

HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION BECOME AN OBSERVER?

- First, decide whether your organization would benefit from observer status with UNCTAD. Do you work on areas related to trade, finance, investment, technology and economic development?
- Next, complete the application form, in either English or French. You will be requested to send key information about your organization.
- The Civil Society Outreach team will work with you to ensure that all the required information is provided.
- Once your application is complete, a report will be finalized providing information about your organization.
- A formal request will be presented to the next Trade and Development Board meeting for consideration by member States.
- The Trade and Development 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 will communicate the decision to you.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

PARTNERING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

More details on UNCTAD, civil society, observer status and how to apply are available at www.unctad.org/cso

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The Civil Society Outreach Unit is part of the Communications, Information and Outreach Section within the Office of the Secretary-General.

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“ We need civil society to help us follow new paths to sustainable development ”

UNCTAD Secretary-General
Mukhisa Kituyi



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

FRAMING GLOBAL FINANCE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development, and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Through its three pillars, UNCTAD works to maximize development opportunities for developing countries and deliver meaningful results, while enhancing synergies and promoting complementarities with the work of other international organizations.

Three pillars of work

- Consensus-building, supported by a wide range of experts
- Research and analysis
- Technical cooperation

Five areas of work

- International trade and commodities
- Investment and enterprise
- Africa and least developed countries
- Globalization and development
- Technology and logistics

HOW DO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORK WITH UNCTAD?

- **Setting the agenda** by taking a leading role as speakers and organizing break-out sessions at the annual Public Symposium
- **Networking and coordinating** with civil society organizations, policymakers and UNCTAD experts
- **Staying informed** through regular updates on cutting-edge research and analysis carried out by UNCTAD
- **Building expertise** through training opportunities offered by the UNCTAD Virtual Institute and exchanges with UNCTAD researchers and experts
- **Sharing knowledge** by taking part in UNCTAD forums, seminars and intergovernmental meetings throughout the year



OBSERVER STATUS WITH UNCTAD

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 include the following:

- **Observer role in meetings** of the quadrennial conference, the Trade and Development Board, expert meetings and commissions: You will 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: You will have an opportunity to collaborate on research and projects, and contribute to the policy dialogue with members of the secretariat.
- **Consultative role**: As an observer, you will be 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 your organization will be entitled to a ground pass, which allows them to attend all public meetings and events.

As of 2014, 216 civil society organizations have observer status with UNCTAD. Of these, 50 per cent have global reach; the remaining 50 per cent focus on specific regions and countries.

Over half of these have an interest in several areas of the work of UNCTAD, while the rest focus on one or two specific areas.

