the UNCTAD quadrennial conferences.

More details are available at unctad.org/cso.

Civil society organizations are encouraged to contact the Civil Society Outreach Unit at:

UNCTAD Civil Society Outreach Unit

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**MORE DETAILS ON UNCTAD
AND CIVIL SOCIETY ARE AVAILABLE AT
UNCTAD.ORG/CSO.**


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The Civil Society Outreach Unit is part of the
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