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**Trade and Development Board  
Working Party on the Strategic Framework  
and the Programme Budget**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the draft UNCTAD programme plan  
and performance information for the year 2021,  
part II of the proposed programme budget**

**Proposed programme plan for 2021 and  
programme performance for 2019\***


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\* This note has not been formally edited.

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## Statement<sup>1</sup>

Trusted with the responsibility to promote an inclusive global economy, giving priority consideration for the needs and interest of developing countries, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continues to strengthen its actions to advance trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD, through its three pillars - research and policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation- effectively contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant targets set in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences.

The implementation of the SDGs remains at the heart of the work of UNCTAD and I take this opportunity to witness how, UNCTAD programme of work continues to provide high-quality and evidence-based research and analysis that feeds national, regional and international policies with the aim of generating inclusive and sustainable development under the principle of “leaving no one behind”. Based on such analysis, UNCTAD technical cooperation builds the capacities needed in developing countries, with a particular focus on the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In other fronts, UNCTAD’s intergovernmental machinery continues striving to build consensus on policies that allow developing countries to maximize the opportunities of globalization and economic integration as well as to address the cross-cutting economic, social and environmental challenges.

Going into 2021, I am committed to support the organization in its implementation of the outcome of the Fifteenth Quadrennial Conference (UNCTAD 15) through addressing the trade and development challenges of all developing countries across all regions. UNCTAD will continue to promote synergies and complementarities with other international organizations and work with relevant international economic cooperation forums in the areas of its mandate with the aim to addressing the persistent and emerging economic and development issues.

*(Signed)* Mukhisa Kituyi

Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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<sup>1</sup> This vision statement is made in keeping with the delegated authority entrusted to the identified official.

## **I. Overall orientation**

### **A. Mandates and background**

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is responsible for assisting developing countries as reflected in paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, and countries with economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. UNCTAD was established to promote an inclusive global economy, by informing national and international policies, while giving due consideration for the needs and interests of developing countries. As stated in the Nairobi Maafikiano: “The important role of UNCTAD will be strengthened as 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.” The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including the quadrennial sessions of UNCTAD, in particular the principal functions of the Conference outlined in section II, paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX). In the face of rising trade protectionism, declining trust in multilateral solutions and a weakening global enabling environment for development, UNCTAD is called upon to focus its resources to help developing countries build productive capacities, address widening technological and digital divides, ensure sound macroeconomic management and advise governments on financing for development, and addressing illicit financial flows. UNCTAD support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development will also continue to be provided through the implementation of the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects.

### **B. Strategy**

2. UNCTAD strategy aims at better and more consistently assist the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Through its work UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including reducing inequalities, addressing vulnerabilities, poverty eradication, improving the wellbeing of citizens and addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. In particular, UNCTAD will further enhance its efforts to support the development of Africa across its areas of expertise.

3. In order to attain the foregoing objectives, UNCTAD, within its mandate, will: (a) Conduct research and analysis on long standing and emerging trade and development issues; (b) Build consensus around efforts to promote policies and strategies conducive to inclusive and sustainable development; (c) Support countries in implementing development strategies aimed at integrating into the global trading system and economy and achieving sustainable growth and development.

4. In the context of deepening interdependence among all countries, UNCTAD will maintain its unique orientation and commitment to development through those three pillars, while remaining responsive and accountable to all Member States. UNCTAD will give due account to cross-cutting issues, such as good governance at all levels, freedom, peace and security, respect for human rights, including the right to development, gender equality and women’s empowerment, young people and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies, which are essential to all countries to attain sustainable and equitable growth and development. The Conference will also continue efforts to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, including through results-based management.

5. UNCTAD will pursue its subprogrammes in support of the main objective of the programme. Subprogramme 1 examines development strategies in a globalizing world economy and related issues. Subprogrammes 2 and 4 contribute to the building of productive capacity and international competitiveness. Subprogramme 3 and the trade logistics component of subprogramme 4 contribute to the maximization of gains resulting from globalization for development in international trade and trade negotiations. Subprogramme 5 covers the development strategies of economies in Africa, least developed countries – LDCs, and countries in special situations, including small island developing States - SIDS, landlocked developing countries - LLDCs and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies. Sectoral concerns of those countries will also be addressed by other subprogrammes in coordination and cooperation with subprogramme 5.

6. Developing countries rely on UNCTAD for supporting multilateralism for trade and development, building productive capacity in developing countries, advancing structural transformation and mobilizing financing for the 2030 Agenda. To achieve this, UNCTAD intends to adopt a holistic, interdivisional approach in supporting its beneficiaries, drawing on expertise available under all its subprogrammes in relation to productive capacities, technology and the digital gap, macroeconomic issues, financing for development and illicit financial flows. UNCTAD will centre its approach around helping developing countries and partners alike to think outside the box and move forward the smart partnerships and new ways of work that are needed to revitalize globalization for development. UNCTAD also intends to continue the engagement of young people in its main areas of work.

7. UNCTAD is committed to supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the interrelationship between sustainable development and trade, finance, investment and technology. As a major institutional stakeholder of the financing for development process, UNCTAD is leading inter-agency dialogue on monitoring and accountability of the means for implementation targets through the dedicated follow-up of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitments, with particular focus on its trade, finance, investment, technology dimensions, especially in developing countries, including Middle Income Countries - MICs, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. UNCTAD is also custodian of 8 SDG indicators at the global level and an actively contributes to monitoring and implementation on a wide range of SDGs, with main contributions to SDG17, SDG10, SDG9 and SDG8, but also with important contributions to SDG 2, SDG5, SDG12, SDG15 and SDG16. UNCTAD also publishes the annual SDG2 statistical report – the SDG Pulse. In addition, UNCTAD contributes to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators, supporting monitoring and follow-up to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda

8. The objectives of the subprogrammes are also aligned with other relevant agendas, including the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (the Istanbul Programme of Action), Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcomes and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the results of the twenty-fourth and previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

9. Along with the global agendas, UNCTAD will strive in particular to ensure the implementation of mandates resulting and reinforced by the fifteenth quadrennial conference of UNCTAD, to be held in 2020 in Barbados, which will be an important moment for member States to come together to discuss recent developments and long-term trends in the area of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance,

technology, investment and sustainable development and to take stock of the achievements, and the shortfalls, of the first four years of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Recent developments in 2019 show that UNCTAD's work programme in trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development is relevant and ongoing, including considering the effects of the trade tensions and the digital divide, unmet private and public finance commitments to the SDGs, continued slowdown and lack of productive investment in developing countries declining return from and shortening of global value-chains, rising debt levels and the growing threat of a debt crisis in developing countries, as well as ongoing adjustment to new industrial revolutions that are changing the nature of development strategies available to developing countries. Several emerging issues such as growing momentum towards pan-African regional economic cooperation in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area - AfCFTA, renewed interest among developing countries in South-South cooperation schemes, such as Global System of Trade Preferences - GSTP, growing divides among those who benefit from and are excluded from digital transformations, the increasingly apparent economic dimensions of vulnerability to climate change, especially in small and vulnerable economies have also further increased the demand from Member States in the provision of support in making trade, finance, investment and technology work for development.

11. With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2021 is based on the following planning assumptions:

(a) Continued availability of up-to-date and accurate economic and financial information and data at the country and regional levels and continued cooperation with relevant entities on the production of statistics;

(b) Continued availability of extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation programmes, the continued political will to achieve consensus in intergovernmental meetings and the existence of conditions and capacities in member States to adopt and implement policies and strategies;

(c) The agreed outcome of the 15th Ministerial Conference to be held in Barbados in 2020 and its expected re-affirmation of the existing work programme as well as the uncertain outcome of the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

(d) Ongoing operationalization of the United Nations development system reform, with adequate attention given to integrating the economic pillar of the United Nations system into country-level work under the new Resident Coordinator System and adequate entry points for non-resident agencies of the United Nations Secretariat such as UNCTAD into the new ways of working under the reforms.

12. UNCTAD integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as per its mandate. Gender mainstreaming is considered a cross-cutting issue of relevance to all UNCTAD subprogrammes in line with UNCTAD mandates and internal guidance of the Secretariat. Through its work programme, UNCTAD will continue to contribute toward the achievement of SDG 5 by recognizing that Gender equality and women economic empowerment are key elements to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, UNCTAD will update its gender mainstreaming strategy. Concretely, in 2021, UNCTAD will continue to strengthen capacity of member States to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit from the opportunities arising, while an internal statistics coordination task force should enhance the availability and quality of statistics to help policy makers in developing gender-responsive and inclusive trade and development policies.

13. With regard to cooperation with other entities, UNCTAD will continue to promote the further implementation of ministerial declarations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). In addition, UNCTAD has concluded agreements with various international organizations and international non-governmental organizations, academia institutions as well as private sector entities to enhance common approaches and synergies in various areas of work. These included COMESA, Trade Mark East Africa, CATIS, African

Development Bank, African Economic and Monetary Union, InterAmerican Development Bank, Asia Development Fund just to name but a few. One of the main objectives of cooperation with other entities is the combination of UNCTAD expertise with the reach and presence of partner entities in order to maximize the impact provided to beneficiaries. UNCTAD continues to enhance partnerships mechanisms with the private sector, by updating its due diligence guidelines, drawing from experiences of the United Nations Global Compact. In 2019 UNCTAD entered into various cooperation agreements with private sector entities to advance trade and development issues, including China Silk Road Group, 50Breakthroughs Foundation, World Benchmarking Alliance and Rockefeller Foundation. UNCTAD also used its convening power to bring various stakeholders at the joint table to debate, exchange experiences, identify best practices, and develop global standards on the most pressing issues. Notably, at this difficult moment for multilateralism and in a challenging external economic environment, in 2019, the UNCTAD e-commerce week attracted the highest number of partners from civil society, academia, the scientific community and the technology industry to forge closer partnership with the private sector to build capacity and provide the necessary tools for digital economy transformation.

14. With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, through its participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, the High-Level Committee for Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee for Management (HLCM). UNCTAD contributes to ongoing reform initiatives and system-wide efforts to make progress with regard to working together. UNCTAD continues to lead the inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in delivering operational activities “as one” at the country level, in collaboration with 14 other entities. Joint and transparent programme delivery, the rationalization of country presence and coordination of country planning and funding arrangements are elements of the development reform that seek to provide a maximum alignment between the work of agencies and needs of beneficiaries. UNCTAD also seeks to maximize the impact of its expertise through cooperation with agencies with a stronger presence on the ground and larger resource bases. Thus, UNCTAD established various agreements and cooperation arrangements with other entities of the United Nations System.. As one of the five major institutional stakeholders of the Financing for Development follow-up process, UNCTAD plays a lead role in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development follow-up, contributing to the deliberations of the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as well as contributing to the United Nations 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In addition, UNCTAD continues to contribute to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators, supporting monitoring and follow-up to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### C. Legislative mandates

15. The programme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates at the programme level:

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

1995 (XIX)	Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly
63/204	Report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
63/303	Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development
66/288	The future we want
68/200	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
68/219	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International

	Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
73/219	International trade and development
73/220	International financial system and development
73/223	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
73/242	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
73/249	South-South cooperation

*United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolutions and reports*

TD/442	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its twelfth session
TD/500/Add.1	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its thirteenth session: the Doha Mandate
TD/519/Add.2	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its fourteenth session: Nairobi Maafikiano

## D. Deliverables

16. The mandates provide the legislative framework for the programme's deliverables. Table 12.1 lists the cross-cutting deliverables, under the guidance of executive direction and management, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021.

Table 12.1

**Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory**

	2019 <i>planned</i>	2019 <i>actual</i>	2020 <i>planned</i>	2021 <i>planned</i>
<b>Quantified deliverables</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Documents and conference room papers prepared for the Trade and Development Board	1	1	1	1
Reports on the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the areas of UNCTAD expertise	1	1	1	1
Reports on matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the session of the Conference	1	1	1	1
Conference room papers or working papers prepared for the Working Party	4	4	4	4
Overview of the external evaluations of UNCTAD programmes and projects: Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD	1	1	1	1
<a href="#">Synthesis of the five subprogramme evaluations and update on the status of implementation of recommendations</a>	1	1	0	0
Report on external evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme	0	0	0	1
Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing: Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD	1	1	1	1

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
<i>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
Meetings of the Trade and Development Board, including annual, special and executive sessions of the Board and its subsidiary bodies	26	26	26	26
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Ad hoc expert discussions on topics to be determined by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with member States	3	3	3	3
Public symposium with civil society and member States in connection with the work programme of UNCTAD, subject to further consideration and decision by the Trade and Development Board	1	1	1	1
Raúl Prebisch Lecture	1	1	1	1
Geneva multi-stakeholder dialogues on topical international trade and development issues	2	0	1	1
High-level events with UNCTAD special advisers and advocates	2	2	1	1
Cabinet Briefings, including at ministerial level, on the definition and coordination of national development strategies oriented towards sustainable development	2	1	1	1
Civil society networking event (HiveTalks)	0	1	1	1
<i>Publications (number of publications)</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
UNCTAD Annual Report	1	1	1	1
<i>Technical materials (number of materials)</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
Policy briefs on trade and development issues	1	1	1	1
Summary of (HiveTalks) with civil society and the private sector	1	1	1	1
Reports on evaluations of Development Account projects and of external evaluations required by contribution agreements	8	8	10	8
Guidance materials and documents on technical cooperation management, evaluations and self-evaluations, on the mainstreaming of results-based management and other cross-cutting issues	1	1	1	1
Secretary-General Opinion Pieces	1	1	1	1
UNCTAD at a Glance	1	1	1	1



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<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>
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## Non-quantified deliverables

### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Provision of overall management functions including policy clearance of all documents and publications issued by UNCTAD, policy planning and coordination of intergovernmental and expert meetings, programme and project clearance by internal programme review function, and coordination of programme performance reporting and monitoring; provision of internal oversight including oversight and management of external evaluations mandated by the Trade and Development Board, oversight and management of project evaluations funded by the United Nations Development Account and of external evaluations required by contribution agreements, oversight and advice on self-assessments and self-evaluations.

### D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: civil society outreach activities; regional outreach materials; press kits and flyers for flagship publications; public information materials on UNCTAD (including brochures, posters and folders); specialized information sessions for students, delegates and academia visiting UNCTAD and, upon request, in other locations.

Databases and substantive digital materials: Civil Society Database and civil society e-alerts.

External and media relations: Press conferences and lectures, including by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General; press releases and information notes about UNCTAD;

Digital platforms and multimedia content: UNCTAD website and its web pages and social media applications containing information about UNCTAD, meetings and events, documents and publications, and press and public information materials, including information on evaluation; web news briefs.

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## E. Evaluation activities

17. The following evaluations completed in 2019 have guided the programme plan for 2021:

(a) Self-evaluations:

- Synthesis of the five subprogramme evaluations and update on the status of implementation of recommendations;
- E-Trade for all
- Investment promotion partnerships for the development, marketing and facilitation of bankable SDG projects;
- Building capacity of developing countries' policy makers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance;
- Supporting member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews;
- Building the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports;
- Strengthening capacities of policymakers to assess implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate policy responses;
- Building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport;
- Supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their efforts to build economic resilience.

18. The findings of the self-evaluations referenced in paragraph 16.12 above have been taken into account for the programme plan for 2021. UNCTAD is committed towards programme and organizational effectiveness as well as sustainable and robust development

results. Indeed, the evaluations clearly affirm the relevance of the stated objectives and areas of work within the subprogrammes and projects. The evaluations observe the unique role of UNCTAD in fostering an equitable global economic environment for sustainable development, as reiterated in the Nairobi Maafikiano, and that UNCTAD's work is crucial to the success of the 2030 Agenda. On results attained, the evaluations show that UNCTAD has contributed towards a number of intended results at the national, regional and global levels.

19. A synthesis of the evaluations of UNCTAD subprogrammes and review of outcomes from the implementation of recommendations show how evaluations have contributed towards strengthening of UNCTAD subprogrammes. For example, new secretariat-wide initiatives have been established to strengthen collaboration and interdivisional dialogue, such as the Crossing the Line Initiative. On gender mainstreaming, one of the subprogrammes responded to a recommendation to make the goals of gender equity and women's empowerment more explicit in its work by mainstreaming the gender dimensions across its three pillars of its work. In the area of research and policy analysis for instance, since 2017, all UNCTAD's flagship reports examine the gender dimension of its main theme and also analyses international trade policies through gender lenses.

20. The following evaluations and self-evaluations are planned for 2021:

- (a) Evaluation of subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development;
- (b) Eight evaluations of completed projects, including those funded by the Development Account.

## **Programme of Work**

### **II. Subprogramme 1 Globalization, interdependence and development**

#### **A. Objective**

21. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all through evidence-based economic policies and strategies at national, regional and international levels, and to achieve progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, as well as poverty eradication in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including through North-South cooperation, complemented but not substituted by South-South and triangular cooperation.

#### **B. Strategy**

22. To contribute to the advancement of inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all, the subprogramme will continue to identify specific needs and measures arising from the interdependence among trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies, from the point of view of their effects on development. The subprogramme also plans to support developing countries in their efforts to formulate development strategies and practical policy options and recommendations at all levels to meet the challenges of globalization and of SDG implementation, especially SDG 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17. The subprogramme will work through its three pillars, namely research and analysis, intergovernmental deliberations and technical cooperation, which is expected to result in better understanding of coherence between international economic rules, practices and processes and national policies and development strategies. Past results include taking a leading role in reframing debate and proposing reform measures at the national and multilateral level to enhance policy coordination around the idea of a Global Green New Deal (GGND). The 2030 Agenda entails the most ambitious coordinated investment push in history and a profound structural transformation of the economy in a greener and more equitable direction, which has increasingly been re-framed as a kind of 'Green New Deal', gathering wide political support across the world and across the political spectrum. The full impact of these national initiatives will only be realised, however, if they are linked up and supported through complementary regional and global arrangements and structures. The subprogramme's proposal of a GGND includes concepts that could be considered to this end. The GGND contributed to better understanding of coherence between international economic rules and national policies and to supporting the developing countries in their efforts to formulate development strategies by proposing a pathway to move from decisions to actions via building a more integrated policy framework for delivering the SDGs.

23. The subprogramme will continue to provide high quality and timely statistics, and will support the efforts of developing countries to develop their national statistical systems by providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, which will result in strengthened linkages between economic and development policies and decision-making, and the improvement of compilation and dissemination of official statistics of Member States. Past results include a first set of comprehensive trade-in-services statistics produced, with subprogramme's technical assistance, by the eight countries of the West African Monetary Union, and delivering training on merchandise and services trade statistics to more than 2,000 people from 116 countries, of which almost 40% were female, using cost efficient and environmentally sustainable e-learning technologies. Remote technical assistance was also provided to the Eurasian Economic Union in developing a composite Inclusive Growth index in 2019. Substantial advance made jointly with UNODC on developing a conceptual statistical framework for SDG indicator 16.4.1 dealing with illicit

financial flows resulted in the IAEG-SDG reclassifying this indicator as Tier 2 in recognition of the progress achieved. Furthermore, SDG indicators 12.6.1 (Number of companies publishing sustainability reports) and 17.5.1 (Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for LDCs) both graduated to Tier 2 status during 2019. A monthly Commodity Price Statistics Bulletin, a quarterly Trade-in-Services Statistics Bulletin and an online SDG Pulse report were also published for the first time over the past budget cycle. The UN Second Committee has also selected SDG Pulse to report officially on the progress on the measurement of illicit financial flows to the General Assembly (Resolution A/C.2/74/L.69).

24. To contribute to the progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, the subprogramme will promote a better understanding at all levels of the interplay between successful development finance strategies, debt sustainability and effective debt management. To facilitate the progress on debt and development finance issues, the subprogramme will also focus on the challenges to short and long-term debt sustainability in developing countries and on sustainable domestic and international financial resources mobilization for development and the implementation of SDGs 16 and 17. In addition, the subprogramme will provide technical assistance, training and support for developing countries which will result in strengthened national capacities for effective debt management. Achievements over the past years included improved debt management capacities in a growing number of developing countries, reflecting growing demand for DMFAS<sup>2</sup> Programme services to enhance debt transparency. The subprogramme also took the lead in analysing and warning of the dangers of growing private indebtedness, including in developing countries and provided estimates for the impact of SDG financing gaps on debt sustainability in 30 developing countries, broadening the country coverage for the provision of early warning systems to 32 countries.

25. To foster South-South cooperation, the subprogramme will continue to undertake research and analysis on trends and prospects for closer cooperation and integration among developing countries. The subprogramme also plans to provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices which is expected to facilitate the bridging of development gaps. Past results in these areas include sharing of successful policy experiences for structural transformation among developing countries in the identified policy areas such as trade and industrialization, macroeconomic policy and structural transformation. Particularly, with the support of the subprogramme, China's policy experiences, identified and analysed by the subprogramme's research, were shared and discussed with high-level government officials from Ethiopia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka to be further considered by these countries as policy options. Progress has also been made on conceptualization of policies for structural transformation in Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Egypt through Productive Transformation Policy Reviews produced by the subprogramme jointly with the OECD Development Centre. By building capacity to formulate policies for diversification, innovation and structural transformation, the subprogramme has promoted economic integration in Southern Africa region through industrial policy coordination and support of regional value chains.

26. The subprogramme will continue to support the Palestinian people in line with Maafikiano 55dd. Past results include the recognition of UNCTAD's work (for example the reports on the fiscal leakage) which has been used as input within a number of international fora. Also UNCTAD advisory services enabled the Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute to econometrically model the Palestinian economy.

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<sup>2</sup> Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS).

### C. Programme performance in 2019: Enhanced understanding of developmental challenges of digital platforms contributed to the revision by Member States of policies regarding digital economy

27. To contribute to the achievement by Member States of inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all, the subprogramme further developed the analysis presented in Trade and Development Report 2018 around the emergence of monopoly risks in digital platforms and the need for regulations in the digital economy. Additionally, in 2019, the subprogramme published three other reports focusing on the same issue, namely, “Rising Product Digitalization and Losing Trade Competitiveness”, “South-South Digital Cooperation for Industrialization: A Regional Integration Agenda” and “Growing Trade in Electronic Transmissions: Implications for the South”. These publications provided an extensive analysis of the development challenges large digital platforms present to developing countries and suggested specific measures and policies which might be adopted by developing countries to increase the benefits of the digital economy for their populations. The policymakers in several developing countries also benefited from capacity building and advisory services from the subprogramme on these policy proposals.

28. The subprogramme’s work has already had impact on discussions about digital economy and on policymaking. At the United Nations level, United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched an annual report on ‘South-South Cooperation in a Digital World’ at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-22 March 2019. The way forward in the Report on implementing the South-South Cooperation in the digital world has extensively quoted the subprogramme’s study and has heavily relied on the regional digital cooperation agenda contained in it. Further, the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel’s Report on Digital Cooperation, launched in June 2019 also quotes these studies.

29. At the national level, some of the countries have quoted the subprogramme’s studies and have adopted our proposals in their national E-Commerce policies. The concrete proposals that the countries have put in their draft ecommerce policies are the following: (i) Ownership of Data and declaration of sovereign rights over their data; (ii) localization of Data, which implies that the data collected by the foreign firms will be processed in the data centres within the national boundary of the country, and (iii) custom duties on Electronic transmissions. For example, India’s Draft E-Commerce Policy, launched in February 2019, quotes the Division’s study with respect to its estimates of tariff revenue losses because of Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions. The subprogramme’s study on Electronic Transmissions has also led to tabling of proposals in the multilateral negotiations at the WTO. For example, South Africa and India have quoted the subprogramme’s study in their communication in the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WT/GC/W/747). On the invitation of the WTO Secretariat, the study was presented to its members in April 2019. The study was also discussed extensively by the member states in the General Council Meeting of the WTO in July 2019 on the Work Programme in Electronic Commerce.

#### *Progress towards attainment of the objective and performance measures*

30. This work contributed to the achievement by Member States of inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all, as demonstrated by new policies on regulating digital economy and through a change in policymaking based on policymakers’ improved understanding of global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustainable development. Member States’ revision of their digital policies is demonstrated by changed positions of some influential developing countries in multilateral negotiations, as well as by their new approach to regulating digital platforms at the national level. The acceptance of the proposals tabled in the WTO would result in a multilateral framework which would substantially increase fiscal resources of developing countries from tariffs on electronic commerce.

*Performance measures*

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Developing countries do not regulate digital economy as most of the digital platforms are located in developed economies	UNCTAD received a request from one large developing country to develop proposals for digital industrial policy for developing countries	Subprogramme starts developing proposals for digital industrial policy of developing countries	Subprogramme publishes Trade and Development Report 2018 and three other studies on the issue of digital industrial policy	Two countries adopt policies that regulate e-commerce and table proposals for change in multilateral rules in the WTO

**D. Programme performance in 2019, against planned result**

31. A planned result for 2019, which is improved understanding of global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustainable development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, was achieved. This is evidenced by 674 of citations in the media on the growth-oriented macroeconomic and financial policy choices advocated in the research produced by the subprogramme, against the planned 550 citations.

**E. Programme plan for 2021: Improving industrial policy and fostering regional value chains in Southern Africa**

32. The subprogramme has been working in several regions to support Member States in their efforts to achieve sustained growth, inclusive and sustainable development, full employment and decent work for all. Our analysis showed that economic growth in Southern Africa had been driven since the mid-1990s mostly by external factors, while productivity gains in the region have been small and structural transformation has been slow. Despite these difficulties, Southern African economies seem well placed for developing value chains at the regional level (RVCs). As recently shown by recent research by UNCTAD<sup>3</sup> and United Nations ECA<sup>4</sup>, the Southern part of the continent stands out both in terms of integration and trade complementarity. Recognizing these peculiarities and the importance of regional productive integration as a means to revitalize the industrial sector and foster economic growth, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has adopted a common industrial strategy with the goal to promote development of an integrated industrial base within SADC through the exploitation of regional synergies in value-added production and enhancement of export competitiveness, including via collaboration in the development of regional value chains with targeted interventions.

33. The subprogramme has supported SADC's efforts to facilitate the development of regional value chains and foster industrial policy coordination. Cooperating with SADC, OECD, ECA and UNIDO, the subprogramme identified opportunities for cooperation in mining equipment, agro-processing and electricity sectors and proposed a series of concrete policy measures to be adopted at the domestic and at the regional level, such as finalizing the SADC Regional Qualification Framework (RQF), developing a knowledge sharing platform on local content policies under the SADC Industrialisation Strategy, harmonising standards within SADC for key commodities and promoting a regional supermarket pact. The complete list of 21 proposals were included in the integration agenda and are now reflected in the official outcome document of the Dar-es-Salaam meeting (December 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Structural Transformation and Export Diversification in Southern Africa, UNCTAD 2018 ([https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsecidc2017d5\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsecidc2017d5_en.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> Economic Report on Africa 2015: Industrializing Through Trade, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2015 ([https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/era2015\\_eng\\_fin.pdf](https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/era2015_eng_fin.pdf))

*Internal challenge and response:*

34. After having identified priority areas and policy measures, achieved an intergovernmental convergence on those policies, and communicated them to policymakers operating on the field in industry and trade ministries, the subprogramme expected the private sector in SADC countries to respond to the new framework by developing existing RVCs and investing in new ones. That, however, has not happened yet.

35. The subprogramme has recognized the challenge and that the identification of opportunities and further proposal of policy measures does not translate automatically into concrete results on the ground. Therefore, in response to this challenge, the subprogramme plans to follow-up with supporting the beneficiary countries to concretely build-up value chains in the region and helping them to implement policy strategies which take into account the regional component and aim at productive integration in the identified areas. The subprogramme will also help to establish a regular dialogue between the public and the private sector and provide industrial policy capacity building for policymakers in several countries of the region.

36. In particular, subprogramme will: (i) assist the Mauritius' Government on the formulation of an Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan for Mauritius for the period 2020–2025 and facilitate discussion with critical stakeholders with the organization of two national workshops; (ii) assist the Mozambique's Government on the assessment and revision of the industrial policy strategy launched in 2018 and facilitate discussion with critical stakeholders with the organization of a national workshop; and (iii) explore the potential of integrating manufacturing and production of crops for non-food uses in the region and foster the connection among critical actors in order to build a full-fledged value chain in the textile sector, with a specific focus on the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius.

*Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures*

37. This work is expected to contribute to the achievement by Member States of inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all, as evidenced by increased engagement of private sector in public policy decisions and expanded cross-border activities of firms in the region. These planned activities will result in an enhanced interaction between critical stakeholders in a highly promising but underdeveloped value chain such as textile and in the development of industrial policy strategies able to sustain and incentivize private investment towards promising sectors. These results in turn are expected to ultimately foster sustainable industrialization and growth through RVCs development in line with SDGs 8 and 9.

*Performance measures*

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
SADC countries do not have in place an industrial policy framework aimed specifically at formation and development of regional value chains	UNCTAD received a request to support SADC industrialization strategy and develop proposals to operationalize a common regional industrial policy that includes RVCs	Subprogramme starts developing proposals for a regional industrial policy of several countries in SADC	Subprogramme identifies sectors where RVCs could be established and brings together relevant stakeholders	Increased engagement of private sector in economic policy decisions and expanded cross-border activities of firms in the region

**F. Legislative mandates**

38. The subprogramme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates:

*General Assembly resolutions*

66/188	Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets
70/12	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
72/206	Financial inclusion for sustainable development
72/207	Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development
72/227	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
73/221	External debt sustainability and development
73/240	Towards a New International Economic Order
73/256	Assistance to the Palestinian people
74/10	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

**G. Deliverables**

39. The mandates provide the legislative framework for its deliverables. Table 12.2 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 12.2

**Subprogramme 1: output performance for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory**

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
<b>Quantified deliverables</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Reports for the General Assembly, including on external debt sustainability and development, South–South cooperation, assistance to the Palestinian people, the economic cost of occupation to the Palestinian people, and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	5	4	5	5
Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD	0	0	1	0
Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including on financing for development issues, on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people and the Overview of the <i>Trade and Development Report</i>	3	3	3	3
Reports for the Trade and Development Commission and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission	1	1	1	1
Reports for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development	1	1	1	1
<i>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</i>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>
Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies	4	4	4	4
Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings	6	0	25	0
Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	5	3	3	3
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the Trade and Development Commission and related multi-year expert	3	3	3	3



	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
meetings				
Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development	6	6	6	6
Debt Management Conference	6	6	0	6
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
Project on enhancing the public, private and/or international capacity related to the assistance to the Palestinian People	1	1	1	1
Project on trade in services development for the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union	1	1	1	1
Project on development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	1	1	1	1
Projects on installation, update and maintenance of the DMFAS programme	15	15	15	15
Project on measuring illicit capital flows in sub-Saharan Africa (jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Commission for Africa)	1	1	1	1
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</i>	<b>126</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>126</b>
Seminars and workshops for policymakers, including on formulating development strategies and policy recommendations; sovereign borrowing and lending; globalization, trade and development	30	32	30	30
Ad hoc expert discussions, including on inclusive growth and Sustainable Development Goals; the interdependence between trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies	6	6	6	6
DMFAS training courses for administrators and debt auditors from selected countries in recording debt data, reporting, debt statistics, debt analysis and debt auditing	90	90	90	90
<i>Publications (number of publications)</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Trade and Development Report	1	1	1	1
UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics	1	1	1	1
UNCTAD Sustainable Development Goal Monitor	1	1	1	1
Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures	1	0	1	0
Studies, including on external debt; developing country financial crises; international financial architecture; Palestinian economic development; South–South cooperation and regional integration	6	6	7	7
<i>Technical materials (number of materials)</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
Policy and statistical briefs on macroeconomic, development, financing and debt, structural transformation and South–South cooperation issues	6	6	6	6
Chapters on debt and debt sustainability and addressing systemic issues of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development	1	1	1	1
Economic and maritime statistical country profiles	2	2	2	2

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
DMFAS documentation and software	3	3	3	3
Training materials on debt management	1	1	1	1

### Non-quantified deliverables

#### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to policymakers, including on domestic resource mobilization, structural transformation, growth policy (Group of 20), debt renegotiation at the Paris Club, financial instability, debt sustainability and statistical capacity in the area of trade and development

Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD Financial Database; World Economic Macromodellers database; UNCTAD statistical Data Centre; Financial Stress and Debt Sustainability Indicators.

#### D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures and presentations on external debt, development finance, and macroeconomic and development policy issues; e-newsletters and brochures on DMFAS and the Virtual Institute.

External and media relations: press releases; press conferences and interviews, including on developing country debt and external financing; South–South cooperation and regional integration; assistance to the Palestinian people.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: DMFAS; Virtual Institute; UNCTADStat.

## III. Subprogramme 2 Investment and enterprise

### A. Objective

40. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for productive capacity-building, economic diversification, and job creation.

### B. Strategy

41. To contribute to the advancement of inclusive growth and sustainable development, the subprogramme will continue to assist member States through research and policy analysis in order to design and implement active policies at both the national and international levels resulting in enhanced investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development, which will assist member States to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The subprogramme will monitor, assess and analyse global and regional trends and prospects; prepare the annual World Investment Report and other analytical publications; conduct reviews of national investment policies and international investment agreements. Past results include the provision of timely, relevant and quality information on international investment trends and policies. The World Investment Report was downloaded 330,000 times every year over the past three years and cited on average 2,900 times in academic journals. The information contained in the Investment Trends and Policy Monitors and in the ground-breaking SDG Investment Trends Monitor allows for informed policymaking. Significant progress has been made in the ability of developing countries and economies in transition to design and implement policies to attract investment and increase its contribution to sustainable development. Tracking FDI flows over time showed 15 countries, whose Investment Policy Review (IPR) implementation has been assessed, saw their annual FDI inflows increase by an average 206 per cent in the five years following the IPR compared to average annual inflows in the five years before the IPR.

42. The subprogramme will also advise governments on investment promotion, business facilitation and innovative financing for the SDGs, including through stock exchanges and institutional funds. Among the results achieved are the Sustainable Stock Exchange (SSE) Guidance on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting which encourages stock exchanges to introduce guidance on ESG disclosure (sustainability reporting). Due to an SSE campaign, the number of stock exchanges which have implemented such guidance has grown from 14 to 47. Overall, the SSE membership has grown to 93 exchanges with a combined \$88 trillion in market capitalization.

43. The subprogramme will also help member States enhance the international competitiveness of their enterprises, as well as assist and support them in the area of accounting and reporting. Progress was made in the area of enterprise development, including with the publication of a guidance for corporate reporting on the SDGs, which allows for the measurement of private sector contribution to the SDGs. Work in this area contributed to a better understanding of enterprise development issues as well as to an increased ability to boost productive capacity, inclusive growth and sustainable development through enterprise development policies.

44. The subprogramme will also foster dialogue and an exchange of best practice on investment and enterprise development issues through consensus building mechanisms and its World Investment Forum (WIF), which is expected to result in policy proposals, innovations and tools that can be disseminated to member States to gain traction and drive sustainable development. The WIF2018 attracted more than 6,000 participants to Geneva. They included eleven Heads of State, over fifty ministers and a significant number of public officials and sovereign wealth fund managers. Almost 2,000 private sector leaders participated, including executives of global companies and stock exchanges, in 75 sessions organized in collaboration with more than 50 international partners. With this broad participation the WIF2018 reached the full spectrum of the financial community and confirmed the Forum as the preeminent global platform for high-profile stakeholder engagement on financing for the SDGs. The Forum also yielded the important decision to create the Ambassadors Roundtable to facilitate interaction between diplomats, international organizations and the private sector to establish Geneva as a global SDG implementation hub.

45. The subprogramme will assist all developing countries in promoting the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing to SDG1, SDG4, SDG5, SDG8, SDG9, SDG10, SDG12, SDG16, and SDG17.

### **C. Programme performance in 2019: Forging the sustainable dimension of international investment agreements**

46. In 2019, the subprogramme provided support to 78 countries and four regional groupings (covering 76 countries, including discussions for the African Continental Free Trade Area) to bolster their capacity to amend existing international investment agreements (IIAs) or draft new ones that are better aligned with sustainable development policies. In the absence of a formal supranational body governing international investment, UNCTAD backstops global engagement on IIAs and supports ongoing intergovernmental efforts to strengthen the sustainable development dimension of investment treaties. The importance of this work is formally acknowledged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph 91) and the General Assembly in its resolution A/Res/71/215.

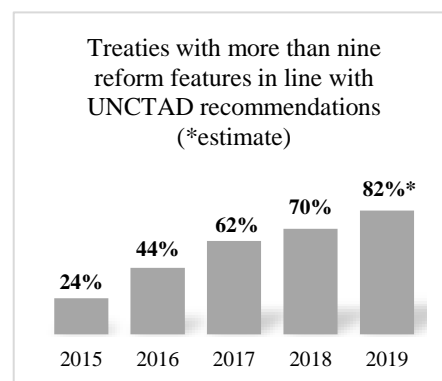
47. The process of IIA reform is directly assisted by UNCTAD through its support to the development of modern models and treaties as well as to the modernization of existing old generation treaties to incorporate elements pertaining to the sustainable development dimension. UNCTAD's policy tools, such as the Roadmap for IIAs Reform and the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, have shaped IIA reform objectives and activities at all levels of policy making through policy-oriented support, complemented by capacity-building workshops and training courses around the globe.

*Progress towards attainment of the objective and performance measures*

48. This work contributed to the advancement of inclusive growth and sustainable development as demonstrated by an increase of investment treaties with reform features. In 2018, 17 treaties that were concluded that year (i.e. all of the ones for which the text was available) contained at least four reform features in line with UNCTAD's investment policy guidance – compared with zero such treaties concluded in the year 2000.

49. By the end of 2019, there were more than 75 countries and regional integration organizations (REIOs) that have reviewed treaty networks or developed their model treaties in line with UNCTAD policy tools. UNCTAD investment policy tools have also found reflection in a number of investment policy principles that countries or country groupings have adopted recently. Among these are the Joint ACP-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking which, following their approval, have shaped investment policy making at both the national and international levels. Modern treaties aim to pursue sustainable development by providing clarity, parity and flexibility this enables countries to avoid investor-State dispute settlement cases, noting that almost all new investor-State dispute settlement cases are based on treaties of the old generation.

*Performance measures*



#### **D. Programme performance in 2019, against planned result**

50. A planned result for 2019, which is the enhanced understanding of enterprise development issues and their enhanced ability to boost competitiveness, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, was achieved as evidenced by five additional countries in implementing UNCTAD policy measures and tools in the design of policies aimed at strengthening entrepreneurship, as compared with the previous biennium, bringing the total to 37 countries (as of 30 October 2019). These countries developed and implemented national entrepreneurship strategies, based on UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and Empretec programme and methodology, aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of their firms.

#### **E. Programme plan for 2021: An investment chain to bridge the SDG financing gap**

51. The subprogramme has been working towards enhancing the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in designing and implementing strategies and policies to attract investment and enhancing its contribution to inclusive growth and the SDGs. The vast scope of economic, social and environmental targets set out under the SDGs require enormous investment and current levels of investment fall well short, with an annual investment gap of \$2.5 trillion that needs to be bridged. Since 2014, and building on its action plan for investing in the SDGs (a set of priority actions that could constitute a significant big push for the SDGs), as well as on subsequently developed assistance to member States, the subprogramme has placed a greater emphasis on the development and promotion of frameworks and tools aimed at attracting investment in SDG-related sectors.

*Internal challenge and response*

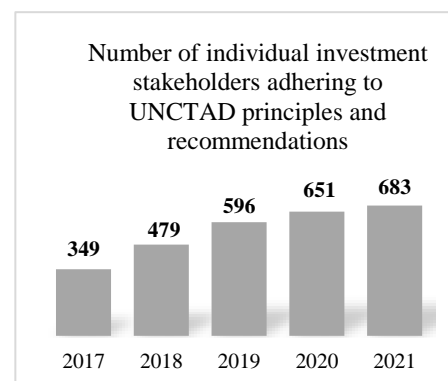
52. The challenge for the subprogramme was that the focus on traditional investors has proven insufficient to bridge the vast level of funding required to fulfil the objectives set by the development agenda. In response, the subprogramme is broadening its global investment chain approach, which engages the entire spectrum of investment-development stakeholders. This includes policymakers and investment treaty negotiators, investment promotion agencies, central banks, stock exchanges and sovereign wealth fund managers,

as well as multinational enterprises, SMEs, family businesses and special economic zones – the upstream and downstream of the investment chain. By engaging and forging partnerships with these investment-development stakeholders, the subprogramme will be able to support the pooling of additional resources and channelling them towards global investment-development objectives.

*Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures*

53. This work is expected to contribute towards advancing inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for productive capacity-building, economic diversification, job creation and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which would be evidenced by an increased adherence to UNCTAD principles and recommendations by individual investment stakeholders.

*Performance measures*



## F. Legislative mandates

54. The subprogramme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates:

*General Assembly resolutions*

73/225	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
A/C.2/74/L.4	Promoting investment for sustainable development

## G. Deliverables

55. The mandates provide the legislative framework for its deliverables. Table 12.3 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 12.3

**Subprogramme 2: Output performance for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory**

	2019 <i>plan</i>	2019 <i>actual</i>	2020 <i>plan</i>	2021 <i>plan</i>
<b>Quantified deliverables</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (Number of documents)</i>	7	7	9	8
Report of the Secretary-General for the General Assembly on investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development	0	0	1	1
Report and background documents for the Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	0	0	1	0
Reports for the Trade and Development Board on investment for development	1	1	1	1
Reports for the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and related expert meetings	4	4	4	4

	2019 plan	2019 actual	2020 plan	2021 plan
Reports for the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on International Standards on Accounting and Reporting	2	2	2	2
<i>Substantive services for meetings (Number of 3-hour meetings)</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>
Meetings of the Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	4	0	24	0
Meetings of the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development and related expert meetings	14	14	14	14
Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	6	6	6	6
Meetings of the World Investment Forum	0	0	20	0
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Field and technical cooperation projects (Number of projects)</i>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>60</b>
Projects on investment issues analysis	3	3	3	3
Projects on investment policy reviews and investment facilitation enhancement	8	8	8	8
Projects on special economic zones	0	0	0	2
Projects on international investment agreements	8	8	8	8
Projects on investment promotion and facilitation	3	3	3	3
Projects on intellectual property rights for development	0	1	0	1
Projects on investment guides	4	4	4	2
Projects on business facilitation	10	10	10	10
Projects on enterprise development and business linkages	4	4	4	3
Empretec Projects	5	5	5	6
Projects on accounting and reporting	2	2	2	3
Projects on the contribution of foreign investment to inclusive growth and the SDGs	3	3	5	5
Projects on institutional investors	0	1	0	2
Projects on family business	0	2	0	2
Projects on responsible investment	0	2	0	2
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (Number of days)</i>	<b>107</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>
Seminars on FDI, its development dimension and the themes of the World Investment Report.	6	6	6	6
Training workshops on best practice in national and international policies related to investment	8	8	8	4

	2019 plan	2019 actual	2020 plan	2021 plan
National workshops on investment policy reviews, follow-up and investment facilitation enhancement	10	10	10	14
Training workshops on international investment statistics and survey methodologies	5	5	5	5
Ad hoc expert discussions on key FDI issues	3	3	3	3
Training workshops on investment promotion and facilitation for policy makers, investment promotion officials and diplomats	14	14	14	10
Training workshop on the negotiation, implementation and reform of international investment agreements	15	15	15	15
Ad hoc expert discussions on investment policies for sustainable development	4	4	4	4
Training workshops on intellectual property for development	10	10	10	10
Training workshops on enterprise development policies	16	18	16	16
Training seminars on accounting and sustainability reporting	6	6	6	6
Workshops and seminars on responsible investment issues	4	6	4	4
Ad hoc expert discussions on enterprise competitiveness issues	6	6	6	6
Seminars on institutional investors and sustainable development	0	1	0	2
Ad-hoc expert discussions on family business	0	1	0	2
<i>Publications (Number of publications)</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
World Investment Report and its overview	2	2	2	2
Publications on investment issues for development, including the Transnational Corporation Journal, best practices and lessons learned in foreign direct investment in least developed countries, and responsible investment	7	7	7	7
Publications on investment policies for development including Investment Policy Facilitation Enhancements, Investment Policy Reviews, Investment Policy Monitors	9	9	9	9
Publications on investment promotion and facilitation	3	3	3	3
Publications on enterprise development	1	1	2	2
Publications on accounting and reporting, including the ISAR annual review, the series on accounting and reporting	2	2	2	2
<i>Technical materials (Number of materials)</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>
Investment Trends Monitors, including SDG Investment Trends Monitor	0	4	0	4
I-Guides	2	3	2	2
Reports on measures affecting international investment	2	2	2	2
International investment agreement issue notes	2	2	2	2
Policy briefs on intellectual property rights for development	2	2	2	1
Training materials on enterprise development and business linkages	1	1	1	1
ISAR Update	0	2	0	2

	2019 <i>plan</i>	2019 <i>actual</i>	2020 <i>plan</i>	2021 <i>plan</i>
Empretec Newsletter	0	2	0	2
Ambassadors Annual Roundtable	0	1	0	1
Newsletters on responsible investment	0	3	0	5

### Non-quantified deliverables

#### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to developing countries, including on formulating policies to attract FDI for development, statistics and analysis on international investment, including responsible investment; advisory services to governments, including on national policies and international investment agreements and sustainable development as well as investment promotion and facilitation, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, business facilitation, and accounting and reporting standards; advocacy and advisory services to investment promotion agencies (IPAs), special economic zones and other stakeholders in the global investment chain, and Empretec centres.

Databases and substantive digital materials: databases on FDI, national policies, international investment agreements

#### D. Communication deliverables

External and media relations: World Investment Forum Report; booklets; newsflashes

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Global Registration Portal; Investment Policy Hub.

## IV. Subprogramme 3 International trade and commodities

### A. Objective

56. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure that international trade and commodities are an engine for prosperity, inclusiveness and sustainable development for all member States.

### B. Strategy

57. To contribute to ensuring that international trade and commodities are an engine for prosperity, inclusiveness and sustainable development for all member States, the subprogramme will continue to promote the implementation of measures by developing countries and economies so they better integrate and benefit from the International Trading System through the mechanisms of UNCTAD's three main pillars of work: research and analysis; consensus building; and technical cooperation and capacity building.

58. The subprogramme plans to support trade and trade-related decision-making of developing countries to better deal with the impacts of subsidies, tariffs, and non-tariff measures (NTMs), provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices to improve information sharing and information security in a greater number of countries which is expected to result in the streamlining of NTMs and the elimination or reduction of unjustified non-tariff barriers in international trade, which is expected to result in strengthened trade and trade related decision making of developing countries. Past results in this area of work include strengthened capacity of developing countries for informed trade and trade-related decision making with the help of analysis provided on trade trends and trade policy and training activities, which has assisted economic policymakers in identifying and addressing tariff and non-tariff market access barriers in their countries. Between 2018-2019, more than 300 stakeholders indicated the usefulness of subprogramme's research and trade analysis products such as the Trade Analysis and



Information System, the World Integrated Trade Solution, and the Transparency in Trade Initiative. In addition, four online courses on NTMs and trade policy were completed by 275 participants from about 50 countries. Furthermore, analysis of official data indicates that at least 8 specific actions aimed at reducing or addressing non-tariff barriers were achieved in bilateral/regional negotiations or by national or country groups actions in specific sectors, with the support of subprogramme.

59. The subprogramme will continue enhancing implementation of measures by developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to integrate beneficially into the international trading system, at the international and regional level. The subprogramme will continue its efforts to improve understanding of trade policymaking and enhanced national capacity, in the context of current trade tensions and a crisis in the multilateral trading system. This is expected to result in more countries achieving positive development outcomes in relation to increased trade integration and activity. Past results show that at least 20 actions were taken by countries and institutions with support of the subprogramme to enhance their participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements, cooperative frameworks and partnerships, including post-MC11 WTO processes and negotiations, WTO accession, AfCFTA and PAFTA negotiations, South–South trade cooperation under the GSTP and BAPA+40. These actions, among many, included the adoption of negotiating positions, preparation of draft proposals and identification of policy options.

60. Furthermore, the subprogramme will develop the capacities of commodity-dependent developing countries to address trade and development problems associated with the commodity economy, which is expected to result in their improved capacity to seize opportunities emerging from commodity trade and enhanced international and regional cooperation. Past results include improved understanding of the challenges and policy options relating to commodity production and trade in countries with economies that are dependent on commodities and their increased capacities to design policies aimed at the diversification of export earnings and promoting value-added production. Capacity-building workshops were delivered by the subprogramme in four countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), including drafting and submitting the National Action Plans agreed at each national workshop. 75 percent of workshop participants reported enhanced knowledge of the challenges and policy options while the governments of Uganda and Zimbabwe have validated their plans.

61. The subprogramme will also enhance adoption, improvement and enforcement of national and regional competition and consumer protection legislation, resulting in more countries to have revised or implemented competition and consumer protection legislation and institutional frameworks as a result of best practices, model laws and peer reviews provided by UNCTAD. Past result include the completion of legal assessments of the national competition law of Belarus and of the regional competition rules of the Eurasian Economic Union and provision of technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of several Middle East and North Africa countries, including Latin and Central American countries, towards effective competition and consumer protection enforcement.

62. The subprogramme will promote the design and implementation, according to their needs, of trade, environment and sustainable development objectives and creative economy strategies at all levels, which is expected to result in member States harnessing opportunities for trade in environmentally preferable products, including Biotrade and creative industries, and to increase capacities to assess the economic potential of oceans sectors and devise integrated sustainable use and trade Action Plans. Past results in this area include increased number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition that have designed and implemented policies, programmes, normative initiatives and institutional arrangements to harness opportunities for trade in environmentally preferable products, including biotrade. These included over 50 countries that received subprogramme's assistance to develop and implement policies, plans and programmes to advance sustainable development, such as Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica in realizing trade and economic benefits from the sustainable use of their marine resources, supported by 34 studies produced by the subprogramme on greening of exports, oceans economy, climate change, BioTrade and creative economy and 19 workshops delivered at the national level on SDGs and biodiversity, fisheries, oceans economy, trade and climate change, such

as workshops in Angola, Lebanon, and Republic of Moldova on green export strategies and green growth.

63. The subprogramme will continue to act as the focal point for gender mainstreaming in trade-policies, strengthening capacity of member States to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit more from the opportunities arising from international trade stakeholders participating in country-based activities resulting in their improved capacity to identify and to address gender-specific trade barriers and gender-specific obstacles on the supply side. Past results in this area include capacity building activities undertaken by the subprogramme benefitting nearly 500 participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition and which have taken part in the online courses on trade and gender in 2018 and 2019 with more than half stating that the course exceeded (30-35% of participants on average) or considerably exceeded (on average 20-30 % of participants) their expectations.

64. The subprogramme will assist all developing countries in promoting the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing to SDG5, SDG8, SDG12, SDG13, SDG14, SDG15, and SDG17.

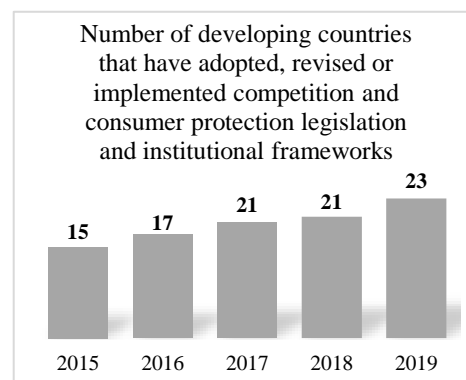
### C. Programme performance in 2019: Strengthening international cooperation in the field of consumer protection and contributing to consumer welfare worldwide

65. As the focal point on competition and consumer protection within the United Nations system, as prescribed by the General Assembly Resolutions 35/63 of 5 December 1980 and 70/186 of 22 December 2015, UNCTAD, through subprogramme 3, continued to actively support this role in 2019 by serving the meetings of its two main intergovernmental bodies, and mainly the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on consumer protection law and policy and the eighteenth session of the IGE on competition law and policy, and by preparing, in support of the deliberations of these meetings, eight sessional documents, two post-sessional document and one publication on the assessment of consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia. The relevance and the importance of the consumer protection for member States was reconfirmed by its high attendance, gathering over 350 participants from 83 countries, including also international organizations, non-government organizations, academic and private sector institutions. As a result of its session, the IGE decided to renew the mandate of its Working Groups on Consumer Protection in E-commerce and Consumer Product Safety. The IGE also hosted the second Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, that of Indonesia, a unique exercise carried out by UNCTAD in support of its member States. In addition to that, and in support of strengthening the international cooperation on consumer protection, the subprogramme continued to host its World Consumer Protection Map, and ongoing project that displays the legal and institutional frameworks for consumer protection, currently for 64 member States. Finally, the subprogramme continued to support the consumer welfare through its technical cooperation efforts and three main programmes that concluded by July 2019: Programme on Strengthening Institutions and Capacities in the Areas of Competition and Consumer Protection Policies in Latin America (COMPAL), the Programme for Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA); and the Programme for the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), covering 32 countries in total.

#### *Progress towards attainment of the objective and performance measures*

66. Through its work, the subprogramme enhanced the adoption, improvement and enforcement of national and regional competition and consumer protection legislation, leading to an increased number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition that have adopted,

#### *Performance measures*



revised or implemented competition and consumer protection legislation and institutional frameworks as a result of best practices, model laws and peer reviews provided by UNCTAD. This work contributed overall to strengthening consumer protection and welfare around the world, supported by several important achievements and progress.

67. Thus, the CEMAC's Programme council of Ministers adopted the Directive on Consumer Protection, allowing the Community to have for the first time a common framework on the issue. For the attainment of the objective, through its MENA Programme, the subprogramme released 10 new publications on various topics related to competition and consumer protection which aim to enforce competition and consumer protection legislation. UNCTAD and the China Silk Road Group signed a cooperation agreement worth US\$2.5M and have initiated a project to provide online dispute resolution for consumers in two ASEAN countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme provided technical assistance in consumer protection law reform to Argentina, Bhutan and Paraguay which enforced its legislation and institutional frameworks.

68. In following-up on the progress of work, Morocco reported an implementation of 40% of the recommendations flowing from its Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Protection Law and Policy completed in 2018 and containing 13 concrete recommendations to improve the legal and institutional frameworks of consumer protection in the country. As part of the implementation of recommendations, Morocco has trained 1500 enforcers, launched a digital platform to increase consumer information and education, and it has been accepted as a member in the International Consumer Protection Enforcement Network. Moreover, as a result of the review, Morocco has received the expression of interest from two development partners (Germany and Spain) to support the implementation of the peer review recommendations.

#### **D. Programme performance in 2019, against planned result**

69. A planned result for 2019, which is strengthened trade and trade-related decision-making of developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, and implementation of measures to address the trade and development impact of subsidies, tariff and non-tariff measures, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, was achieved, as evidenced by an estimated 320 beneficiaries indicating the usefulness of UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System, related statistical indicators, trade analysis training and trade policy research publications for sustainable development. This was against a planned performance of 300.

#### **E. Programme plan for 2021: Oceans economy – supporting developing countries in realizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources**

70. In response to its mandate given by the outcome document of the UNCTAD 14<sup>th</sup> quadrennial ministerial conference, the subprogramme has been working in several regions to support member States, in particular developing countries, in their advancement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and their approach to the Oceans Economy, including in the design and implementation of national economic development strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources seeking to promote sustainable trade in ocean-based sectors. UNCTAD has undertaken various research pieces to support developing countries on a development perspective on fish subsidies negotiations, fish subsidies and non-tariff measures, and on WTO notification requirements. It has also produced a special dedicated report on "SDG 14: Sustainable fish, seafood value chains, trade and climate" all in 2019. This is an important issue particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal developing countries, as they are often characterized by vulnerable economies with small land areas that are at the forefront of experiencing the devastating effects of climate change.

*Internal challenge and response*

71. One of the challenges experienced by the subprogramme included difficulties in finding accurate data at the country level regarding levels of harvesting, landings, trade, and prices in specific targeted species. In response, UNCTAD has worked to complement these data gaps with local data when available or by gathering it directly and by introducing estimates. Further, official fish subsidies data in both quantitative and qualitative terms from developing countries is not available except for those countries that have already notified to the OECD Fisheries Support Database or that have been submitted under WTO notifications. In response, UNCTAD will develop a unique methodological framework to extract relevant data from these sources. These efforts will result in better, more comprehensive data being available to inform analysis and policy making processes.

72. Another challenge faced by the subprogramme in this area has been in relation to enhancing the understanding of the countries of the impact of climate change on the productivity of oceans sectors and the importance of developing National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) to address this, with no intergovernmental platforms available to discuss the trade and climate nexus and raise its associated issues. In response to this challenge, and to a realisation of the need to include a wider range of stakeholders to address a number of interrelated issues, and building on two previous and successful Oceans Trade Forums on trade related aspects of SDG 14, the subprogramme has launched a wider scope platform under the United Nations Trade Forum in 2019 to also include trade and climate nexus and impacts on developing countries, particularly SIDS, and is planning to raise the importance of the issue further in the planned 2020 Oceans Economy Ministerial Round Table at UNCTAD 15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference

73. By ensuring the availability of comprehensive data on fisheries and subsidies, and by enhancing the awareness and understanding of the countries on the impact of climate change on the productivity of oceans sectors through high-level intergovernmental platforms, the subprogramme will strengthen the capacities of member States to formulate and further adopt National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) aimed at conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources seeking to promote sustainable trade in ocean-based sectors.

*Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures*

74. This work is expected to contribute towards the building of economic diversification, value addition and resilience in coastal economies, through the development of sectors related to the oceans economy (and specially on fisheries) and through availability of relevant data on fisheries trade sector, which would be demonstrated by the formulation and adoption National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) as well the implementation of priority actions in an increased number of member States, along with the growth of targeted sectors. In parallel, UNCTAD support toward relevant multilateral processes such as United Nations Oceans Conferences, WTO fish subsidies negotiations, and discussions and policy recommendations from the United Nations General Assembly and at the FAO Committee on Fisheries Trade will continue.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Increased awareness of member States on the importance of Oceans Economy through UNCTAD activities at WTO MC 11 in Buenos Aires, organization of the First Oceans Forum and two field missions on	Increased understanding of member States on the importance of National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) through capacity building activities, the organization of the Second Oceans	Increased interest and support from member States to formulate National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) through the organization of the United Nations Trade Forum, four OETS discussion	Increased capacities to formulate National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS) through the organization of the Oceans Economy Ministerial Round Table at UNCTAD 15, initiation of the process for formal	Increased ability of at least two member States to formulate National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies through regional and national training events in light of national OETS priorities and availability of the

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
National Oceans Economies and Trade Strategies (OETS)	Forum and five OETS sector missions	and validation national workshops and availability of initial local data on fisheries sector gathered by UNCTAD	adoption of OETS reports and beginning of implementation phase	methodological framework to extract relevant data on fisheries trade sector.

## F. Legislative mandates

75. The subprogramme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates:

### *General Assembly resolutions*

35/63	Restrictive Business Practices
70/186	Consumer Protection
71/312	Our ocean, our future: call for action
72/205	Commodities
74/7	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba
73/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021

*Note:* The proposal [A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1](#) on International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021 was adopted by the Second Committee on 14 November 2019. This will be passed as part of a General Assembly resolution later this year and hence will guide the subprogramme's work in 2020-2021.

## G. Deliverables

76. The mandates provide the legislative framework for its deliverables. Table 12.4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 12.4

### **Subprogramme 3: Output performance for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory**

	2019 <i>planned</i>	2019 <i>actual</i>	2020 <i>planned</i>	2021 <i>planned</i>
<b>Quantified deliverables</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)</i>	22	21	22	21
Reports to the General Assembly on international trade and development, and world commodity trends and prospects	2	2	1	2
Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD	1	1	1	0

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
Reports on trends in trade and on trade regulations and sustainability standards, and ad hoc reports on commodities trends and prospects for the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
Background documentation for the Trade and Development Commission and for related expert meetings, including on non-tariff measures and sustainability standards	7	7	8	7
Reports of the intergovernmental groups of experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy	10	9	10	10
<i>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</i>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>33</b>
Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee)	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	1	1	0	0
Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings	1	1	24	0
Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings	23	18	23	16
Meetings of the annual sessions of the intergovernmental groups of experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy	10	10	10	10
Annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining and Sustainable Development	1	1	1	1
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>
Capacity-building projects, including on services, trade and inclusive growth; competition and consumer protection laws and policies; sustainability standards; regional and multilateral trading negotiations; and multilateral trading negotiations, boosting intra-African trade, in particular in the least developed countries; and dispute settlement and commercial diplomacy	7	15	9	13
Project on collecting, monitoring, reporting and disseminating data on non-tariff measures	1	1	1	1
Projects on generalized and global systems of trade preferences; trade, environment and development; and assistance to commodity-dependent countries in achieving greater diversification and value addition	6	8	8	8
Projects to assist developing countries on accession to the WTO, formulating development-oriented trade policies, and on strengthening the creative economy	1	2	3	2
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</i>	<b>86</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>125</b>
Seminars for policymakers on the World Integrated Trade Solution, Trade Analysis and Information System, and non-tariff measures; sustainability standards; preferential trading arrangements; WTO accession; services policies and frameworks; emerging development challenges in the international trading system; and trade, international trade negotiations, environment and sustainable development	24	105	48	57

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
Capacity-building training on trade policy of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and economies in transition; skills of competition and consumer protection agencies; sustainability standards; and gender and trade	45	41	58	40
Workshops for supporting commodity dependent developing countries to formulate strategies and policies and harness development gains, and respond to challenges and opportunities of commodity markets	9	6	10	10
Panel discussion on changing international trade landscape and trade costs	1	1	1	1
Panel discussion on challenges and opportunities of international trade for the promotion of sustainable development	2	9	2	12
Ad hoc expert discussion on the role of competition law and policy and on consumer protection and policy	1	1	1	1
Geneva Trade and Development Workshop Series held jointly by UNCTAD, WTO, University of Geneva and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	4	5	4	4
<i>Publications (number of publications)</i>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>
Publications on trade and sector specific publications	4	6	1	5
Publications on trade, multilateralism and the Sustainable Development Goals	13	18	14	12
Publications on trade trends and policy in the international context	9	14	9	8
Publications on trade, market efficiency and consumer welfare; publications on competition and consumer protection policy	4	4	4	4
Publications on trade, commodities, economic diversification and value addition	6	6	3	6
Technical materials (number of materials)	18	21	19	15
Reports on UNCTAD work with competition and consumer protection policies and on the Global Commodities Forum	1	1	2	2
Handbooks and policy briefs on classification of non-tariff measures, Generalized System of Preferences, and effective competition and/or consumer protection agencies	3	7	3	3
Manual on Consumer Protection	1	1	1	1
Model law on competition	1	0	2	1
Materials on competition and consumer protection under the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform	2	1	2	1
UNCTAD–WTO–International Trade Centre publication: World Tariff Profiles	1	1	1	1
Sustainable Development Goal indicators	1	1	1	1
Chapter on international trade as an engine for development of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development	1	1	1	1
Trade-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals Report	1	1	1	1
Flagship report of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards	0	0	1	0
UNCTAD–Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional commissions reports on World Economic Situation and Prospects	1	1	1	1
Training modules on topics in international trade negotiations	5	6	3	2

## Non-quantified deliverables

### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards; Global Commodities Forum; Multi-stakeholder meeting on commodities and development; Global Services Forum; Non-tariff Measures Week; Bio Trade Congress; Trade and Gender event; illicit trade events; creative economy event; advisory services on trade-related decision-making; advisory services on integration into the global economy and participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements; advisory services on integration of trade concerns into national trade and services policies; advisory services on cooperation and partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development; advisory services on trade and gender; advisory services on developing competition and consumer protection frameworks; advisory services on trade and environment issues and creative economy potential for sustainable development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: World Integrated Trade Solution, Trade Analysis Information System.

### D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures and exhibits on issues related to the work of the subprogramme; newsletters on Generalized System of Preferences and on UNCTAD work on competition and consumer protection; brochures/flyers on trade and gender; on commodity policy research and implementation/projects; booklets and fact sheets related to the work of the subprogramme.

External and media relations: Press releases; op-eds.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: proceedings of meetings conducted by the subprogramme; online training course on non-tariff measures; interactive tools related to national competition and consumer protection laws, commercial diplomacy and dispute settlement; electronic version of the model law on competition; teaching package on trade and gender.

## V. Subprogramme 4 Technology and logistics

### A. Objective

77. The objective to which this subprogramme contributes, is to harness innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy, improve trade logistics, and increase human capacities, for inclusive and sustainable trade and development in developing countries and economies in transition.

### B. Strategy

78. To contribute to harnessing innovation and technology for inclusive and sustainable trade and development in developing countries, the subprogramme will continue to foster international dialogue and consensus building as the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Furthermore, the subprogramme will carry out research and analysis on STI for development through its flagship publication Technology an Innovation Report, as well as other reports analysing policy options in STI for Development resulting in better informed policies and decision making on STI and its interactions with development objectives. The subprogramme will also provide technical assistance on STI for Development through Science Technology and Innovation policy reviews and supporting the implementation of technology assessment and foresight exercises in developing countries, which is expected to result in better capacities by beneficiaries countries to harness STI to support their national development strategies



and thereby contribute to progress towards achieving SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG5, and SDG1. Past results in these areas include leading the policy discussions on frontier technologies and sustainable development at the Commission on Science and Technology for Development that resulted in two draft resolutions for the consideration of ECOSOC<sup>[1]</sup>. These resolutions emphasized the role of technology assessment and foresight in informing policy decisions on frontier technologies. Following the resolutions UNCTAD has developed a technical assistance project and mobilized extrabudgetary resources to provide practical support to developing countries in conducting technology assessments in solar energy and water management for agriculture. Furthermore, in 2019 the programme delivered the Science Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews of Ethiopia and Panama. In Panamá the recommendations of the STIP review were taken by the National Secretariat for Science and Technology as a major input to the preparation of the new national STI policy document for 2020-2025, and in Ethiopia the Ministry of Innovation and Technology has requested UNCTAD's support on the formulation of the new STI Policy taking into consideration the findings of the STIP Review.

79. To contribute to harnessing e-commerce and the digital economy for inclusive and sustainable trade and development, supported by an extended mandate in this area provided the Nairobi Maafikiano, the outcome document of the UNCTAD 14<sup>th</sup> quadrennial ministerial conference, the subprogramme will facilitate international dialogue and consensus building through servicing the International Group of Experts on eCommerce and the Digital Economy, the eCommerce Week, including its regional editions, which is expected to lead to increased consensus and awareness on policy requirements to harness the digital economy for development. The subprogramme will also carry out research and analysis on the digital economy and eCommerce and development, including through the flagship publication Digital Economy Report and other reports analysing policy options on eCommerce and the Digital Economy. Furthermore, responding to a rapidly growing number of requests for capacity building on this specific subject from developing countries, especially least developed countries, the subprogramme will provide technical assistance and advisory services including by undertaking Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessments, assistance in development of National eCommerce Strategies and legal frameworks on eCommerce, and by undertaking the statistical measurement of the e-Commerce and the Digital Economy, as well as by coordinating the multistakeholder "eTrade for All" initiative and managing the "eTrade for Women" initiative. This work is expected to result in better capacity from developing countries and LDCs to harness the digital economy for development objectives, including in terms of integrating women and vulnerable groups in e-commerce, and to contribute to the achievement of the SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG5, and SDG1. Research and analysis conducted by the subprogramme in this area resulted among other things in the first edition of the Digital Economy Report 2019, which offered ground-breaking analysis of the scope for value creation and capture in the digital economy, highlighted digital data and platformization as the two main drivers of value creation in the digital era. The report proposed concrete policy responses for bridging the existing divides. This analysis will feed into the next session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, at the request of member States. Furthermore, UNCTAD enhanced capacity of policymaking in this area through the Digital Economy Report 2019, which was discussed by UNCTAD member States for the first time in the Trade and Development Board, and through the policy dialogue contained in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy as well as the various sessions of the eCommerce Week. An important result of the intergovernmental deliberations was the decision to set up a new Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy, which met for the first time in December 2019 and preparing the guidelines for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy.

80. To support the developing countries in improving trade logistics for sustainable and inclusive trade and development, the subprogramme will continue to carry-out research and analysis on trade facilitation and transport and development, including through the flagship report Review of Maritime Transport, and other research reports analysing data and policy options for developing countries to improve trade logistics. The subprogramme will also enhance the capacities of developing countries to address specific trade logistics challenges including those affecting SIDS and landlocked countries, including through the

development and implementation of appropriate institutions, legal frameworks and technical solutions for the facilitation of trade and transport, which are expected to result in better trade logistics that better connect beneficiary countries to international markets in a more resilient and sustainable way, while enhancing transparency and efficiency in trade. In this regard, through the ASYCUDA programme, the subprogramme will support developing countries' efforts to automatize customs, including through the creation of trade-related single windows in developing countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme will support the active participation of developing countries in transport-related and trade facilitation intergovernmental dialogue and negotiations, including at the regional level and will further support them in the implementation of the resulting outcomes related to trade facilitation. This work is expected to result in improved capacity to implement trade facilitation and transport measures for sustainable development and to contribute to the achievement of SDG9, SDG8, SDG 16, SDG 14 and SDG 1. Past results in this area include improved efficiency and sustainability of trade logistics as a result of ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) system being implemented or upgraded in over 22 countries, resulting in improved regulatory compliance, faster goods clearance, and increased tariff revenues. For example, Angola saw a 43% increase in revenue after ASYCUDAWorld was launched; and in Uganda the Single Window reduced trade cost by 70% and export time from 14 to 2 days. UNCTAD also supported the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) that connect Eastern African countries along a North-South axis, and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA) which connects the same countries along an East-West axis, resulting in the preparation of Sustainable Freight Transport Strategies and Action Plans. In addition, UNCTAD's work on climate change impacts and adaptation for seaports and other coastal transport infrastructure, has informed key international discussions and references on this issue including among others, the IPCC 1.5 degrees report (2018) and the IPCC 2019 Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere.

81. To contribute to increasing human capacity for sustainable and inclusive trade and development, the subprogramme will deliver targeted training activities to relevant stakeholders and government experts in the fields of trade and related areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development through the regional and Geneva-based courses on key issues on the International Economic Agenda, which are expected to result in better capacity of developing countries to assess, analyse and formulate policies on important issues related to macroeconomy, trade, investment, and technology including ICT, for development. The subprogramme will also deliver capacity building services through its TrainforTrade Programme aimed at reinforcing developing countries' human capacities on various aspect of trade and development policies, including port management. This will result in developing countries being in a better position to plan and implement trade and development policies that are more inclusive and sustainable, and contributing to SDG8, SDG 16, and eventually SDG1. Past results in this area include enhanced capacity of 120 countries to produce reliable international trade statistics after the support from the TrainForTrade course in partnership with UNSD and WTO. For instance, following the 2019 TrainForTrade blended-learning activities, UEMOA member States presented the first Trade in Services statistical data for their countries during a dedicated workshop in Togo (December 2019) under the auspices of UNCTAD.

### **C. Programme performance in 2019: Connecting ports to international markets and global value chains by training port managers**

82. TrainforTrade Port Management Programme (TFT-PMP) delivers training to port managers to deliver more efficient and competitive port management services in order to increase trade flows, accelerate their national economic integration in international trade and foster economic development. In the last two years, the programme has trained 1459 participants from over 45 countries. The programme was implemented in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, a landlocked South American country, with one of the continent's lowest GDP per capita. Landlockness results in very high international transport costs. One of the main traditional export routes uses roads leading to the international Port of Arica in neighbouring Chile through the Andean Range climbing from 300 to over 5,000 meters

above sea-level. This geographical limitation made Bolivian products uncompetitive in international markets. Train for Trade Port Management Programme has delivered a full cycle of training to local port managers of Puerto Jennefer, which is situated in the East of the country, on the banks of river Paraguay connecting to the Atlantic Ocean through Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Each training cycle consists of 240 hours of instruction over a two-years period and grouped in 8 modules tailored to the local needs, with the aim to increase the port efficiency through capacity building on port system planning and organisation, port operations including commercial, administrative, legal, technical and human resources aspects as well as planning for emerging challenges. This training led to emergence of a new, competitive international trade route to connect the landlocked nation to international markets and value chains. Consequently, the Port Jennefer was awarded international classification on 30 October 2018, along with two other Bolivian river ports on the Paraguay-Paraná waterway that connects the landlocked nation to the Atlantic Ocean.

*Performance measure*

*Progress towards attainment of the objective and performance measures*

83. This work contributed to enhanced capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the areas of trade and investment and interrelated issues with a view to enhancing their economic development and competitiveness, as demonstrated by the number of port managers in developing countries and in economies in transition trained and certified for efficient port management, as a result of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme. The example of the Plurinational State of Bolivia demonstrated that the new trade route greatly improves country's connection to the global economy and thereby supports its economic and social development objectives. Moreover, the following benefits from using the port as opposed to more traditional routes were identified and registered<sup>5</sup>: (i) a reduction of around 18 to 20% in terms of freight costs(ii) about 30% reduction in cargo transportation time. (iii) the volume of cargo transported through Port Jennefer has quadrupled (from 250,000 to over 1,000,000 tons).



#### **D. Programme performance in 2019, against planned result**

84. A planned result for 2019, which was enhanced readiness of member States to engage in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, was achieved. This is evidenced by the 15 eTrade Readiness Assessments prepared for least developed countries, often providing them for the first time with a holistic assessment and concrete policy recommendations for enhancing their ability to take part in and benefit from e-commerce and digital transformation. In West Africa, following the UNCTAD eTrade Readiness Assessments of 6 Member States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) decided to use the Assessments as the basis of a regional e-commerce strategy. These Assessments also resulted in requests for assistance from member States for improving their legal frameworks, and for developing e-commerce strategies for countries (as in Myanmar, Togo and Bhutan). The first cohort of seven eTrade for Women Advocates, which was presented in September 2019, started inspiring the next generation of female entrepreneurs and helped to raise the voices of women leaders in e-commerce better heard in policy-making processes.

<sup>5</sup> See the interview of Bismark Rosales, manager of Port Jennefer, the first graduate from the Plurinational State of Bolivia of the UNCTAD programme: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=94&v=RSOXgwEeBOU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=94&v=RSOXgwEeBOU).

## E. Programme plan for 2021: Strengthened capacity of developing countries to comply with international and regional trade facilitation rules and standards, including World Trade Organization commitments

85. Trade costs in developing countries are estimated to be on average 1.8 times higher than in developed countries. In February 2017 the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) entered into force. The agreement contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of import and export of goods, as well as goods in transit. The estimated reduction in trade costs following full implementation of the agreement is estimated to range from 9% to 23%. This Agreement requires all WTO members to create and maintain National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC) or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement. By 2021, through targeted advisory services and capacity building, UNCTAD will have supported more than 50 developing countries and several regional economic communities with trade facilitation reforms, thereby helping countries to integrate into global value chains. UNCTAD's Empowerment Programme assists the establishment of National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) through a public-private-partnership approach; provides comprehensive training on international standards and obligations under TFA; assists countries to design 3-5 year trade facilitation roadmaps with key performance indicators; and supports the preparation of bankable technical assistance projects to be presented to development partners. These efforts will be also complemented by UNCTAD's efforts to help countries to streamline trade procedures and reduce red tape, through its ASYCUDA system and Trade Information Portals that provide up-to-date information on existing trade processes and procedures.

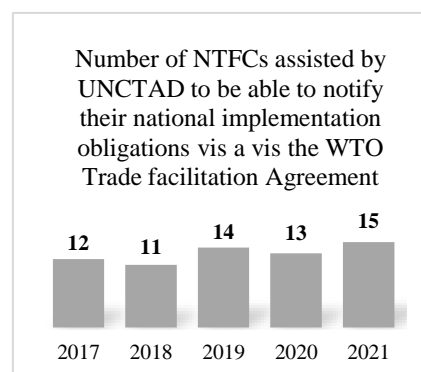
### *Internal challenge and response*

86. In some countries, a challenge met by the subprogramme was the short time horizon of donor funds, typically one to two years, while trade facilitation measures may take much longer to design and implement, with the buy-in from both public and private sectors. This typically resulted in the severance of support to the NTFCs while high staff turnover resulted in important changes in the staffing of the NTFCs. A high turnover of Committee members coupled with a discontinuation of the technical assistance resulted in slowing down the work of some NTFCs and making them less efficient. In response, the subprogramme launched a training of trainers' module, which introduced a knowledge transfer strategy focused on providing Committee members with the necessary training materials such as online courses and tools to train the newcomers, so that the latter are brought up to speed with the work of the Committee. These measures have helped NTFCs to be better equipped to face a high turnover among their members and enhanced the sustainability of the activities of the Committees.

### *Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures*

87. This work is expected to contribute towards strengthening capacity of developing countries to comply with international and regional trade facilitation rules and standards, including WTO commitments, inter alia demonstrated by the number of NTFCs assisted to be able to notify their national implementation obligations vis a vis the WTO Trade facilitation Agreement.

### *Performance measure*



## F. Legislative mandates

88. The subprogramme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates:

*General Assembly resolutions*

60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
70/125	Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
72/228	Science, technology and innovation for development
73/17	Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets
73/218	Information and communications technologies for development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2015/26	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2015/27	Science, technology and innovation for development
2018/28	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow - up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2018/29	Science, technology and innovation for development

**G. Deliverables**

89. The mandates provide the legislative framework for its deliverables. Table 12.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 12.5

**Subprogramme 4: Output performance for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory**

	2019 <i>actual</i>	2019 <i>plan</i>	2020 <i>plan</i>	2021 <i>Plan</i>
<b>Quantified deliverable</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>
Reports to the General Assembly on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and on science and technology for development	2	2	1	2
Reports to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development intergovernmental body and intersessional panels, including one final report (2018) on its Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet	6	7	6	6
Report and background documents for the fifteenth session of UNCTAD	0	0	4	0
Background note and reports for the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
Note by the UNCTAD secretariat, and report for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings on issues related to science, technology and innovation	2	2	4	4

	2019 actual	2019 plan	2020 plan	2021 Plan
Note by the UNCTAD secretariat, and report of the Trade and Development Commission of UNCTAD (contributions), and related expert meetings	4	4	4	4
Note by the UNCTAD secretariat for, and report of, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy (reports to the Trade and Development Board)	2	2	2	2
Note by the UNCTAD secretariat for, and report of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy	2	2	2	2
<i>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</i>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>49</b>
Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society	3	3	3	3
Meetings of the annual sessions and intersessional expert panels of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including the final meeting (2018) of the Working Group of the Commission on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet	16	16	16	16
Meetings of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, including preparatory meetings	0	1	24	0
Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	3	3	3	3
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
Meetings of the annual sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings	3	3	7	7
Meetings of the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	7	7	7	7
Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy	6	6	6	6
Working group on measuring digital economy	4	4	4	4
Science Technology and Innovation Forum of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)</i>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
Projects within Train for Trade capacity-building programme: port management; issues related to trade including e-commerce and statistics; and pedagogical methodology	7	7	7	7
Projects (national, regional and interregional) on transport and related services, including ASYCUDA	22	22	22	22
Projects within programmes on transport, trade facilitation and trade logistics	2	2	2	2
Projects within the programme on e-commerce and the digital economy	1	1	1	1
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</i>	<b>514</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>458</b>
Train for Trade training-of-trainers events	60	60	55	55
Train for Trade national delivery workshops	260	260	260	260

	2019 actual	2019 plan	2020 plan	2021 Plan
Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	128	128	52	80
Ad hoc expert discussions on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	3	3	1	1
Ad hoc expert discussions on the role of technology (including information and communications technology) and innovation in development, including for the operationalization of technology transfer	2	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on e-commerce and the digital economy for development, including on information economy statistics, and economic, technical, legal and regulatory aspects e-commerce and the digital economy for development and e-commerce and the digital economy measurement	10	10	10	10
Training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda (Paragraph 166), regional and short courses	36	36	25	36
Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on science, technology and innovation and development	15	15	15	15
<i>Publications (number of publications)</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report and overview	0	0	1	0
Digital Economy Report and overview	1	1	0	1
Review of Maritime Transport	1	1	1	1
Science, technology and innovation policy reviews	2	3	2	3
National e-commerce strategies	1	3	3	3
Current studies on science, technology and innovation series	2	2	2	2
Studies on transport trade logistics and trade facilitation series	2	2	2	2
Reports on cyberlaws	1	3	2	2
Train for Trade Port Management series	1	1	1	1
Rapid eTrade readiness assessments for the least developed countries and other developing countries	7	11	10	10
<i>Technical materials (number of materials)</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
UNCTAD policy briefs on the following topics: science, technology and innovation; e-commerce and the digital economy; trade logistics	2	4	4	4
ASYCUDA in Action Compendium	1	1	1	1
Year in Review of the eTrade for All initiative	1	1	1	1
Technical notes on information and communications technology (including e-commerce and the digital economy) for development	2	2	2	2
Technical notes on trade facilitation	1	1	1	1
Chapter on science, technology, innovation and capacity-building of the Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development	1	1	1	1
Background notes for the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum	2	2	1	1

	2019 <i>actual</i>	2019 <i>plan</i>	2020 <i>plan</i>	2021 <i>Plan</i>
Economic and maritime country profiles	1	1	1	1
Inputs to the report of the Inter-Agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism	1	1	1	1
Report of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development	1	1	1	1

### Non-quantified deliverables

#### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: E-commerce Week; Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; Sessions of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development; advisory services on science, technology and innovation policies for development; advisory services on policy and practical aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy for development; advisory services on measurement of e-commerce and the digital economy; advisory services on transport policies and international legal instruments standards and rules related to the facilitation of international trade, transport, and transport security, for port operators; eTrade for All initiative.

Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD platform for learning and capacity-building, Train for Trade; port performance statistics platform; online repository on national trade facilitation committees; Global Cyberlaw Tracker; online e-learning modules for the course on key issues on the international economic agenda (Paragraph 166); online platform for sustainable freight transport; eTrade for All online platform.

#### D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Newsletters on ASYCUDA, eTrade for All and transport and trade facilitation; brochures, flyers, information kits.

External and media relations: Press releases, press briefings, interviews, press conferences, and news items related to issuance of major publications under this subprogramme, and organization of important events.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: tft.unctad.org public website; Commission on Science and Technology for Development website; ASYCUDA website; Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation website; eTrade for All website; Paragraph 166 website; online platforms for innovation policy learning.

## VI. Subprogramme 5 Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

### A. Objective

90. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance the effective integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy through fostering structural transformation and developing domestic productive capacities in the targeted groups.

### B. Strategy

91. To contribute to ensuring structural transformation and the integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy, the subprogramme will continue its research and technical cooperation activities carried out to diversify the export and productive structure of the above mentioned country groups. The subprogramme will



translate the policy guidance and recommendations emanating from the research and analysis work into pragmatic and targeted technical cooperation programmes, which are expected to result in greater structural transformation and inclusive growth at the domestic level. In this context, the subprogramme will also contribute to the Report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly on the Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and on the Follow up to an implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway as well as on the New Partnership for Africa's development. Examples of past results in this area of work include the finalization of a comprehensive training manual on harnessing the potential of the fisheries sector for socioeconomic development in LDCs and other developing countries in 2019, and the provision of advisory services to Cabo Verde, Vanuatu and Bhutan to strengthen their efforts to receive different forms of special treatment while LDCs or after graduation from the LDC category.

92. The subprogramme will play an advocacy role in promoting consensus in the international development community regarding policy measures that best address the development problems of the above groups of countries, including at the multilateral level, through the identification of new issues and approaches, training and capacity-building workshops, as well as greater interaction with research institutes in least developed countries and with development partners. This is expected to result in greater capacity of countries to meet Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. Past results and progress in this area include the creation of UNCTAD Centers of Excellence (CoE) which aim to address persistent and emerging challenges facing the least developed countries (LDCs) and other vulnerable economies, including small island developing states (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), through targeted training and capacity building programmes for member States. In 2019, three new CoE have been created with the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in the Republic of Mauritius and with the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa in Nigeria. The courses developed and provided at these CoE fostered an exchange of experiences, best practices and knowledge among policymakers and experts from several countries, particularly in Africa. The courses contributed to building the participants' capacity to better harness the development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as assisted LDCs in the areas of Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF), drafting and negotiating Rules of Origin, promoting and protecting traditional products through intellectual property rights such as Geographical Indications, and more generally in integrating LDCs into global value chains. Training sessions and advisory services focusing on the estimation of domestic productive capacities were also organized in Botswana, Laos, Namibia and Rwanda.

93. Furthermore, the subprogramme will strengthen efforts to provide domestic policy support to the targeted groups to enable them to build their productive capacities. The subprogramme plans to enhance the availability of strategic options available to policy makers in targeted areas within the subprogramme's areas of expertise, through the development of ad hoc technical cooperation and programmatic support. Furthermore, the subprogramme will broaden its country-based technical support to include aspects such as national strategies for the development of productive capacities and structural transformation, rules of origin, enhanced market access, value addition in strategic products, and geographical indications which is expected to result in enhanced productive capacities at national level. This is expected to result in greater capacity of countries to meet Sustainable Development Goal 9 on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and Sustainable Development Goal 17. Past progress in this area includes an intensification of the technical assistance delivered by the subprogramme with the aim of promoting productive capacity-building and making trade an engine of growth and development. In 2019, tailor-made support was provided to the national governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Haiti, Myanmar and Laos to strengthen their trade policies and to improve their socio-economic development indicators. Furthermore, due to the continuous and intensive support provided by the subprogramme in 2018 and 2019, through research notes, training workshops and advisory services during the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> AfCFTA Technical working groups on rules of origin in Addis Ababa, Lusaka and

Cairo, African Union Delegates made significant progresses towards the negotiation of the Annex on Product specific rules of origin for the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA).

### C. Programme performance in 2019: Strengthened institutional capacity to participate in multilateral trade

94. The subprogramme strengthened institutional capacities among the least developed countries (LDCs) to participate in international trade using existing initiatives aimed at promoting productive capacity-building and making trade an engine of growth and development. The subprogramme achieved this through the provision of policy guidance on rules of origin, which define the country of origin of goods. Moreover, the subprogramme participated in 5 sessions of the African Union technical working group on rules of origin of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), drafted 7 technical notes on product-specific rules of origin and related concepts, provided bilateral advisory services to AfCFTA negotiators, including from LDCs, organized executive training workshops for LDC Geneva-based delegates on rules of origin and geographical indications as well as drafted technical notes on the same subjects. To complement all the above technical assistance support, the subprogramme updated two Manuals on Rules of Origin and preferential market access for LDCs and produced evidence-based policy recommendations through its Economic Development in Africa Report 2019: Made in Africa – Rules of origin for enhanced intra-African trade. The Report emphasized to member States the potential of rules of origin in maximising trade in value addition and structural transformation within Africa. The Report has been disseminated through public and private sector engagements on inclusive policy dialogue and better customs and institutional capacity building in Africa and Europe. It was also presented and discussed in Niamey, at an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government convened by the African Union, at the WTO Public Forum, and the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin in Geneva and at the CMS international corporate law firm in Paris.

#### *Progress towards attainment of the objective and performance measures*

95. This work contributed to fostering structural transformation and the integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy as demonstrated, in the case of African countries, by the prospective agreement on the Annex on product-specific rules of origin for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). To achieve the above, the subprogramme contributed to building Member States' institutional capacity to use rules of origin and duty-free quota-free market access schemes for enhanced trade for all targeted groups.

#### *Performance measures*

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Increased understanding of the importance of rules of origin in the African context through the delivery of workshops and training to sensitise WTO delegates	Improved capacities from LDC delegates to use rules of origin in policy making and trade negotiation processes	Ability to formulate positions on rules of origin and trade-related issues	Participation in the African Union technical working group aimed to design and agree on the Annex on product-specific rules of origin for the AfCFTA and publication of Handbooks on duty-free quota-free market access on rules of origin	Prospective Agreement on the Annex on product-specific Rules of Origin for the AfCFTA

N.B. The signing of the Agreement was supposed to take place in June 2019, but it was delayed.

## D. Programme performance in 2019, against planned result

96. A planned result for 2019, which is to strengthen institutional capacities among the least developed countries (LDC) to participate in international trade using existing initiatives aiming at promoting productive capacity-building and make trade an engine of growth and development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget 2018-2019, was achieved, as evidenced by more than 15 LDCs that reported increased capacity in the area of rules of origin as a result of UNCTAD trade-related assistance. As referenced above, this has been developed through the provision of executive training and seminars to the African Union and the AfCFTA negotiators as well as the delivery of advisory services to the WTO LDC group during the WTO sessions on rules of origin, which contributed to the agreement on the Annex of product-specific Rules of Origin of the AfCFTA.

## E. Programme plan for 2021: Supporting economic resilience-building in the least developed countries

97. The subprogramme has been working to support LDCs in their efforts to build more economically diverse production system that would enable them to graduate with momentum out of the LDC category and participate more efficiently as well as more effectively in the multilateral and regional trading system. The use of preferences granted to LDCs by development partners remains low, thus LDC's share in world trade remains below 2%. To address this issue, the subprogramme will provide Smooth Transition Strategies for graduating LDCs, which will help countries to prevent possible disruptions linked to the graduation from the LDC category and the loss of international support measures for LDCs; and will prepare the Vulnerability Profiles, highlighting the key trade and development challenges graduating countries are facing, containing proposals to design action plans and programmes to address gaps in national development strategies with the aim of building resilience.

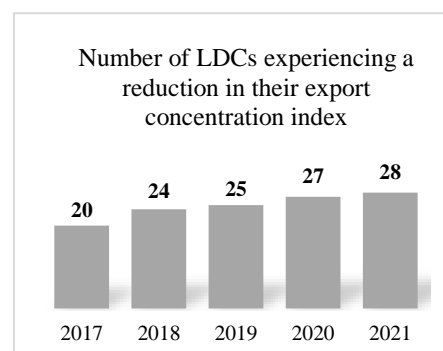
### *Internal challenge and response*

98. The challenges for the subprogramme include the access to internationally comparable data on productive capacities necessary for the elaboration of the Smooth Transition Strategies and the Vulnerability Profiles as well as the lack of institutional mechanisms to support the capacity-building of national stakeholders. In response, the subprogramme is working to establish a methodology for the compilation of a productive capacities index (PCI) and the calculation of indices for beneficiary countries. The PCI will enable the countries to benchmark progress and identify the areas where actions need to be taken to strengthen domestic productive capacities. It will also enable countries to enhance economic resilience and thus achieve their national development goals as well as the SDGs. To address the lack of institutional mechanisms, the subprogramme is planning to further enhance the contribution of its recently-established Centres of Excellence in the provision of training, workshops and targeted policy options, with a view to reach a greater number of countries and address a wider variety of topical issues.

### *Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures*

99. This work is expected to ensure structural transformation and the integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global and regional economy. Furthermore, it will contribute towards enhanced economic resilience in LDCs through the further diversification of their export basket. This will be shown in a reduction in the concentration of their export product. As a result, the number of LDCs experiencing a reduction in their export

### *Performance measures*



concentration index is expected to reach 28 by 2021.

## F. Legislative mandates

100. The subprogramme continues to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it. The following constitute the list of legislative mandates:

### *General Assembly resolutions*

67/221	Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
67/222	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/18	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category
68/225	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/238	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
69/217	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
73/246	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions*

E/2017/29	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session
E/2018/27	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twentieth session
E/2019/8	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session
68/225	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/238	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
69/217	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made

73/246

in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway  
Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

## G. Deliverables

101. The mandates provide the legislative framework for its deliverables. Table 12.6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 12.6

### Subprogramme 5: Output performance for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
<b>Quantified deliverable</b>				
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<i>Parliamentary documentation (Number of documents)</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
Reports for the Economic and Social Council, including on vulnerability profiles	1	1	3	5
Report and background documents for the Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	0	0	2	0
Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including on the Overviews of the Economic Development in Africa; on UNCTAD-wide activities for LDCs, on UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of SIDS/LLDCs, on UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of Africa on indicators and benchmarks on productive capacity in LLDCs; on the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations conference on LLDCs	5	5	5	4
<i>Substantive services for meetings (Number of 3-hour meetings)</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>
Meetings of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its Committee for Development Policy	1	1	2	1
Meetings of the Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	1	1	22	0
Meetings of the annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	6	6	5	5
Meetings of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<i>Field and technical cooperation projects (Number of projects)</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Projects on trade, transit and development, to build national capacity	1	1	2	2
Projects on the Enhanced Integrated Framework	1	1	1	2

	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
<i>Seminars, workshops and training events (Number of days)</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>
Workshops on trade issues relevant to LDCs, including on duty and quota-free market access; on DTIS/post-DTIS and trade activities in the Enhanced Integrated Framework; and on structural economic transformation and progress towards post-LDC status;	14	14	14	14
Workshops on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway, the Istanbul Programme of Action, Trade and Poverty	4	4	3	3
Workshops on matters relevant to the development in LDCs and in Africa	2	2	2	1
Publications (Number of publications)	5	6	9	10
The Least Developed Countries Report and its overview	2	2	2	2
Economic Development in Africa Report	1	1	1	1
Report on building and measuring productive capacities	0	1	1	0
Report on enhancing coherence between trade and industrial strategies for poverty alleviation in Africa and a special issues paper on Africa	0	0	1	1
Research and analytical studies on duty free and quota free and Rules of origin	2	2	1	1
Lessons learned on geographical indications and related analysis for LDCs	0	0	1	2
Sectoral, statistical and thematic issues of interest for LLDCs: policy implications to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and SDGs	0	0	1	2
Challenges LDCs face to achieve SDGs and actions to take in the context of the final appraisal of the Istanbul Programme of Action	0	0	1	1
<i>Technical materials (number of materials)</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Papers on trade and poverty	1	1	2	2
Research papers on trade and development in vulnerable economies	1	0	2	2
EIF-related publications, including on transit, transport and trade facilitation	0	0	0	2

### Non-quantified deliverables

#### C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on priority 5 of the Vienna Programme of Action and on measuring productive capacities for LLDCs; advisory services on smooth transition strategies for LDCs; advisory services on trade and development issues for SIDS, LLDCs and African countries; advisory services on trade issues relevant to LDCs, including duty-free quota-free market access to delegates from LDCs, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework; consultations on UNCTAD's activities in support for the NEPAD; consultations for the implementation of the III Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA).

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<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>
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**D. Communication deliverables**

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures on issues relating to least developed countries and African development, globalization, development strategies and policy coherence; policy briefs relating to the Economic Development in Africa Report and The Least Developed Countries Report.

External and media relations: press releases, press conferences and interviews on research results and policy proposals

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