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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the technical cooperation activities  
of UNCTAD and their financing**

**Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD**

**Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2018\***


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\* This document has not been formally edited.

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## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations .....	4
Country/territory/region codes .....	5
Introduction .....	8
I. Theme A: Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development.....	8
A1 Investment policy reviews .....	8
A2 Services policy reviews .....	14
A3 Trade policy framework reviews .....	15
A4 Science, technology and innovation policy reviews .....	16
A5 E-commerce and the digital economy.....	18
A6 Investment guides .....	22
A7 Non-tariff measures .....	23
A9 Trade negotiations .....	28
A10 Sustainable trade and the environment .....	32
A11 Investment promotion and facilitation .....	38
A99 Other .....	42
1. Trade policy and trade preferences.....	43
2. Voluntary sustainability standards .....	47
3. Investment trends and issues .....	49
4. Macroeconomic and development policies .....	51
5. International cooperation on science, technology and innovation under the auspices of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development ...	53
II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience.....	55
B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status .....	55
B2 DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System.....	58
B4 UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework .....	61
B5 Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries .....	64
B6 Breaking the chains of commodity dependence .....	69
B9 Sustainable and resilient transport .....	71
B99 Other .....	76
1. Assistance to the Palestinian people.....	77
2. Productive capacity-building in vulnerable economies .....	78
3. Trade-related capacity-building in the least developed countries .....	84
4. Developing countries’ vulnerabilities in the current global economy .....	84
III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance .....	85
C1 Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies .....	85
C2 Business facilitation .....	88
C3 Trade facilitation.....	91

C4	ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data .....	94
C5	Statistics.....	101
C7	Corporate accounting and reporting.....	104
C8	Investment and public health .....	107
C9	International investment agreements .....	109
C10	Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks .....	113
C99	Other .....	122
	1. Capital markets and responsible investment .....	122
	2. Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization .....	124
IV.	Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future .....	125
D1	Trade, gender and development.....	125
D3	Entrepreneurship development .....	128
D6	Train for Trade .....	140
D99	Other .....	146
	1. Management and coordination .....	146
	2. Virtual Institute .....	146
	3. Course on key issues on the international economic agenda – paragraph 166 .....	147

## Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DTIS	Diagnostic trade integration study
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GSTP	Generalized System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
IPR	investment policy review
LDC	least developed country
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
SIGADE	Sistema de Gestión y Análisis de la Deuda
WTO	World Trade Organization

## Country/territory/region codes

<b>AFG</b>	Afghanistan	<b>DJI</b>	Djibouti
<b>ALB</b>	Albania	<b>DMI</b>	Dominica
<b>ALG</b>	Algeria	<b>DOM</b>	Dominican Republic
<b>ANG</b>	Angola	<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>ANL</b>	Anguilla	<b>ECU</b>	Ecuador
<b>ANT</b>	Antigua and Barbuda	<b>EGY</b>	Egypt
<b>ARG</b>	Argentina	<b>ELS</b>	El Salvador
<b>ARM</b>	Armenia	<b>EQG</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>ARU</b>	Aruba	<b>ERI</b>	Eritrea
<b>AZE</b>	Azerbaijan	<b>EST</b>	Estonia
<b>BAH</b>	Bahrain	<b>ETH</b>	Ethiopia
<b>BAL</b>	Baltic States (regional)	<b>EUR</b>	Europe
<b>BAR</b>	Barbados	<b>FIJ</b>	Fiji
<b>BDI</b>	Burundi	<b>GAB</b>	Gabon
<b>BEN</b>	Benin	<b>GAM</b>	Gambia
<b>BER</b>	Bermuda	<b>GBS</b>	Guinea-Bissau
<b>BGD</b>	Bangladesh	<b>GEO</b>	Georgia
<b>BHA</b>	Bahamas	<b>GHA</b>	Ghana
<b>BHU</b>	Bhutan	<b>GIB</b>	Gibraltar
<b>BIH</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>GLO</b>	Global
<b>BKF</b>	Burkina Faso	<b>GRN</b>	Grenada
<b>BOL</b>	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	<b>GUA</b>	Guatemala
<b>BOT</b>	Botswana	<b>GUI</b>	Guinea
<b>BRA</b>	Brazil	<b>GUY</b>	Guyana
<b>BRU</b>	Brunei Darussalam	<b>HAI</b>	Haiti
<b>BUL</b>	Bulgaria	<b>HON</b>	Honduras
<b>BVI</b>	British Virgin Islands	<b>HUN</b>	Hungary
<b>BYE</b>	Belarus	<b>IND</b>	India
<b>BZE</b>	Belize	<b>INS</b>	Indonesia
<b>CAF</b>	Central African Republic	<b>INT</b>	Interregional
<b>CAM</b>	Central America (regional)	<b>IRA</b>	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
<b>CAR</b>	Caribbean (regional)	<b>IRQ</b>	Iraq
<b>CAY</b>	Cayman Islands	<b>IVC</b>	Côte d'Ivoire
<b>CHD</b>	Chad	<b>JAM</b>	Jamaica
<b>CHI</b>	Chile	<b>JOR</b>	Jordan

<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States	<b>KAZ</b>	Kazakhstan
		<b>KEN</b>	Kenya
<b>CKI</b>	Cook Islands	<b>KIR</b>	Kiribati
<b>CMB</b>	Cambodia	<b>KOR</b>	Republic of Korea
<b>CMR</b>	Cameroon	<b>KUW</b>	Kuwait
<b>COI</b>	Comoros	<b>KYR</b>	Kyrgyzstan
<b>COL</b>	Colombia	<b>LAO</b>	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<b>COS</b>	Costa Rica	<b>LAT</b>	Latvia
<b>CPR</b>	China	<b>LEB</b>	Lebanon
<b>CRO</b>	Croatia	<b>LIB</b>	Libya
<b>CUB</b>	Cuba	<b>LIR</b>	Liberia
<b>CVI</b>	Cabo Verde	<b>LIT</b>	Lithuania
<b>CYP</b>	Cyprus	<b>LSO</b>	Lesotho
<b>CZE</b>	Czechia	<b>SEN</b>	Senegal
<b>MAG</b>	Madagascar	<b>SEY</b>	Seychelles
<b>MAL</b>	Malaysia	<b>SIL</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>MAR</b>	Mauritius	<b>SIN</b>	Singapore
<b>MAT</b>	Malta	<b>SLO</b>	Slovakia
<b>MAU</b>	Mauritania	<b>SOI</b>	Solomon Islands
<b>MCD</b>	North Macedonia	<b>SOM</b>	Somalia
<b>MDV</b>	Maldives	<b>SPM</b>	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
<b>MEX</b>	Mexico	<b>SRL</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>MLI</b>	Mali	<b>STH</b>	Saint Helena
<b>MLW</b>	Malawi	<b>STK</b>	Saint Kitts and Nevis
<b>MOL</b>	Republic of Moldova	<b>STL</b>	Saint Lucia
<b>MON</b>	Mongolia	<b>STP</b>	Sao Tome and Principe
<b>MOR</b>	Morocco	<b>STV</b>	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
<b>MOT</b>	Montserrat	<b>SUD</b>	Sudan
<b>MOZ</b>	Mozambique	<b>SUR</b>	Suriname
<b>MYA</b>	Myanmar	<b>SVN</b>	Slovenia
<b>NAM</b>	Namibia	<b>SWA</b>	Eswatini
<b>NCA</b>	New Caledonia	<b>SYR</b>	Syrian Arab Republic
<b>NEP</b>	Nepal	<b>TAI</b>	Taiwan Province of China
<b>NER</b>	Niger	<b>TAJ</b>	Tajikistan
<b>NIC</b>	Nicaragua	<b>TCI</b>	Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>NIR</b>	Nigeria	<b>THA</b>	Thailand
<b>NIU</b>	Niue	<b>TIM</b>	Timor-Leste
<b>OMA</b>	Oman	<b>TOG</b>	Togo

<b>PAK</b>	Pakistan	<b>SAU</b>	Saudi Arabia
<b>PAL</b>	Palestinian Authority	<b>TOK</b>	Tokelau
<b>PAN</b>	Panama	<b>TON</b>	Tonga
<b>PAR</b>	Paraguay	<b>TRI</b>	Trinidad and Tobago
<b>PER</b>	Peru	<b>TUK</b>	Turkmenistan
<b>PHI</b>	Philippines	<b>TUN</b>	Tunisia
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea	<b>TUR</b>	Turkey
<b>POL</b>	Poland	<b>TUV</b>	Tuvalu
<b>PRC</b>	Congo	<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>PUE</b>	Puerto Rico	<b>UGA</b>	Uganda
<b>QAT</b>	Qatar	<b>UKR</b>	Ukraine
<b>RAF</b>	Africa (regional)	<b>URT</b>	United Republic of Tanzania
<b>RAS</b>	Asia and the Pacific (regional)	<b>URU</b>	Uruguay
<b>RER</b>	Europe (regional)	<b>UZB</b>	Uzbekistan
<b>RLA</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)	<b>VAN</b>	Vanuatu
<b>ROM</b>	Romania	<b>VEN</b>	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<b>RUS</b>	Russian Federation	<b>VIE</b>	Viet Nam
<b>RWA</b>	Rwanda	<b>YEM</b>	Yemen
<b>SAF</b>	South Africa	<b>ZAM</b>	Zambia
<b>SAM</b>	Samoa	<b>ZIM</b>	Zimbabwe

## Introduction

1. This annex provides a description of the main technical cooperation projects undertaken by UNCTAD in 2018. It is presented in accordance with the four themes specified in the *UNCTAD Toolbox*. Under each theme, there are a number of products around which projects are grouped. For projects that are not linked with any of the 28 Toolbox products, they are reported under the category “Other” of the pertinent theme. A table showing the individual projects implemented under each product and under the category “Other” of each theme is provided. The technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which draw on research conducted by UNCTAD and on policy suggestions arising from the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### I. Theme A: Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development

2. Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals requires building productive capacity and transforming economies by shifting resources to more productive and sustainable sectors and enhancing their competitiveness. Investment, trade and technology are important channels for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation. Trade and trade-related investment, combined with technology upgrading, could enable countries to improve productivity, develop productive capacities and climb regional and global value chains.

3. UNCTAD technical cooperation helps developing countries attract foreign direct investment (FDI) towards sectors that would lead to economic transformation and sustainable development; better integrate into regional and global value chains; and foster the nexus between trade, productive capacity and employment. It also supports these countries in formulating a services-driven development strategy, developing electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy, promoting sustainable trade and leveraging science, technology and innovation for productive capacity-building.

4. In this section, 10 products under the theme “Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development” are reported on. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2018 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked to any of the existing 10 products under this thematic area, are reported on under “Other”.

#### A1 Investment policy reviews

Table A1  
Investment policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors

5. **Development context.** To fully reap their associated benefits for development, which are not automatic nor evenly spread across countries, FDI inflows should be directed towards activities and projects that lead to enhanced economic and social development. To support beneficiary countries in their efforts to diversify their economies, attract higher levels of FDI and promote sustainable development, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies



of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment: the investment policy reviews (IPRs). IPRs, which are country-specific, provide action-oriented policy advice and concrete recommendations. To foster their implementation and further build capacity for investment policymaking, UNCTAD provides follow-up support through technical assistance activities.

6. Objectives and features. The IPR process promotes ownership and learning, and is conducted in the following five phases:

(a) Ensuring government ownership of the IPR process. A review begins at the request of a Government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and the entire government takes ownership of the policy recommendations;

(b) IPR evaluation and advisory report. The diagnostic phase includes desk research and a fact-finding mission by UNCTAD technical staff. Policymakers at the highest level and a wide range of stakeholders are brought into the process, including line ministries and agencies, universities and other research institutions. Interviews and consultations are also held with representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and the donor community active in the country concerned;

(c) Dialogue on IPR recommendations and intergovernmental review. Once the draft report is ready, the beneficiary country agrees to go through a review process that includes a national stakeholders workshop to discuss the findings of the draft report and review its recommendations. This is followed by an intergovernmental peer review, which draws upon the experiences of other countries in attracting and benefiting from investment, including benchmarking against international best practices;

(d) Implementation and follow-up technical assistance. The review process is designed with one key purpose: making FDI work for sustainable development. The finalization and publication of the IPR report is the preamble to the core focus of the programme, namely the delivery of technical assistance to help the beneficiary country meet its development objectives by attracting higher levels and more diversified types of FDI inflows, whilst maximizing the developmental benefits and limiting any potentially negative impact. The implementation phase is carried out through short-term action plans and multi-agency medium-term technical assistance;

(e) Implementation report and additional follow-up actions. About five years after the completion of the IPR report, UNCTAD conducts an assessment of the implementation of its recommendations and explores the need for further technical assistance.

7. Outputs. In 2018, the main outputs delivered by the programme included the following:

(a) The preparation and publication of the IPR reports of Cabo Verde and Lebanon;

(b) The organization of two intergovernmental presentations for IPRs of Cabo Verde and Lebanon;

(c) The preparation and publication of the report on the implementation of IPR of Nigeria;

(d) The completion of the draft IPR of Chad, the launch of IPRs of Angola, Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire and Iraq and the completion of the report on the implementation of IPR of Nepal;

(e) Technical assistance activities and advisory services to support the implementation of IPR recommendations and to deal more effectively with issues related to investment policies, promotion strategies, international investment agreements and business facilitation. Beneficiaries from these activities included, at the country level, Cuba, Gabon, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone and Viet Nam. A number of regional activities on capacity-building for investment policymaking were also delivered, targeting Arabic-speaking countries and French-speaking countries in Africa;

(f) In the context of the 2018 World Investment Forum, UNCTAD organized talking business sessions and an investment village, structured as platforms for public–private dialogue, to explore business and investment opportunities. High-level policymakers and investment promotion professionals presented their investment plans, policies and opportunities, emphasizing key actions taken by Governments to improve the business climate and highlighting strategic investment interests. The 50 stands set up in the village featured countries and a regional association of investment promotion agencies and civil society. Nearly all regions, including Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America were present, totalling 44 developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, which represents over 20 countries in this region.

8. The following activities were implemented in 2018 at the country level and for group of countries:

9. *Angola.* UNCTAD began preparing an IPR for Angola. In addition to undertaking background research and analysis to draft the report, UNCTAD conducted a scoping mission to sensitize stakeholders on the IPR process and content (April 2018). The presentation and discussion raised the importance of a sound investment policy framework, including the impact of FDI on sustainable development, the role of public–private partnerships and challenges to the regulatory environment. The mission also provided an opportunity for UNCTAD to better understand the needs and priorities of Angola in attracting and benefiting from FDI. A fact-finding mission was held to meet with public and private stakeholders and complete the research required to finalize the draft report (March 2019).

10. *Armenia.* At the request of the Government, UNCTAD undertook background research and analysis to prepare the country’s IPR. A fact-finding mission took place in April 2019 to gather the missing information needed to draft the report.

11. *Cabo Verde.* The IPR report of Cabo Verde was published in 2018. The draft report was presented at three national workshops, on Santiago (Praia, 23 April), Sal (Santa Maria, 24 April) and Sao Vicente (Mindelo, 25 April). The final version of the report took into account all comments received from stakeholders during these comprehensive consultations. The report was launched at an intergovernmental meeting in Geneva on 4 December 2018, in the presence of a high-level delegation from the country. The Minister of the Presidency, Parliamentary Affairs and Sports of Cabo Verde thanked UNCTAD for undertaking the IPR report, which he noted was “a strategic document that will guide policy reforms”. He endorsed the IPR recommendations and recognized their role in assisting the country in achieving its Sustainable Development Goals-related commitments. Delegates and private sector representatives discussed the challenges faced by Cabo Verde as featured in the IPR report. The Government indicated its interest in receiving UNCTAD assistance in the implementation of several key IPR recommendations.

12. *Chad.* UNCTAD organized a fact-finding mission in June 2018 to discuss with stakeholders the challenges and issues related to investment in the country. Based on the information collected during the mission and the extensive background research, UNCTAD prepared the draft IPR report, which was shared with the Government towards the end of 2018. A national workshop took place in February 2019 to gather comments to finalize the report and submit it for publication.

13. *Côte d’Ivoire.* The Government requested UNCTAD to prepare an IPR. Background research and analysis were undertaken for a fact-finding mission in March 2019.

14. *Cuba.* UNCTAD met with a national delegation in March 2018 to discuss investment policymaking and best practices. Participants discussed the challenges faced by the country with regard to investment and potential reforms to improve the investment environment.

15. *Gabon.* UNCTAD delivered a capacity-building training session for staff of the investment promotion agency of Gabon to help them better understand principles and best practices for investment policymaking (Libreville, April 2018). The presentation also emphasized the core principles and elements of investment law. The country is envisaging a

reform of its current Charte des investissements and UNCTAD presented and discussed elements to be considered in line with the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and best practices in other countries.

16. *Lebanon*. The IPR report of Lebanon was published in 2018. Prepared in cooperation with the investment promotion agency, the Investment Development Authority, the draft report was finalized by UNCTAD, taking into consideration all comments received during extensive consultations with all stakeholders dealing with investment issues. The report was launched at an intergovernmental meeting in the presence of a high-level delegation from Lebanon (Geneva, 4 December 2018). The Chair of the Authority expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for undertaking the IPR process and committed to implementing the recommendations. The meeting was well attended, and delegates and private sector representatives discussed the challenges faced by Lebanon and ways to overcome them.

17. *Nepal*. At the request of the Government, UNCTAD has started work to assess the degree to which the recommendations of the IPR completed in 2003 have been implemented. A fact-finding mission to the country in May 2019 will complete the information, provide for dialogues with the authorities on their objectives for investment and propose actions to further reform and improve the investment regime in the country.

18. *Nigeria*. At the request of the Government, UNCTAD completed and published the IPR implementation report. This included background research and analysis and consultations with government representatives on investment policymaking through a fact-finding mission in March 2018.

19. *Russian Federation*. In March 2018, UNCTAD gave a presentation to a delegation from the Russian Federation on investment policymaking and sustainable development. Participants greatly appreciated the presentation and expressed their satisfaction to UNCTAD in helping them to better understand the challenges related to investment issues.

20. *Viet Nam*. The IPR report of Viet Nam was published in 2008. Several follow-up activities have taken place since then to assist with the implementation of the recommendations. In 2018, at the request of the Government, UNCTAD contributed to a publication (30 years of foreign investment in Viet Nam: successes and lessons) relating the experiences of the country with foreign investment. The article (leveraging foreign investment to support the economic transformation of Viet Nam) discusses the Government's reform drive and its impact on investment.

21. *Arabic-speaking countries*. At an expert group meeting at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNCTAD gave a presentation on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on the theme "economic governance and national development planning in the Arab region: (Tunis, May 2018). Participants were from Mauritania, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen and a number of organizations, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Maghreb Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade, the United Nations Development Programme in Tunisia, the United Nations support mission in Libya and the World Bank. The discussion focussed on challenges with regard to investment policymaking and reforms to be undertaken to align the investment framework with the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. *French-speaking African countries*. UNCTAD participated in the third annual conference of the Réseau international des agences francophones de promotion des investissements on the theme "Industrialization in French-speaking countries: Challenges and issues" (Libreville). The presentation by UNCTAD highlighted the importance of conducting promotional activities in line with defined objectives, notably the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, designing them with a view to fostering South-South exchanges and measuring their results and impact against the defined objectives. The meeting gathered 14 heads of investment promotion agencies and many representatives from other United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, governments, the private sector and civil society.

23. Forty-four developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In the context of the World Investment Forum, UNCTAD organized talking business sessions and an investment village. The beneficiaries of these events included Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

24. Overall results. Overall, IPRs have played a key role in strengthening the investment policies and strategies of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This has enabled them to attract higher levels of FDI and derive greater development gains, while minimizing as much as possible the potential costs, in line with the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, many activities to support the implementation of the IPR recommendations have been carried out under the programme. Evidence of impact can be illustrated at three levels: a country's commitment to and endorsement of the recommendations, the implementation of IPR recommendations and the impact on investment flows and the investment environment.

*Commitment at the highest level and endorsement of recommendations*

25. The importance and relevance of the IPR work is reflected by the involvement of Heads of States or Governments in the process and their commitment to implementing its outcome. In most cases, IPRs were presented to and discussed with Heads of States and cabinet ministers. Development partners also directly expressed their interest, as shown by the following endorsements received throughout 2018:

(a) The investment manager of the Export and Investment Centre of the Dominican Republic stated: "Ten years after the IPR [report] of the Dominican Republic, the document is still the blueprint of every investment strategy we implement today; each time a new administration comes onboard, the IPR [report] is the first document we hand them" (Geneva, 23 October 2018);

(b) The Minister of the Presidency, Parliamentary Affairs and Sports of Cabo Verde of Cabo Verde stated that the IPR report was a strategic document that would guide their policy reforms" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(c) The Ambassador of Lebanon to the United Nations stated: "The valuable IPR report is the first step and it is incumbent upon us to benefit from its findings when designing our policies" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(d) The Ambassador of Portugal to the United Nations stated that the IPR of Cabo Verde was "an important work by UNCTAD [and played] a unique and pivotal role in promoting investment and sustainable growth" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(e) The Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde stated: "We see FDI as one of the most important channels for achieving our development objectives. The IPR is an essential tool in this process" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(f) The Chair of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon stated: "The IPR is the milestone for taking action to reform our business environment" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(g) The President of Trade Invest in Cabo Verde stated: "The IPR is aligned with the Government's priorities and we look forward to working with [the UNCTAD IPR Programme] and developing a strategic plan" (Geneva, 4 December 2018);

(h) A counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations stated that IPRs were an important tool for policy analysis that produced impacts in the beneficiary countries (Geneva, 4 December 2018).

*Implementation of investment policy review recommendations*

26. Another benchmark of the impact of IPRs is the extent to which Governments find the recommendations useful and have implemented them. To date, UNCTAD has published 15 implementation reports (Benin, Botswana, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia). A new report was published in 2018 (Nigeria). Based on these reports, UNCTAD undertook a stocktaking exercise titled “Implementation reports: Lessons learned”. The 15 reports published up to end-2017 showed that beneficiary countries had been active reformers, with all of them partially or fully implementing over 80 per cent of the recommendations in their IPRs (with efforts made to implement 360 of 442 recommendations). In some economies, this figure rises to 96 per cent. Given that almost half of the reports were published over four years ago, the total number of implemented reforms may now be even higher. A significant number – about 40 per cent – of the recommendations were implemented with the assistance of UNCTAD. Assistance took different forms, including advisory services on policy, legal, regulatory and institutional matters.

*Direct impact on investment flows and improvement of the investment environment*

27. It is difficult to assess the correlation between the implementation of IPR recommendations and an increase in FDI flows, although this is one of the principle objectives of the requesting country. Another objective of IPRs is to improve the quality of FDI and ensure that it contributes more effectively to sustainable development. In this regard, countries could experience a decline in flows but an improvement in the development impact of FDI and the operations of investors. Nevertheless, all 15 countries for which an implementation report was completed saw their annual FDI inflows increase by an average of 206 per cent in the five years following the IPR process, compared with average annual inflows in the five years before.

28. It is difficult to compare the FDI performance of the 15 economies – which range widely in geographic location, income level and political context – that have completed an implementation report, with a similar panel of economies that have not undergone an IPR. Yet within the group of 15 economies, it is possible to discern a positive correlation between the increase in FDI flows and the rate of implementation of IPR recommendations; that is, countries that implemented more experienced a greater increase in FDI.

29. Another indicator of IPR impact is a country’s commitment to reform as measured by its progress in international business rankings, which assess the operational environment for the private sector.<sup>1</sup> Since 2006, two thirds of the 15 economies with an implementation report have been featured as top ten reformers in the Doing Business rankings. Of these, six economies have been featured in multiple years.

30. Finally, another way to attest to the overwhelming expression of interest in IPRs is illustrated by the number of countries that have requested to benefit from the programme, including follow-up technical assistance. Official requests for IPRs are in the pipeline for 28 countries, namely, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Oman, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Suriname, Eswatini, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

<sup>1</sup> Governance and business-related indices abound from several organizations. Despite the inadequacies and limitations intrinsic in such indices and rankings, their publication means that countries are exposed to global scrutiny to an unprecedented extent. Most countries have internalized the need for quality regulations but what remains problematic, most of the time, is proper implementation. UNCTAD advice has been to prioritize reforms, seeking not a higher ranking but more effective regulations, as well as their implementation. See, for example: UNCTAD, 2011, *Investment Policy Reviews: Shaping Investment Policies around the World* (United Nations publication, New York and Geneva).

## A2 Services policy reviews

Table A2  
Services policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9BG	Trust Fund on Services, Development and Trade	2009–	Multi-donors

31. **Development context.** The services economy has gained increased importance over the last decade, contributing a growing share to gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. The services sector is not only important in its own right, but can also help improve efficiency and competitiveness in all sectors of the economy, as services constitute essential inputs to many other products and services. The sector generates opportunities for greater income, productivity, employment, investment and trade, and also contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing essential services, including health, education, energy, transport and telecommunications. Services also play a major catalytic role in the expansion of global supply chains. Positively integrating developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and small economies, into the global services economy and increasing their participation in services production and trade is essential. Despite the significant potential of the services sector, many developing countries face challenges in reaping the benefits of services trade for development, due to their weakness in supply capacities. Maximizing the positive contributions and pro-development outcomes of the services sector requires good regulation and institutions capable of promoting domestic supply capacity.

32. **Objectives.** Services policy reviews are aimed at assisting developing countries in assessing their services economies and trade and reviewing their existing policy and regulatory frameworks, to inform their efforts to formulate best-fit national services regulatory and institutional frameworks in order to develop competitive productive capabilities in the services sector and better engage in international trade negotiations and agreements dealing with services. Services policy reviews are a systematic review of the economic, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and support informed policymaking, regulatory framework formulation and institution-building in developing countries, as well as trade negotiations. A review serves as a toolkit, to allow policymakers and regulators to assess the potential of services-related productive capacities and trade in order to identify constraints that may impede development of the services sector and ascertain practical solutions and policy mixes.

33. **Outputs.** UNCTAD provided demand-based assistance on services assessments – services policy reviews, including specific country- and sector-focused services assessments – that examined policy and regulatory frameworks and the potential impact of trade liberalization. Such assessments provide beneficiary countries with the data and information necessary for making informed policy choices about accelerating national services development and about the liberalization and regulation of services sectors at the national, regional and international levels.

34. To date, national services policy reviews have been conducted for Bangladesh, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda and Uganda.<sup>2</sup> In 2018, a second national services policy review was conducted at the request of Paraguay. At the request of the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional services policy review was initiated to help support the deepening of regional integration and negotiations in the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Related activities to enhance national capacity to design and implement national services policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks are planned under the European Union–

<sup>2</sup> Kyrgyzstan, 2010; Nepal, 2010; Uganda (phases I and II), 2010 and 2013; Lesotho, 2012; Nicaragua, 2013; Peru, 2013; Rwanda, 2013; Paraguay, 2014; and Bangladesh (phases I and II), 2015 (see <https://unctad.org/en/conferences/gsf/2013/Pages/documents.aspx>).

UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II, and under the proposed UNCTAD-United Nations Industrial Development Organization project on supporting trade and development in Mozambique.

35. In 2018, UNCTAD organized and contributed to the following meetings:

(a) Technical experts meeting on draft ECOWAS services policy review (Accra, 14–16 March);

(b) Advisory mission to Paraguay, international seminar on services and first national workshop on second services policy review of Paraguay (Asuncion, 23 and 24 May);

(c) Regional validation workshop on ECOWAS services policy review (Accra, 8–10 October);

(d) Second national workshop on second services policy review of Paraguay (Asuncion, 9 November).

36. **Results and impacts.** Services policy reviews of selected countries generated important data and information that can be referenced by the beneficiary countries in the formulation of national services policy and in multilateral and regional trade negotiations. For example, in November 2018, Paraguay formulated its first national services development plan, taking into account the two services policy reviews carried out with assistance from UNCTAD. UNCTAD ground-level support on services policy reviews, customized advice to specific countries, advisory missions and workshops enhanced the technical capacity of trade officials and policymakers in developing services economies in accordance with development objectives.

### A3 Trade policy framework reviews

Table A3

#### Trade policy framework reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
No projects			

37. **Development context.** Promoting a coherent and integrated approach to national trade policy formulation and implementation has become a salient challenge for national policymakers, as an increasing number of countries are reformulating their national trade policy frameworks and strategies to better reap development benefits from trade and respond to the imperatives of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in progressing towards the achievement of Goal 8, Goal 9 and Goal 17.11. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition continue to face significant challenges in the formulation of development-oriented trade policy frameworks that are best-fit to national circumstances and development needs. When effectively prepared, trade policy can drive progress in achieving the Goals. Linking trade policy and productive capacity and structural transformation is therefore crucial in achieving the Goals.

38. **Objectives.** The aim of trade policy framework reviews is to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according a country's development priorities and needs. The reviews, through research and training activities, provide tools to policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that help enable them to set their priorities, make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at the sectoral level.

39. **Outputs.** UNCTAD continued to assist beneficiary countries in strengthening the national capacity of policymakers in trade policy formulation and implementation and in assessing and preparing Goals-oriented trade policy frameworks. Up-to-date reviews have

been conducted for nine countries (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia),<sup>3</sup> focused on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating an enabling environment through the international trading system. These analyses and policy recommendations were reviewed and validated by national stakeholders, and associated advisory and capacity-building support has strengthened stakeholder understanding and analytical skills. This has supported the formulation, updating and reformulation of trade policies and fostered inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations for inclusive trade policymaking. Several countries have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures. Such experiences could be usefully replicated in more countries. Related activities to enhance national capacity to design and implement national trade policy frameworks are planned under the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II, and under the proposed UNCTAD-United Nations Industrial Development Organization project on supporting trade and development in Mozambique.

40. **Results and impacts.** UNCTAD support has been instrumental in several respects. It has facilitated consideration and/or adoption by Governments of best-fit trade policy options and strategies that can help strengthen productive capacities and increase participation in international trade in a manner that maximizes the potential of development gains, in particular job creation and poverty reduction. UNCTAD assistance has also enhanced the understanding and deepened the technical knowledge of developing-country policymakers, trade negotiators, parliamentarians and others stakeholders with regard to ongoing multilateral and regional trade negotiations and agreements, strengthened technical preparedness for negotiations and supported a proactive approach to ensuring that negotiations and agreements are coherent and emphasize a development aspects framework that promotes policy coherence to support the achievement of the Goals.

#### A4 Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

Table A4  
Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-1819 (L11)	Strengthening policy coherence and integration to ensure that science, technology and innovation support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and Asia	2018–	Development Account

41. **Development context.** The basic assumption that underpins this work is that innovation, particularly innovation based on knowledge, is a key driver of economic growth, structural transformation and sustainable development. Among the capabilities that developing countries need to generate in order to harness science, technology and innovation for development, sound policymaking frameworks leading to the establishment of effective innovation systems are key. While this is recognized by the Governments of many developing countries, designing and implementing national science, technology and innovation strategies and policies present considerable challenges for many of them. There is a clear need to support a process of science, technology and innovation policy learning, experimentation and the dissemination of good practices.

42. **Objectives and features.** The science, technology and innovation policy review programme provides policy advice to countries requesting assistance in building and maintaining a dynamic and responsive science, technology and innovation framework that can foster technological capabilities, create effective innovation systems, facilitate

<sup>3</sup> See <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/TNCD/Trade-Policy-Framework-Reviews.aspx>.



technology acquisition and improve national innovation performance. It aims to ensure that national science, technology and innovation programmes become an instrument for supporting relevant components of the national development agenda, helping local industry compete in a knowledge-based, global economy. The reviews assess the strengths and weaknesses of a country's innovation system, including the policy framework, capabilities, innovation effort and performance, and generally include an analysis of the technology and innovation challenges and opportunities in specific industries or issue areas of high priority for the beneficiary country (such as information and communications technology, biotechnology or energy). Key science, technology and innovation issues that affect the productivity and competitiveness of industries are identified. The reviews include recommendations for action to revamp policy frameworks, including policies, regulations, measures and practices that can improve technological and innovation capacity, increase investment in innovative activity, raise productivity and upgrade competitiveness. The primary beneficiaries of the reviews are the major players in the national innovation system, such as policymakers (from science and technology ministries or similar bodies, trade and industry ministries and other ministries of importance to science, technology and innovation), the business community, academic and research institutions, civil society and development and sustainability interest groups with a role in science, technology and innovation, in particular those related to any specific areas to be adopted as a focus for a review.

43. **Outputs.** In 2018, UNCTAD revised the theoretical framework that underpins the programme<sup>4</sup> and its implementation methodology, to assist countries in aligning science, technology and innovation policy with development strategies, while ensuring that such policies promote sustainable development and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The revised framework goes beyond how science, technology and innovation can support the traditional economic development goals of growth, higher productivity, structural transformation and economic diversification, to consider the role of science, technology and innovation in reorienting development towards more inclusive and environmentally sustainable outcomes. The new framework was presented at the twenty-second session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (Geneva, May 2019).

44. In 2018, UNCTAD prepared science, technology and innovation policy reviews for Ethiopia and Uganda. In Ethiopia, UNCTAD conducted a fact-finding mission (December). Before the mission, the national counterparts, namely, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, collaborated with other ministries and agencies and established an intergovernmental committee for the review. In Uganda, UNCTAD conducted a scoping mission (May) and a fact-finding mission (October), and preliminary drafts of the review are under preparation. During the missions, the project partner, namely the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, developed and activated a national task force for the review. UNCTAD also partnered with other United Nations agencies in Kampala, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Technology Bank, which provided advisory and substantive contributions.

45. As part of the science, technology and innovation policy review programme, UNCTAD delivered a workshop on the theme "Technology for development: Innovation policies for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region" (Amman, 15–19 April 2018), as a member of and in collaboration with the Technology Facilitation Mechanism of the Inter-Agency Task Team of the United Nations. A total of 32 policymakers from member States of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia participated in the workshop.

46. **Results.** As at the end of 2018, UNCTAD had completed science, technology and innovation policy reviews in 14 countries, in which they had often ignited a renewal in science, technology and innovation policy, raised its profile in national development strategies and facilitated the inclusion of related activities in international cooperation

<sup>4</sup> The previous framework was outlined in UNCTAD, 2011, *A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews* (United Nations publication, New York and Geneva).

plans. A key feature of the reviews is the systematic effort made to involve a broad range of stakeholders. This participatory process can mobilize networks of actors towards transformation through policy experimentation and learning. In 2018, in Ethiopia and Uganda, the review process helped to open a multi-stakeholder dialogue that may lead to consensus among science, technology and innovation policymakers and development stakeholders on future lines of action and establish a strong sense of ownership of related policy programmes. Initial findings of the reviews in Ethiopia and Uganda were discussed at the twenty-second session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

## A5 E-commerce and the digital economy

Table A5  
E-commerce and the digital economy

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
KEN/0T/HCL	Africa E-commerce Week	2018–	Kenya
KIR/0T/HCI	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Kiribati, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
LES/0T/HBO	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Lesotho, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
LRD/0T/GAY	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries, EIF	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
MLW/0T/HBN	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Malawi, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
OMA/0T/GBB	Oman e-commerce strategy	2017–	Public donations
RWA/0T/FAV	Information and communications technology policies for development: E-commerce strategy for Rwanda	2016–	Rwanda
SAM/0T/GAV	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries, EIF	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
SOI/0T/GAZ	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries, EIF	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
TUV/0T/HBR	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries – Tuvalu, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
VAN/0T/GAX	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments of the least developed countries	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9AS	Information and communications technology policies for development	2009–	Finland, Germany, Republic of Korea
INT/OT/FAQ	eTrade for all coordination	2016–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/GAP	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments, German Agency for International Cooperation	2017–	Germany
INT/OT/GAT	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments, EIF	2018–	Germany
INT/OT/HAT	Information and communications technology policies for development, German Agency for International Cooperation	2018–	Germany
INT/OT/HCE	Strategic partnership Netherlands (linked to INT/OT/HCJ)	2018–	Netherlands
RAF/OT/HBH	Africa E-commerce Week, German Agency for International Cooperation	2018–	Germany
RAF/OT/HCC	Africa E-commerce Week	2018–	Germany
ROA-1819 (N11)	Leapfrogging skills development in e-commerce in South-East Asia in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2018–	Development Account

47. **Development context.** E-commerce and, more generally, the rise of the digital economy, are rapidly transforming the way in which enterprises are interacting with each other, consumers and Governments. Digitalization is creating new opportunities for technological leaps, productivity gains across the economy, the rise of new sectors and more trade. At the same time, the transformation is raising new challenges and costs for countries. Some of the greatest dynamism in e-commerce and information and communications technologies can be found in developing countries, but the potential is far from fully realized. Making e-commerce and the digital economy work for development means adapting to the opportunities and the challenges that go along with their use. Conducting domestic and international trade online has to be simplified, and there is a need for legal protection for users and providers in order to ensure that citizens, consumers and enterprises can trust online transactions. Developing countries need to establish legal, institutional and policy frameworks, as well as effective national strategies, to leverage the dynamism of e-commerce. Developing countries, including LDCs, require better access to reliable statistics on the digital economy. It is important for policymakers to receive evidence-based guidance on the design of sound policies and to learn from best practices in securing development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. Seizing development gains from this evolving landscape requires a holistic, cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach. Special efforts are also needed to ensure that women have equal opportunities in e-commerce and the digital economy.

48. The Nairobi Maafikiano led to the establishment of the annual Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy. UNCTAD was given a stronger mandate to position itself as an important enabler and a centre of excellence for leveraging e-commerce and the digital economy for sustainable development. With the launch of the UNCTAD-led eTrade for all initiative and the annual multi-stakeholder E-commerce Week, including at the regional level, UNCTAD continued to show leadership in the area of e-commerce and the digital economy for development through its three pillars of work: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation.

49. **Objectives and features.** The e-commerce and digital economy programme ultimately aims to improve the ability of people in developing countries, in particular LDCs, to reap inclusive and sustainable development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. This should be achieved through improved decision-making and policy

formulation among policymakers in member States and development partners on e-commerce and the digital economy for development, in a gender sensitive manner; and improved efficiency among member States, development partners, international organizations, civil society and the private sector in addressing issues and providing assistance on e-commerce and the digital economy for development.

50. **Outputs.** In 2018, extrabudgetary funding contributed to the preparatory work on the *Digital Economy Report 2019*, to be published in September 2019, as well as to an updated version of the UNCTAD business-to-consumer e-commerce index. The latter served as an input to discussions at the first Africa E-commerce Week. Work on the *Digital Economy Report 2019* involved a brainstorming discussion on how to create and capture value in the digital economy and generated several background papers.

51. UNCTAD E-commerce Week has become the leading global forum at which public and private stakeholders, as well as civil society, can engage in dialogues about the development implications of the digital economy. The fourth edition, on the theme “Development dimensions of digital platforms”, attracted almost 1,200 registered participants from 113 countries, including 26 LDCs, who contributed to more than 60 sessions (16–20 April 2018). As many as 21 partners of the eTrade for all initiative attended and organized more than 30 sessions. At the same time, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy held its second session, which was attended by 103 countries, including 23 LDCs, and 182 private sector participants.

52. The *Information and Communications Technology Policy Review: National E-commerce Strategy for Egypt* was presented in Geneva during E-commerce Week. In response to requests from Oman and Rwanda, UNCTAD continued work on national e-commerce strategies for both countries. For each, several fact-finding missions were held, as well as a vision workshop with a variety of national stakeholders, which resulted in draft strategy documents. The national e-commerce strategy for Oman was finalized at the end of 2018 and the national e-commerce strategy for Rwanda was expected to be finalized in the first half of 2019. National e-commerce strategies propose measures in the seven key policy areas that can help countries leverage e-commerce for development. Requests for new e-commerce strategies were received from, among others, Azerbaijan and Botswana.

53. Given the extensive and growing recognition of E-commerce Week, UNCTAD, in partnership with the African Union, the European Union and partners of the eTrade for all initiative, organized the first Africa E-commerce Week, on the theme “Empowering African economies in the digital era”, hosted by the Government of Kenya (Nairobi, December 2018). More than 2,000 participants from 60 countries registered for the event, which was addressed by the President of Kenya, the Vice-President of the European Commission and several heads of international organizations, as well as chief executive officers. Participants included some 800 government officials, 700 business representatives and more than 250 members of civil society, youth groups and academia. The E-commerce Week issued the Nairobi manifesto for e-commerce and the digital economy, charting a course for African countries with policy recommendations in the seven key policy areas, namely e-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation, information and telecommunications technology infrastructure and services, payment solutions, trade logistics (transport and trade facilitation), legal and regulatory frameworks, e-commerce skills development, access to financing and two cross-cutting lines of action on e-commerce and women’s empowerment and measuring e-commerce and the digital economy.<sup>5</sup> In the lead-up to Africa E-commerce Week, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD launched the UNCTAD Dialogue on African Development and the Digital Economy, which saw contributions by nine thought leaders on how to ensure that, rather than widening divides, digitalization brings inclusive development to Africa.

54. Under the Development Account project on leapfrogging skills development in e-commerce in South-East Asia in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a developing a curriculum session was organized in preparation for the development of a training course on digital identity (September 2018). Representatives

<sup>5</sup> <https://unctad.org/en/conferences/Africa-e-week2018/Pages/default.aspx>.

from the Estonia e-residency programme, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the World Bank and Access Now took part in the brainstorming meeting. The project aims to support the goals set at the regional level in view of the development of the digital economy and e-commerce and will focus on Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore. These countries have already made great advances in the adoption of e-commerce laws, as well as in building national e-commerce ecosystems, yet they are facing challenges and seeking ways to strengthen the security of e-commerce users and the capabilities of entrepreneurs to engage in e-commerce.

55. Following an online training course on legal aspects of e-commerce delivered to about 100 magistrates and lawyers in Madagascar (April and June 2017), a face-to-face training session was organized in Antananarivo with 40 participants who had successfully completed the online course (February 2018). The activity was organized by the Information and Communications Technology Policy Section and the Train for Trade Programme of the Division on Technology and Logistics. The course focused on e-transactions and data protection.

56. The global database on cyberlaws developed in 2015 was updated to reflect the state of e-commerce laws in 2018.<sup>6</sup> In December 2018, 78 per cent of countries had legislation on e-transactions; 72 per cent, on cybercrime; 58 per cent, on privacy; and 52 per cent, on the protection of consumers online. With regard to LDCs, the proportion is much lower, reducing their capacity to engage successfully in e-commerce and online activities.

57. The eTrade for all initiative is an example of how the international community, in partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders, can come together to make e-commerce work for development. Its online platform has almost 20,000 visitors, of which 40 per cent are from developing countries.<sup>7</sup> The platform offers a gateway for those in need of technical assistance to find those who will be able to assist them. The initiative was also of great value for the successful organization in 2018 of E-commerce Week and Africa E-commerce Week. More than 20 partners contributed to both events, organizing or co-organizing more than half of the sessions scheduled during each week. To create shared value and raise the visibility of core issues on the agenda of partners of the eTrade for all initiative, a monthly newsletter has been released since July 2017, reaching nearly 1,500 subscribers.

58. In 2018, with the support of development partners, namely the Governments of Germany and Sweden, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), UNCTAD completed Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments with concrete policy recommendations for 11 LDCs (Burkina Faso, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zambia). Assessments include policy recommendations aimed at ensuring that benefits from online trade reach all segments of society.

59. **Results.** The ongoing work of UNCTAD on e-commerce and the digital economy continued to raise considerable interest among donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The UNCTAD secretariat received a rising number of requests from member States for capacity-building activities and the number of participants at E-commerce Week rose from 300 to almost 2,000, compared with the previous year. Moreover, the number of partners of the eTrade for all initiative has increased considerably since its creation in 2016. As at December 2018, 29 partners from the public sector and civil society had subscribed to the collective vision of supporting developing countries on their journey to e-commerce for development, while championing successful initiatives.

60. The rapid eTrade readiness assessments contributed to raising awareness on e-commerce in the beneficiary countries. Assessment preparation and the workshops organized onsite during each mission brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to engage in constructive discussions on the benefits to be gained, the main bottlenecks and the actions to be taken in order to improve the information and communications technology and e-commerce ecosystem. In the countries assessed,

<sup>6</sup> <https://unctad.org/cyberlawtracker>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://etradeforall.org/>.

different e-commerce stakeholders met for the first time for such an exercise. Some countries have advanced in the implementation of some recommendations, and a stocktaking exercise was carried out in April 2019 that provided more information on the multiplying impacts in beneficiary countries. The assessments confirmed that vast reform projects are needed in LDCs to enable them to engage in and benefit from e-commerce. None of the countries assessed have a dedicated e-commerce strategy at present. Low levels of Internet accessibility and service quality, often due to a lack of competition in the telecommunications sector, are a common obstacle to digital growth. Weak and costly hard infrastructure and logistics services that are not well integrated by operators, hinder the delivery of goods bought or sold online. The private sector is also often disconnected from decision makers. The assessments have demonstrated value in fostering public and private dialogues.

61. To meet the growth in demand for assessments, a pool of experts and consultants were trained on the relevant methodology in March 2018, and UNCTAD intensified collaboration with other partners of the eTrade for all initiative to enrich the assessments from the start to the end of the process. At the same time, the speed at which the digital economy is unfolding, and the significant gaps that exist in terms of the ability and readiness of countries, enterprises and individuals to engage in the digital economy, underline the urgency of scaling up global support for capacity-building and technical assistance in this area to developing countries, in particular LDCs. A particular challenge is that countries must address a large number of policy areas in parallel and in a coordinated manner, often without reliable statistics and other information to inform the decision-making process.

## A6 Investment guides

Table A6  
Investment guides

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors

62. **Development context.** The investment guides (iGuides) programme provides developing country Governments with the necessary capacity to better market their countries or territories as investment destinations to the global investment community, in order to attract quality FDI in pursuit of their development goals.

63. **Objectives and features.** The iGuides online platforms, designed by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce, provide international investors with essential up-to-date information on rules, economic conditions, procedures, business costs and investment opportunities in developing countries. The platforms are developed jointly with beneficiary Governments, at their request. Content includes the following:

(a) Locally available costs. In addition to taxes, social contributions or the state of infrastructure, iGuides provide indicative price ranges of wages, rents, consumer goods and transportation costs. This hard-to-find information enables investors to build a basic business model for their projects;

(b) Relevant licences, procedures and useful contacts. iGuides platforms give an overview of procedures and licences required to start a business, obtain work permits, acquire land, clear imported goods or repatriate funds. Contact persons are also identified in the most useful institutions and offices. iGuides can integrate seamlessly with existing eRegulations systems to provide full information on start-up and business procedures;

(c) Experiences of established investors. Whether the topic is paying taxes, hiring labour or obtaining electricity, iGuides platforms summarize the experiences of established investors and provide case studies of their investment history.

64. During a project, UNCTAD creates a national iGuides platform for the country and trains the government staff assigned to the project in researching and compiling the necessary information and entering it into the system. Once completed, an official launch is organized in the country, and the platform is made publicly available to investors. At the end of project implementation, the beneficiary country has its own iGuides platform and trained staff to administer and update it under the continuous guidance of UNCTAD. The iGuides online platforms replace the previous practice of publishing printed investment guides. It is essential that the new iGuides allow information to be kept up to date by Governments and may be accomplished in a third of the time and at half of the cost.

65. **Outputs.** In 2018, iGuides were completed in the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria and Zambia in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa. Work started on iGuides for Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and Caribexport. In addition, online training was conducted for government officials and investment promotion agencies in beneficiary countries to continuously update information in their existing national iGuides. Finally, an event on iGuides was held during the World Investment Forum, at which beneficiary Governments provided useful feedback on possible innovations for the online platform. The event also led to new country requests.

66. **Results.** Unlike sit-on-the-shelf publications, iGuides are web-based, and any element may be easily updated at any time to reflect changes in legislation, infrastructure, costs or taxes. iGuides therefore remain relevant and useful to their audience. In addition, Governments (not UNCTAD) are responsible for researching, inputting and updating data based on information standards and training provided by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. The iGuide launches enjoy high-level participation and receive extensive press coverage. Governments have updated their sites, showing retained capacity to update the website in an effective manner and the continued relevance of the website. The availability of online training allows staff working on iGuides to more easily transfer knowledge and capacity to their peers.

## A7 Non-tariff measures

Table A7  
Non-tariff measures

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GHA/0T/HBC	Sector project trade and investment for sustainable development	2018–	Germany
MYA/0T/HBI	United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, Myanmar	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
INT/0T/CBG	Non-tariff measures trust fund (under Transparency in Trade programme)	2013–	World Bank
INT/0T/GAQ <sup>a</sup>	Non-tariff measures data update for selected major economies	2017–2018	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
INT/9X/00J	Development and dissemination of selected computerized trade data	2000–	Multi-donors

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/HAS	Non-tariff measures data update and conversion for selected Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation economies	2018–	Public donation
RAS/OT/FAD <sup>a</sup>	Non-tariff measures for East Asia and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries	2016–2018	Conference Board of Canada
RAS/OT/HAQ	Transparency in trade regulation and facilitation in Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand
ROA-2962 (N9)	Strengthening capacities of policymakers to assess implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate policy responses	2014–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on statistics and data	2016–	Development Account

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

67. **Development context.** Regulations, including behind-the-border regulations protecting the health and the environment, affect 90 per cent of merchandise trade. Such non-tariff measures are policy measures, other than customs tariffs, which often have an impact on international trade in terms of quantities traded or prices. These measures, although mostly legislated with non-protectionist and non-discriminating intents, can have important implications for international trade in terms of both increasing trade costs and the effects of trade diversion. Non-tariff measures affect trade by raising trade, compliance and procedural costs, which often disproportionately burden small enterprises and poorer countries. LDCs and smaller producers in developing countries are disproportionately affected, hampering trade and economic development. However, most non-tariff measures have important public policy objectives such as protecting health and the environment. Striking a balance between trade costs and regulatory benefits requires transparency, policy coherence and international-level regulatory convergence. Concrete actions in this regard are often coupled with regional economic integration and domestic regulatory reforms. For developing countries, understanding the uses and implications of such measures is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

68. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD Programme on Non-Tariff Measures aims to increase transparency and understanding of trade control measures and regulations so that policies can better promote sustainable development. The programme covers the entire chain of non-tariff measures, ranging from conception,<sup>8</sup> data collection and dissemination, to research, policy advice and capacity-building in countries and regional integration groupings. UNCTAD leads international cooperation (working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the International Trade Centre, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and WTO) on the development and revision of the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures and with regional and international partners (African Development Bank, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, ECOWAS, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, International Trade Centre, Latin American Integration Association, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Southern African Development Community, World Bank and WTO) on data collection. This ensures a globally coordinated and resource-saving approach. UNCTAD assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in enhancing transparency and building analytical capacity on non-tariff measures

<sup>8</sup> Conception focuses on the policies and regulations that determine trade and market access and how information about non-tariff measures can be structured.



by the following means: collecting and making available online data on such measures to enhance transparency in this regard; conducting regional reviews of the integration of non-tariff measures; providing online and in-country training on data collection on non-tariff measures and on data sources, tools, methods and policy-relevant research questions on such measures; and providing advisory services upon request to countries and regional groupings in building capacities to address such measures and remove non-tariff barriers. UNCTAD has been working on research and capacity-building related to non-tariff measures since the early 1980s, and assists policymakers along the entire value chain of such measures, ranging from definition and classification, to data collection and dissemination, research and policy support.

69. **Outputs.** UNCTAD delivered the following in 2018:

(a) Finalization of the revision and extension of the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures, including a detailed taxonomy for government procurement, intellectual property, rules of origin and subsidies;

(b) Data on non-tariff measures for some 35 countries updated or newly collected. The UNCTAD database on non-tariff measures, the Trade Analysis and Information System, is the world's largest and most comprehensive, covering 90 per cent of world trade, and data on non-tariff measures are publicly available through the dissemination tool for non-tariff measures;<sup>9</sup>

(c) Capacity-building activities conducted through online training and face-to-face workshops on non-tariff measures. The fourth edition of the online course on non-tariff measures and data collection had 50 participants (14 May–1 July) and 96 per cent of participants found that the knowledge acquired during the course very much or extremely contributed to deepening their understanding of non-tariff measures. A region-specific course was finalized for government officials from 12 member countries of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, namely Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (July). An online course on the economic analysis of non-tariff measures could not accept all applications due to the high level of interest in the course. Face-to-face training sessions were conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America and in countries with economies in transition;

(d) Face-to-face non-tariff measures data collection training and validation workshops conducted in Kenya (5–9 February) and Zambia (29 January–2 February), to support the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations and subregional economic integration in the Tripartite Free Trade Area with regard to non-tariff measures, in particular non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade. The workshop in Kenya had 25 officials (12 women) participating from 22 different government institutions and the workshop in Zambia, 34 officials (10 women) from 26 different government institutions. At both workshops, participants were trained in using the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures to classify trade regulations and validate the data collected. Training courses were delivered to government officials and experts in Kenya (6–10 August) and the United Republic of Tanzania (1–5 October) on non-tariff measures and quantitative assessment tools for estimating the impact of trade policy changes in their countries and Africa as a region. In Egypt, customs officials from the State of Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen were trained in issues related to international trade agreements and negotiations and how to use relevant data on tariffs and non-tariff measures and analytical tools (25–29 November). In Angola, a training workshop was held to build the capacity of government officials, the private sector and research institutions in non-tariff measures and quantitative analysis tools (29 October–1 November);

(e) Support on regulatory policies affecting trade provided, upon request, to countries and regional secretariats, including the African Union Commission, ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission. In Cuba, policymakers were supported on non-tariff measures (7–8 June) and in Columbia (11–15 June), experts from several countries were trained in non-tariff measures data and discussed the implications of regulatory cooperation

<sup>9</sup> See <https://trains.unctad.org>.

during the annual meeting of the global trade analysis project. UNCTAD, jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe, conducted a face-to-face non-tariff measures data collection training and validation workshop in Kazakhstan (21 February);

(f) Support for nine signatory island economies in the Pacific (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) under a project on transparency under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus, to build capacity to fulfil transparency commitments upon the entry into force of the agreement. The non-tariff measures component of the interdivisional project provides training and assistance to increase regulatory transparency through publications, notifications and information exchanges. UNCTAD trained 22 national policymakers (11 women and 11 men) from the nine countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand and the Oceania Customs Organization, at a regional meeting (Solomon Islands, 15–18 October). In addition, UNCTAD developed an online tool to collect and disseminate regulatory information, conducted a gap analysis of the transparency in trade-related regulations and undertook advocacy activities;

(g) Support for regional integration and economic development in ASEAN, working with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Training on non-tariff measures and workshops on data collection and validation for the region were conducted in Thailand (20–22 March and 3–6 July) and Viet Nam (18–20 September). In addition, support was provided to the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation; UNCTAD contributed to two workshops in Viet Nam (12 and 13 March) and Papua New Guinea (16 and 17 May). UNCTAD support to the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation project on public–private dialogue to advance understanding on non-tariff measures in the textile industry aims to explore the application of non-tariff measures in the textile and garment industry in existing (regional) trade agreements to identify and bridge gaps among Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation members; to strengthen the capacity of Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation governmental officials with regard to non-tariff measures in the industry to deal with non-tariff measures in ongoing negotiations and to regulate non-tariff measures in the sector; and to make recommendations to the Committee on Trade and Investment for further consideration and action;

(h) Non-tariff Measures Week (9–11 November) gathered almost 200 government officials and experts in trade regulations and voluntary sustainability standards. It has become a global event on mandatory trade regulations, including discussions on technical cooperation projects;

(i) Training on non-tariff measures provided at the following workshops and events (at which launches were held of a publication on economic and policy implications of non-tariff measures to trade (overview and case studies from developing countries), an output of Development Account project 1415N, which provides an overview of the rules and disciplines governing the use of non-tariff measures and how these measures influence international trade):

(i) Non-tariff measures sessions held during the fifth annual research forum of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa on the theme “Harnessing the demographic dividend for social economic transformation and deep regional integration in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa through academia–industry linkages” (Nairobi, 6–10 August), with 69 participants (30 per cent women);

(ii) Capacity-building workshop on non-tariff measures (Havana, 7 and 8 June), with 22 participants (45 per cent women);

(iii) UNCTAD and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific capacity-building workshop on non-tariff measures, economic assessment and policy options for development (Bangkok, 3–6 July), with 42 participants (48 per cent women);

(iv) UNCTAD and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia capacity-building workshop on non-tariff measures, economic assessment and policy options

for development (Beirut, 7 and 8 November), with 18 participants (22 per cent women);

(v) Course on key issues on the international economic agenda, on “Trade regulations in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development” (Geneva, 12 September), with 40 participants (about 30 per cent women).

70. **Results.** With regional and national ownership, the Tripartite Free Trade Area is working to increase transparency in non-tariff measures and address their trade impact. The regional transparency initiative has adopted the data collection approach of UNCTAD and is receiving technical support. UNCTAD assistance in the data collection process has also led to the stronger involvement of national standard-setting bodies with the ministries of trade, which is leading to greater national and regional policy coherence (Sustainable Development Goal 17.14 and indicator 17.14.1). ECOWAS regional integration was strengthened through the joint African Development Bank and UNCTAD publication *Regional Integration and Non-Tariff Measures in the Economic Community of West African States*.

71. Based on a Heads of State mandate, the project led by UNCTAD and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia significantly increased transparency in non-tariff measures in the ASEAN region. The forty-ninth meeting of ASEAN economic ministers (7–10 September 2017) recognized the UNCTAD–Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia data and dissemination portal as a foundation to address non-tariff measures and mandated a regular review of the database.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, the data has been used in the implementation of customs single windows in Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. ASEAN members are using the joint data to explore possibilities for harmonizing non-tariff measures in ASEAN. Malaysia is using the data for a cost-benefit assessment to streamline national regulations, and other countries have requested UNCTAD support in this area. The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus is already raising awareness of transparency in non-tariff measures and the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD in island countries in the Pacific, as evidenced by local media coverage. Moreover, Vanuatu is actively utilizing this project with national ownership by linking it to another trade facilitation project and creating synergies. Upon completion of the project in 2019, increased transparency and regulatory cooperation will significantly lower trade costs in the region.

72. In the CFTA negotiations, draft texts and discussions built strongly on the regulatory approach and the transparency measures being implemented in the Tripartite Free Trade Area region in collaboration with UNCTAD. The lessons learned from the Tripartite Free Trade Area and ECOWAS, with UNCTAD support on transparency and analysis, served as building blocks for the continental integration model. Advice was also provided directly on non-tariff barriers and non-tariff measures that helped CFTA negotiators make progress on the drafting of protocols on non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

73. The Latin American Integration Association is continuing to promote trade through the continuous provision of updated information on non-tariff measures to policymakers, exporters and importers, based on UNCTAD methodology and technical support. Southern Common Market countries are revitalizing their efforts towards deep economic integration, including with regard to an UNCTAD regional non-tariff measures integration review providing background data on and an analysis of non-tariff measures.

74. The dissemination of research results on non-tariff measures has improved awareness of the importance of non-tariff measures for international trade and export-led development strategies and of the need to devise policies to minimize the negative effects of non-tariff measures. In particular, transparency on non-tariff measures was increased through the collection and dissemination of data and through a series of studies that helped provide better understanding of the implications of these measures for developing countries.

<sup>10</sup> <http://asean.i-tip.org>.

## A9 Trade negotiations

Table A9  
Trade negotiations

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
INT/0T/9AU	Trust Fund on WTO Accession	2009–	Multi-donors

75. **Development context.** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to revitalize the global trade partnership in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system continues to be the cornerstone of such a partnership, in particular to contribute to achieving Goal 17. However, the multilateral trading system experienced a series of setbacks during the Doha Round of negotiations, which reflected broader tensions between globalization and national development interests, underlining the need to seek new ways to foster multilateral consensus in addressing trade barriers and enhancing more open and fairer international trade. The heightened trade tensions have critically challenged the integrity of the system and affected the prospect for revitalizing multilateral trade cooperation in favour of sustainable development. The WTO reform, corrections, setbacks and renegotiations of existing and proposed trading arrangements were brought to the forefront of international trade policy debates aimed at adapting and modernizing different aspects of the multilateral trading system. Economic realities have also contributed to the deepening or renewed engagement of many countries in regional trade agreements, North–South, South–South and North–North agreements and agreements among countries with economies in transition in Eastern Europe. Properly harnessed, this can also contribute to inclusive and sustainable development. However, greater coherence needs to be built throughout the different layers and components of the international trading system at multilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral levels to ensure the contribution of trade to inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

76. International trade negotiations can open access to new markets, thereby creating opportunities, yet they also represent daunting challenges for policymakers and trade negotiators, as new rules and commitments resulting from such negotiations define a country's participation in international trade. The challenge for developing countries is to design adequate national policies and negotiating strategies that best reflect their national development objectives and to effectively participate in negotiations, to facilitate development-oriented outcomes. Continued and enhanced support on trade negotiations, including in the context of WTO accession, therefore remains critical for developing countries, in particular LDCs, Africa and small vulnerable economies. Such support is required in particular with regard to agriculture, food security, domestic support, cotton, non-agricultural market access, non-tariff measures, services market access, domestic regulations, services trade facilitation, services preferences, duty-free and quota-free market access, rules of origin, special and differential treatment and fishery subsidies.

77. **Objective.** UNCTAD provides capacity-building support aimed at helping developing countries, in particular LDCs, and regional groupings, Africa, small and vulnerable economies and countries with economies in transition to reap benefits and handle challenges in the areas of multilateral and regional trade negotiations, services-related regulatory and institutional frameworks at the national level and WTO accession; promotes the coherence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with the multilateral trading system; and supports regional cooperation mechanisms and the utilization of trade preferences. Given the limited progress in the Doha Round and renewed interest in regional trade arrangements, UNCTAD also places greater emphasis on the development impact of the regional dimension of trade (South–South and South–North).

78. **Outputs.** During the tenth session of the Trade and Development Commission (12–16 November 2018), UNCTAD organized two high-level panel discussions titled “Multilateralism under threat: What next?” and “Energizing existing and emerging regional trade agreements towards the Sustainable Development Goals”. These discussions provided a forum for member States to assess the implications of growing pressure in delivering on prosperity and development promises, the value of multilateralism and the commitment to its development dimension as one shared by all countries. The deliberations highlighted that such reform efforts if at all should not lose sight of the major role played by the multilateral trading system in broader global efforts towards sustainable development. The discussions also provided various perspectives on the proliferation of regional trade agreements.

79. In 2018, UNCTAD assisted countries and groupings in Africa in engagement in CFTA negotiations in all areas, in particular trade in goods and services. Such support was provided in close cooperation with the African Union Commission. Utilizing its extensive experience on economic development generally and in Africa and on trade negotiations and trade policies, as well as its in-house expertise on African integration and development, UNCTAD supported the negotiations in four main areas, namely, conceptualizing the CFTA and developing different options in CFTA negotiating modalities in goods and services, and related issues, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers; assessing the economic implications of different liberalization options to identify the best possible development options, such as identifying priority products and services sectors or sensitive products, and assessing tariff liberalization modalities; assisting finalization of the drafting of the CFTA legal texts, including the framework agreement, as well as the agreement on goods and services; and assisting in specific technical areas such as non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary standards and dispute settlement, as well as one of the phase II issues, namely, competition policy. UNCTAD has participated in and provided advice and technical support to the CFTA negotiating forum, technical working groups and the continental task force. UNCTAD has also assisted regional economic communities, such as ECOWAS and the Tripartite Free Trade Area, in regional consultations and conducted training on the formulation of their regional positions towards the CFTA. Continuous UNCTAD support will be required in completing outstanding issues and proceeding to the preparation of tariff and services offers and request and offer processes, as well as in the initiation of phase II negotiations such as with regard to competition, investment and intellectual property rights.

80. In 2018, UNCTAD organized and contributed to the following meetings:

- (a) Thirteenth meeting of committee of senior officials for trade, customs, finance, economic matters and home and internal affairs of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (Addis Ababa, 3 February);
- (b) Ninth meeting of CFTA negotiating forum (Addis Ababa, 7 February);
- (c) Advisory mission to dedicated session of CFTA negotiating forum and legal experts (Addis Ababa, 9–11 May);
- (d) Advisory mission to eleventh meeting of CFTA continental task force (Addis Ababa, 14–17 May);
- (e) Eleventh meeting of CFTA negotiating forum (Dakar, 27 and 28 May);
- (f) Advisory mission on training in negotiation skills and non-tariff measures (Havana, 6–8 June);
- (g) African Union consultative workshop on market access concessions on trade in goods (Abuja, 9–13 July);
- (h) High-level round table on digital trade (Shanghai, China, 6 November);
- (i) Training session on digital trade among Belt and Road countries, second part (Jiangsu, China, 7–9 November);
- (j) Thirteenth meeting of CFTA negotiating forum (Addis Ababa, 12–17 November);

- (k) LDCs workshop on special and differential treatment (Geneva, 30 November);
- (l) Fourteenth meeting of CFTA negotiating forum (Cairo, 5–8 December);
- (m) African Union harmonization workshop (Cairo, 15 and 16 December).

81. Under the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II, UNCTAD organized a training workshop on commercial diplomacy (Luanda, 11–13 April and 29 October–1 November), which enabled trade officials in Angola to improve their understanding of trade policy formulation, negotiations and implementation, and to achieve a better understanding of the low participation of Angola in regional trade and the need to diversify its exports away from a reliance on crude oil. This training focused on Angola's regional trade integration in the context of its membership in the Southern African Development Community, the Tripartite Free Trade Area and CFTA.

82. UNCTAD expanded its technical assistance support to Arab countries in their regional integration efforts under the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area and a future Arab customs union by contributing substantive expertise to the joint training programme of the League of Arab States and the regional office for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme. UNCTAD contributions helped improve the technical capabilities of participants, in particular from the State of Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen, in trade negotiation skills and trade policy formulation. The United Nations Development Programme regional office recognized the substantive contribution of UNCTAD in a press release issued after a training workshop. In 2018, UNCTAD contributed to the following meetings in Arab countries:

- (a) Advisory mission to a regional working group on trade and the Sustainable Development Goals for Arab States, under a United Nations Development Programme–Swedish International Development Agency project (Cairo, 3–5 April);
- (b) Advisory mission to the third meeting of the working group on trade and the Sustainable Development Goals (Cairo, 29–30 July);
- (c) Training workshop for Arab LDCs on trade policy and trade negotiations (Cairo, 25–27 November);
- (d) Training course on trade policy and trade and services for trade officials of the State of Palestine (United Nations Development Programme event, Amman, 9–13 December).

83. UNCTAD assisted more than 20 countries acceding to WTO, including all LDCs negotiating or preparing for accession.<sup>11</sup> Assistance included training activities for accession negotiating teams and other stakeholders in Geneva and in the countries, with simulation exercises to prepare them for meetings of their working parties and with their trading partners; advisory missions on the substance and process of accession; preparation for accession negotiations, including hands-on assistance in the preparation of required documentation, such as the memorandum of foreign trade, and in the consideration of questions posed by WTO members. In 2018, the following advisory services, field missions, capacity-building activities and technical consultations were undertaken on WTO accession:

- (a) Technical consultation with delegates from Turkmenistan on issues related to the assessment of technical assistance and capacity-building needs, with the organization of a workshop for all stakeholders on the accession process (Geneva, 17 January);
- (b) Advisory meeting with delegates from Ethiopia on issues related to the revision of the legislative action plan, market access offers and questionnaires on the memorandum of foreign trade regime (Geneva, 14 February);

<sup>11</sup> Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Liberia, Samoa, Seychelles, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

(c) Advisory meeting with trade negotiators from Belarus on issues related to the draft working party report in terms of commitment language (Geneva, 19 and 20 April);

(d) Capacity-building workshop for trade negotiators from Iraq on the accession process and negotiations (Rabat, 20–22 June);

(e) Advisory mission to Uzbekistan to assist the Government in the next phase of WTO accession negotiations, including a review of market access offers in goods and services (Tashkent, 19–22 November).

84. In implementing work on the WTO accession process, UNCTAD collaborated and maintained close cooperation with the WTO secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank, the Swedish International Development Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. An extensive network of cooperation had been established with national trade institutions and trade policymakers and regular contacts are maintained with donors. In beneficiary countries, the WTO accession-related activities of UNCTAD have complemented the assistance provided by bilateral donors.

85. The trade negotiation capacities of countries were also built through the provision of training courses organized under Paragraph 166 and the Virtual Institute, including a regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for the Middle East and North Africa (Cairo, 25 November–6 December) and for economies in transition and Eastern Europe (Belgrade, 25 June–6 July). These contributed to better preparedness and technical capacities with regard to trade policy and multilateral and regional negotiations.

86. **Results and impacts.** Through its integrated analytical and capacity-building activities, UNCTAD has helped to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in participating in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, to integrate beneficially into the global economy and the international trading system. UNCTAD assistance has enhanced the ability of policymakers and trade negotiators from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to understand the emerging issues in the international trading system, such as the WTO reform, in particular the debate on the categorization of developing countries in the use of special and differential treatment in future trade agreements and the importance of aligning multilateral, regional or bilateral trade agreements with national goals on inclusive and sustained development. UNCTAD intervention has had sustained positive strong impacts in strengthening human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade negotiations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

87. UNCTAD support for CFTA negotiators was strongly appreciated by the beneficiaries. In the light of its long-standing support and contribution, UNCTAD is recognized by the African Union Commission as a strategic partner alongside the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. Appreciation for the contribution of UNCTAD has been expressed by the African Union Commission, member States and regional economic communities, for example by the Chair of the Commission at the thirtieth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (January 2018). UNCTAD technical assistance on WTO accession responds to the overall needs of acceding countries by focusing on building capacities for policymaking and trade negotiation, to ensure informed policy decisions in the accession process, based on national policy objectives, and to ensure full national ownership of the course of the accession process by beneficiary countries. UNCTAD successfully supported the accession negotiations of a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The following beneficiaries under the General Trust Fund for WTO Accession recently became WTO members: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Liberia and Seychelles. These countries expressed appreciation for UNCTAD assistance. UNCTAD technical cooperation on WTO accession was positively evaluated by two independent evaluations, namely the “Evaluation of UNCTAD trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building on accession to the World Trade Organization” and “External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 3: International trade”.<sup>12</sup> In 2018, UNCTAD continued to receive an

<sup>12</sup> TD/B/WP/190 and TD/B/WP/274.

increasing number of requests for support on WTO accession from a variety of countries, including LDCs and those in the post-accession phase. To meet the needs of acceding countries, it is necessary to secure adequate funding for technical assistance on WTO accession.

## A10 Sustainable trade and the environment

Table A10  
Sustainable trade and the environment

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
INT/0T/7BS	Climate change programme	2007–	Norway
INT/0T/EBF	BioTrade facilitation programme, phase III	2015–	Switzerland
INT/0T/HAI	BioTrade facilitation programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development	2018–	Switzerland
INT/0T/HBD	Sustainable manufacturing and environmental pollution programme	2018–	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
ROA-2960 (L9)	Supporting member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews	2014–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (I10)	Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security	2016–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (K11)	Evidence-based and policy coherent oceans economy and trade strategies	2018–	Development Account

88. **Development context.** The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 recognized that the transition of countries to a green economy can make increasing contributions to sustainable development and poverty eradication through economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, environmental protection and social equity. Sustainable products, defined as internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced and promote sustainable consumption, offer considerable export opportunities for developing countries. Many sustainable products are produced in rural areas by small and medium-sized enterprises and by lower and medium-skilled workers, including women and youth, and their production can contribute significantly to environmental protection, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, economic diversification, job creation and poverty reduction in economically marginalized rural areas of developing countries. To seize new inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities, developing countries need strengthened capacity to identify their production and export strengths for sustainable products, sustainable use and trade in biodiversity-derived products and services and to put into place the national policies, regulations and institutions needed to create an enabling environment for production and export.

89. **Objectives.** Programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in designing and implementing mutually supportive trade, environment, climate change and sustainable development strategies while integrating sustainable development objectives at all levels. UNCTAD explores the trade opportunities arising from multilateral environmental agreements, as well



as trade and environment-related negotiations. It promotes sustainable trade in sectors that contribute to further economic growth, job creation and opportunities for social inclusion, and biodiversity conservation. The work of UNCTAD is based on requests from developing countries to examine the development impact and economic repercussions of existing and potential multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment negotiations, and how best to address the challenges and seize the opportunities related to trade. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles set out in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCTAD facilitates multilateral and expert processes in areas in which the environmental aspect is central to trade. Making economic growth compatible with sustainable development requires adequate policies and mechanisms, and UNCTAD programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment work towards stimulating economic diversification, creating jobs, raising income levels, fostering environmental protection and conserving biodiversity resources, thereby improving living standards.

90. **Outputs.** In 2018, UNCTAD launched the following new projects and initiatives:

(a) A Development Account project on oceans economy and trade strategies, which aims to build capacity in identifying oceans-based products and services with potential in Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica. Field missions were conducted to collect preliminary data and carry out stakeholder mapping on the potential of oceans-based economic sectors and products. Key oceans-based sectors were selected for preliminary research under the assessment and formulation phase of the project. In Belize, selected sectors include marine fisheries with a focus on the sustainable use of finfish species and seafood manufacturing with a focus on value addition for lobster and conch. In Costa Rica, sectors include coastal fishing and big pelagic fishing within and outside the exclusive economic zone. The selection criteria differ between countries, yet economic, legal, social and environmental indicators, as well as political interests, were considered in each, in particular whenever relevant small-scale and medium-sized producers and cooperatives were concerned.

(b) The Global BioTrade Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development, which is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, aims to enable key stakeholders to seize and capitalize on trade opportunities from linking biodiversity and sustainable development. The brings together BioTrade partners under a common platform to promote collaboration, further coordinate actions and enhance knowledge and understanding of the linkages between BioTrade, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

(c) The Blue BioTrade initiative, which builds on the BioTrade initiative in promoting sustainability and equity, with a focus on marine-based products and services. Blue BioTrade employs the same principles and criteria, but in the context of coastal and marine environments. In cooperation with the Development Bank of Latin America and in close coordination with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the initiative will undertake pilot cases in coastal and island developing countries in enabling legal trade and sourcing, as well as in sustainable value chains. The approach involves work across multiple levels of the value chain in developing sustainable livelihoods, adopting an ecosystem-based management approach and fostering swift adaptation to dynamic markets and changing ecological conditions such as climate change.

(d) The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme, which is funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, addresses the problems of pollution and environmental degradation generated by manufacturing processes. It aims to reduce the environmental and social impacts of manufacturing in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Through research and development, the programme will generate evidence and develop technical solutions to help reduce the levels of pollution and environmental degradation generated by industrial and manufacturing processes. UNCTAD is implementing the component on specialist support and technical assistance.

91. UNCTAD began coordination of the Global BioTrade Programme and supported countries such as Ecuador and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in enabling a policy environment and improving the regulatory framework for BioTrade companies at the national and international levels. The programme also facilitated market linkages between buyers and BioTrade partners in the commercialization of BioTrade-related products. To keep the BioTrade concept and framework relevant, UNCTAD began a revision of the principles and criteria first developed in 2007. The revised principles and criteria will strengthen the work of UNCTAD in mainstreaming BioTrade in relevant multilateral, regional and national processes, and in building the case for the positive role that trade can play when conducted under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria.

92. UNCTAD organized the second oceans forum on trade-related aspects of Goal 14 (Geneva, 16 and 17 July 2018). An ad hoc expert group meeting identified the challenges and opportunities that sustainability and further integration of the seafood value chain and related services may present within the framework of the oceans economy. The forum was chaired by the United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean and was organized in cooperation with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Ocean Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme.

93. As part of its work on the circular economy, UNCTAD gave a presentation on the circular economy and trade at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (Poços de Caldas, Brazil, 10 and 11 April 2018). Cases illustrating the practical work of UNCTAD in promoting clean economic diversification were showcased. The event was part of ongoing cooperation with Chatham House, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Shifting Paradigms, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

94. UNCTAD continued to implement the Development Account project on trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security. Activities were implemented in the three beneficiary countries, namely Guatemala, Malawi and Vanuatu. In Guatemala, a study on harnessing agricultural trade for sustainable development for the cardamom, cocoa and potato sectors was finalized. The study aims to assist the Government in developing sound and complementary trade and agricultural policies supportive of rural livelihoods and food security. This is instrumental in creating a trade-led policy that will not increase the hazard for small, rural farmers.

95. UNCTAD has successfully implemented the Development Account project on supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies, through national sustainable product export reviews. Through national green export reviews, nine beneficiary countries, namely, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Oman, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Vanuatu, have harnessed green market opportunities in promoting economic diversification and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a culminating activity of the project, UNCTAD organized the Green Export Forum: Sharing Experiences from 10 National Green Export Reviews (Geneva, 8 October 2018). Building upon the results of the project, the forum provided beneficiary countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific with a platform to share experiences in identifying promising green export sectors and promoting their development through a cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder approach. Discussions addressed issues such as, among others, value addition, national and voluntary green standards, market entry conditions, export promotion, marketing, financing green transitions, packaging, quality and sustainability management.

96. Under the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II, a training session was held on the national green export review (Luanda, 11–22 June 2018). Building upon the baseline study for national green export reviews prepared in 2017, the session trained participants in the identification, understanding and development of potentially competitive green sectors in the economy of Angola. The project also contributed to the Africa Carbon Forum 2018 (Nairobi, 11–13 April 2018) and supported the participation of representatives from Angola in a session exploring alternatives to

carbon-intensive development, focused on circular economy principles in fisheries, timber and metals.

97. In increasing the awareness and understanding of issues related to sustainable trade and the environment among public and private stakeholders, UNCTAD organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences and relevant discussions of international development processes. The complete list of events in 2018 is as follows:

- (a) Briefing of UNCTAD activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania during Biofach 2018 (Nuremberg, Germany, 14 February);
- (b) Les acteurs des filières niébé, haricot blanc et café dressent la feuille de route pour la mise en œuvre de ses conclusions de l'examen national de l'export vert de Madagascar (Antananarivo, 22 and 23 February);
- (c) National stakeholder workshop on ecotourism (Beirut, 6 and 7 March);
- (d) UNCTAD–Sultan Qaboos University workshop for date palm farmers, processors and exporters (Muscat, 19–21 March);
- (e) Global gastroeconomy summit (Istanbul, Turkey, 28–30 March);
- (f) Presentation on circular economy and trade at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (Poços de Caldas, Brazil, 10 and 11 April);
- (g) Second national stakeholder workshop on the Republic of Moldova national green export review (Chisinau, 17 April);
- (h) First BioTrade stakeholders steering committee (Geneva, 17 May);
- (i) Technical workshop on the BioTrade principles and criteria (Geneva, 18 May);
- (j) International forum on creative economy and summit on augmented reality industry development (Beijing, May 28–1 June);
- (k) Regional Mekong workshop on access and benefit sharing and BioTrade (Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 5 and 6 June);
- (l) Improving coordination on BioTrade and access and benefit sharing technical assistance for South-East Asia (Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 7 and 8 June);
- (m) First national green export review training in Angola under the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II (Luanda, 11–22 June);
- (n) Better trade for the Sustainable Development Goals (New York, United States of America, 13 July);
- (o) BioTrade, access and benefit-sharing in support of the Sustainable Development Goals: Entering a new alliance for economic growth, innovation and biodiversity (New York, United States, 16 July);
- (p) Second oceans forum on trade-related aspects of Goal 14 (Geneva, 16 and 17 July);
- (q) Webinar on lessons from implementing BioTrade principles and criteria in Latin America, for Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru (14 August);
- (r) Taller nacional: Promoviendo una implementación efectiva del Protocolo de Nagoya y el BioComercio (Lima, 12 and 13 September);
- (s) BioTrade sessions on sustainable production for safeguarding biodiversity and catering to consumer demands and the sustainable consumption of biodiversity-based products (Geneva, 2 October);
- (t) Green export forum: Sharing experiences from 10 national green export reviews (Geneva, 8 October);

- (u) Twenty-first meeting of the forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, 9–12 October);
- (v) First national stakeholder workshop: Oceans-based sectors selection and assessment in Costa Rica (San Jose, 6 and 7 November);
- (w) Fourth African organic agriculture conference (Sally, Senegal, 5–8 November);
- (x) World conference on creative economy (Bali, Indonesia, 6–8 November);
- (y) Taller nacional: Aprovechando el comercio agrícola para el desarrollo rural sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria (Guatemala City, 8 and 9 November);
- (z) Biological and genetic resources: Innovations and supply chains in support of the 2030 Agenda (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 15 November);
- (aa) Roles of fiscal policy, financial markets and trade in implementing the Paris Agreement (Katowice, Poland, 11 December);
- (bb) Second workshop on the national green export review of Senegal (Dakar, 12 and 13 December).

98. The following reports and publications were prepared and/or finalized:

- (a) *Examen nacional de l'export vert de Madagascar*;
- (b) *National Green Export Review of Ethiopia: Leather and Sesame Seeds*;
- (c) *Creative Economy Outlook: Trends in International Trade in Creative Industries*;
- (d) *Climate Policies, Economic Diversification and Trade*;
- (e) *Connecting Sustainable Development Goals 15 and 16: BioTrade Experiences in Colombia and Indonesia*;
- (f) *National Green Export Review of the Republic of Moldova: Walnuts, Honey and Cereals*;
- (g) Technical Fact Sheet – Japan;
- (h) Technical Fact Sheet – European Union;
- (i) Technical Fact Sheet – Switzerland;
- (j) Technical Fact Sheet – United States;
- (k) *Blue Biotrade: Harnessing Marine Trade to Support Ecological Sustainability and Economic Equity*;
- (l) *National Green Export Review of Oman: Tourism, Dates and Fish*;
- (m) *Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response Measures, Economic Diversification and Trade*;
- (n) *Propuesta de estrategia de negociación para la elaboración de contratos de acceso a los recursos genéticos y sus derivados*;
- (o) *Achieving the Targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Sustainable Fish and Seafood Value Chains and Trade*;
- (p) *Global BioTrade Programme: Linking Trade, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*;
- (q) *Ocean Governance in Costa Rica: An Overview of the Legal and Institutional Framework in Ocean Affairs*.

99. **Results.** UNCTAD was successful in raising funds for programmes that promote sustainable trade in sectors that contribute to further economic growth, job creation and opportunities for social inclusion and biodiversity conservation. Promoting sustainable

trade could be part of the solution in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and UNCTAD could play a pivotal and prominent role in moving this forward.

100. UNCTAD work on BioTrade was officially recognized in the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity related to mainstreaming biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors; cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives; sustainable wildlife management; and the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol. Similarly, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora process, UNCTAD worked with partners in the identification, compilation and dissemination of BioTrade case studies focused on species listed in the Convention, which help contribute to the conservation of wildlife and improve the livelihoods of rural communities, relevant to the achievement of Goals 15.7 and 15.c.

101. One of the early results of the Global BioTrade Programme was the renewed partnership between UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre. At the Trade for Sustainable Development Forum in 2018, BioTrade was the featured partner of the sessions on the sustainable consumption and production of biodiversity-based products with regard to Goal 12. The event provided an opportunity for UNCTAD to disseminate and promote its work on sustainable trade in global value chains.

102. UNCTAD continued and strengthened its coalition with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Ocean Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme. This is crucial in developing a coherent strategy, coordinating actions and implementing activities in achieving Goal 14. Building upon the success of the first oceans forum, a second forum was organized by the coalition in July 2018. The forum has become a unique trade arena in sharing state-of-the-art analysis, country experiences and public and private best practices, towards generating policy recommendations and proposing specific actions aligned with the trade-related targets under Goal 14. This coalition promotes consensus-building, works to identify technical solutions and undertakes dialogues in addressing complex and sensitive political issues in a non-negotiating mode.

103. The Development Account project on national green export reviews was successfully completed in 2018. National stakeholders in beneficiary countries, both public and private, have gained improved capacity in identifying and selecting sectors for the national production and export of green products. Through capacity-building and consensus-building national workshops, stakeholders gained the capacity to assess the policy, regulatory and institutional requirements for supporting the development of selected sustainable product sectors. The technical assistance provided by UNCTAD empowered them to identify areas for reform and adopt recommendations and action plans in selected sustainable product sectors, thereby creating an enabling environment for their production and export. Beneficiary countries expressed their appreciation to UNCTAD for the national green export review experience, through which, with a country-owned and country-driven set of activities, national stakeholders were equipped with knowledge and tools in stimulating the national production and export of green products. The green product space approach used in the national green export reviews as the basis for identifying and analysing national export potential for green products had proven useful.

## A11 Investment promotion and facilitation

Table A11  
Investment promotion and facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/1BN	Capacity-building in investment promotion	2001–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FBI	Investment promotion partnerships for the development, marketing and facilitation of bankable Sustainable Development Goals projects	2017–	Netherlands
ROA-2966 (R9)	Strengthening the capacities of developing country policymakers and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development	2015–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (M11)	Facilitating investment into Sustainable Development Goals sectors in developing countries	2018–	Development Account

104. **Development context.** With the globalization of economic activities, more and more developing countries are seeking FDI. This has resulted in proactive policies by these countries to attract and retain foreign investment, including investment in Sustainable Development Goals sectors, in order to generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth and build resilient infrastructure while safeguarding the environment.

105. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD work on investment promotion aims to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to create and manage the policy and institutional framework for attracting and retaining foreign investment and in developing an operating climate in which international business can thrive and contribute to sustainable development. The investment promotion programme provides tailor-made training, advisory and networking services, and prepares publications related to investment policies, legislation and regulations, institutional arrangements and good governance to attract and retain sustainable FDI, investment promotion strategies, and investment facilitation and aftercare practices. Special attention is paid to strengthening investment promotion programmes in LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

106. **Outputs.** In 2018, the main outputs of the programme were as detailed below.

### 1. Publications, training material and newflashes

107. The publication *Promoting Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals*, the eighth in the investment advisory series, targets investment promotion officials, policymakers and other investment stakeholders engaged in the promotion and facilitation of investment in Goals-related projects. The guide includes a strategic approach, information on tools and partners, a Goals-related project profile template and global best practices.

108. Investment Monitor No. 2: Overview of Foreign Direct Investment in the Least Developed Countries – Trends and Issues 2018, the second annual UNCTAD investment monitor, provides analysis and updates on investment trends, opportunities and challenges in LDCs. The monitor is produced in response to a recommendation of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination that encourages relevant United Nations entities to act on investment promotion in favour of LDCs.

109. A brochure on the investment promotion awards provides an overview of winners since 2002.

110. An issues note titled “How can sovereign wealth and public pension funds contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals?” was prepared for the sovereign wealth and pension funds dialogue held during the World Investment Forum in 2018.

111. News flashes of the Smart Promotion Network were published four times in 2018. The newsflashes, which reach over 2,000 investment promotion stakeholders, included the latest data on FDI trends, investment promotion strategies and practices, upcoming events and publications of interest to investment promotion professionals and policymakers.

112. The greenFDI.org platform for investment promotion agency professionals, policymakers and other investment stakeholders seeks to meet the learning and networking needs expressed by investment promotion agencies worldwide in promoting green and other sustainable investment. It features a resource centre with publications related to green investment, a newly updated network of agency contacts and information on UNCTAD activities, including workshops and seminars with training material on the promotion of investment in sustainable development.

## **2. Workshops, seminars and conferences in 2018**

113. UNCTAD conducted a training workshop on investment project evaluation and screening for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration of Myanmar (15 and 16 January), with 70 participants (including 30 women), including the management of the Directorate and staff from 15 regional offices.

114. UNCTAD contributed to a training course titled “World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies FDI essential training workshop” organized by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in Istanbul, Turkey (16–18 January), with 12 participants (including five women).

115. UNCTAD, in partnership with the International Institute for Trade and Development and the Thailand Board of Investment, organized a regional seminar on the promotion of bankable Sustainable Development Goals projects for Asia (Bangkok, 30 and 31 May). Seminar topics included FDI trends, Goals-related model project proposals, strategies to market Goals-related projects, creative project finance, regional cooperation on investment in the Goals and measuring the quality and development impact of FDI projects. Case studies were presented by investment promotion agencies from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Thailand. Over 50 officials from investment promotion agencies and representatives of international organizations, outward investment agencies and institutions, various government agencies and the private sector participated (50 per cent of whom were women).

116. UNCTAD contributed to the second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation investment experts group meeting (13 August) with a presentation on promoting investment for sustainable development.

117. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the China Council for International Investment Promotion, organized a seminar on promoting international investment for sustainable investment, during the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (Xiamen, 7 September). Around 250 investment promotion officials and representatives of the business community participated, including 100 women. At the Fair, UNCTAD partnered with the World Economic Forum and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in conducting a workshop on the promotion of responsible investment in agriculture. The workshop was attended by 25 experts and representatives of investment promotion agencies from Asia and Latin America, including 10 women. UNCTAD also contributed to a World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies workshop on investment promotion, attended by 150 investment promoters from around the world, including 50 women.

118. UNCTAD partnered with the Organization of Islamic Countries and presented at a business forum of the Agadir Agreement and member countries of the Organization from West Africa, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tunisia (Casablanca, 10 and 11 May). The State of Palestine was also represented. The

meeting had 151 participants, including 26 women. Following the forum, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding with the technical unit of the Agadir Agreement, pledging support to help the members of the free trade area to trade better with each other and with the rest of the world.

119. Prior to the opening of the World Investment Forum, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, organized a workshop for investment promotion agencies on showcasing investment promotion and facilitation in Goals-related projects (22 October). The workshop provided investment promotion agencies with the basic knowledge and skills to engage effectively in narrowing the Goals-related investment gap and to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Best practices, feedback and insights from investment promotion agencies will be incorporated in the investment promotion technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD. Over 200 investment promotion agency officials and other investment stakeholders participated in the workshop, including around 80 women.

120. As one of the main features of the World Investment Forum, UNCTAD held an investment promotion conference for investment promotion agencies, outward investment agencies and institutions and other investment promotion stakeholders (23 October). The first session, on promoting investment in the Goals and connecting the actors, was organized in partnership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. It presented ways in which bankable Goals-related projects can be prepared, promoted and financed, and discussed how different institutions and companies can partner to realize Goals-related projects. The second session, on building sustainable cities, was organized in cooperation with UN-Habitat. It brought together city leaders and representatives of the private sector in a discussion on the role of urban development in achieving the Goals, and how cities and investment promotion agencies can better promote and facilitate private investment for this purpose. Over 300 investment promotion agency and outward investment agency officials, city leaders, private sector representatives and other investment stakeholders participated in the two sessions, including around 120 women.

121. As a side event during the World Investment Forum, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies held a meeting to discuss their upcoming work programme and plans for a regional investment policy review and an iGuide for the Caribbean to be carried out by UNCTAD (23 October). The meeting also discussed strategies for the continued promotion of the Caribbean to attract quality investment and initiatives to enhance the capacity of members of the Association to execute country-specific mandates. The meeting had 30 participants, including 25 women.

122. UNCTAD held a sovereign wealth and pension funds dialogue, bringing together investment promotion officials, executives of sovereign wealth funds and public-sector pension funds, other development finance partners and investment experts to examine opportunities for collaboration to mobilize more investment into Goals-related sectors (24 October). The meeting had over 200 participants, including 60 women).

123. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, organized a round table for ministers from LDCs and business executives (24 October). The high-level meeting sought to advance ideas on how to strengthen the investment climate of LDCs and the role of the private sector in development. These efforts are in pursuit of the high-level midterm review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. At the meeting, UNCTAD distributed the second annual investment monitor. The meeting had 300 participants, including 100 women.

124. UNCTAD held a meeting with heads of Nordic investment promotion agencies, organized in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (24 October). Six agencies (represented by seven men and one woman) participated in this exchange of experiences and best practices.

125. As a side event during the World Investment Forum, a hearing was held on Goals-related financial products (24 October). Participants discussed qualifications empowering



financial institutions to promote products related to environmental, social and corporate governance; corporate social responsibility and the Goals, and what financial institutions need to have in place with regard to research, supervision, compliance and communications. A follow-up to this session took place at the World Economic Forum in January 2019. The hearing had 100 participants, including 40 women.

126. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, organized a high-level meeting of ministers and ambassadors from landlocked developing countries to share success stories and measures and priorities to boost foreign investment in these countries (25 October). The session provided inputs on priority actions to include in the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The meeting had 40 high-level participants, including about 20 women.

### 3. Advisory services

127. UNCTAD prepared a report with guidelines on investment project evaluation and screening for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration of Myanmar (January 2018).

128. A survey of investment promotion agencies and outward investment agencies was carried out in the context of the 2018 awards for promoting investment in sustainable development, aimed at recognizing and disseminating best practices in promoting and facilitating FDI in the Sustainable Development Goals (June–August 2018).

129. A high-level ceremony was held during the opening session of the World Investment Forum to award investment promotion agencies from Bahrain, India, Lesotho and South Africa for excellence in promoting investment in sustainable development (22 October 2018). Investment promotion agencies from Brazil, Colombia and the Russian Federation received special recognitions. The awards were presented by Heads of State and royalty and were widely reported in the press. The best practices of the agencies are disseminated through the greenFDI.org platform and technical assistance material produced by UNCTAD.

130. During its World Investment Forum, UNCTAD established a public investors advisory council to support its public investors partnership for sustainable investment initiative. The council includes executives of eight sovereign wealth and pension funds, as well as the management of Invest India and the Department of International Trade of the United Kingdom. The initiative will contribute to enhanced partnerships between public institutional investors, in particular sovereign wealth funds and public pension funds, and developing country governments in the facilitation of investment in Goals-related sectors.

131. **Impact and results.** In 2018, more than 500 investment promotion agency officials and investment policymakers (40 per cent of whom were women) were trained in the promotion and facilitation of investment for sustainable development. Furthermore, close to 1,400 investment promotion agency officials and other investment promotion stakeholders participated in high-level UNCTAD meetings on the promotion of investment.

132. In 2018, several technical assistance activities were organized in collaboration with long-term partners, including the Board of Investment of Thailand, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, the China Council for International Investment Promotion, the China International Fair for Investment and Trade, ITD, OIC, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and United Nations agencies, in particular UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. These partner organizations provided substantive support and, in some cases, sponsored joint capacity-building activities. These partnerships have helped increase the outreach of UNCTAD and the dissemination of research and training materials linked to the promotion and facilitation of investment in the Goals.

133. UNCTAD established a public investors advisory council to support its public investors partnership for sustainable investment initiative. The council includes executives

of eight sovereign wealth and pension funds, which together have assets of around \$3 trillion under management, as well as two national investment promotion agencies. The initiative intends to build a global platform for fostering a mutually beneficial partnership between institutional investors, government agencies and international organizations, to facilitate cross-border Goals-related investment. As part of the initiative, UNCTAD and the national investment promotion agency of India are collaborating on a project to explore opportunity areas and identify possible barriers for international institutional investments in Goals-related projects in India. The project will help Invest India refine its operational strategy to attract cross-border institutional investments and magnify their impact on sustainable development. Insights and lessons learned will be shared with other developing countries.

134. The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies was established at UNCTAD in 1995 and UNCTAD has actively supported the Association since its creation. The Association is now based in Istanbul, Turkey, and has a membership of 121 agencies from 97 countries and territories. Similarly, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies received considerable support from UNCTAD in its start-up phase. The Association has a regional membership of 23 countries and territories and supports its members through capacity-building activities and the promotion of the region as an investment destination. UNCTAD has been working closely with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in advancing the 2030 Agenda and both associations have made capacity-building activities on Goals-related investment a priority. The two associations were key partners of UNCTAD during the World Investment Forum in 2018 and co-organized events on investment in the Goals.

## A99 Other

Table A99  
Other

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
Division on Investment and Enterprise			
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–International Chamber of Commerce Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN
DITC			
INT/9X/77I	Technical cooperation on market access, trade laws and preferences	1997–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/3BB	Consultative task force on environmental requirements and international trade	2003–	Netherlands
INT/0T/9BG	Trust Fund on Services, Development and Trade	2009–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/HAA	Measurement of services value added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies	2018–	European Union
ROA-1617 (AI10)	Fostering the development of green exports through voluntary sustainability standards in Asia and the Pacific	2016–	Development Account

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<b>GDS</b>			
INT/0T/HCD	Reclaiming multilateralism for global development	2018–	Public donation
ROA-1617 (L10)	Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	2017–	Development Account
<b>DTL</b>			
INT/0T/7CB	Special Trust Fund for Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society	2007–	Switzerland

## 1. Trade policy and trade preferences

### 1.1. *Capacity-building on market access and trade preferences, including the Generalized System of Preferences and the Generalized System of Trade Preferences among developing countries*

135. **Development context.** The provision and utilization of trade preferences for LDCs (duty-free quota-free) is a key goal of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, as further reaffirmed in Goal 17.12.

136. At the South–South level, UNCTAD provides technical support to Generalized System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) participants. Following the successful conclusion of the Sao Paulo Round of GSTP negotiations in December 2010, UNCTAD continued to support GSTP participants in their efforts towards effective implementation of the Round and in follow-up discussions. UNCTAD assisted them in coordinating and backstopping their activities in various GSTP activities.

137. **Objectives.** The objective of UNCTAD support for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other preferential arrangements is to help developing countries, in particular LDCs, to increase the utilization of GSP and other trade preferences. Such support includes raising awareness and enhancing understanding among exporters and government officials in beneficiary countries of the trading opportunities available under the schemes; strengthening understanding of technical and administrative regulations and laws governing preferential market access, in particular rules of origin; and disseminating relevant information for users of preferential schemes.

138. The objective of UNCTAD support for GSTP is to increase trade among developing countries by facilitating market access negotiations and the operation of GSTP and benefiting from it, and to provide substantive and administrative support to GSTP participants for them to implement the results of the third round of negotiations.

139. **Outputs.** With regard to GSP and other trade preferences, UNCTAD has continued to promote enhanced awareness among developing countries on ways to better utilize the preferences available under GSP and other preferential schemes through the periodic provision of information on a dedicated website, administrative support on certificates of origin, collection of data, publication of handbooks on GSP schemes and technical cooperation and capacity-building services. UNCTAD ensured the dissemination of relevant information by updating and revising GSP handbooks of individual GSPs and related schemes and preparing related studies. In 2018, the following publication were prepared: GSP Handbook on Australia; GSP Newsletter No. 13; and updated GSP List of Beneficiaries were published. UNCTAD also continued to compile and update the GSP database based on data submitted by GSP donor countries, which provide useful information on trade conducted under each preferential scheme.

140. With regard to GSTP, UNCTAD continued to provide substantive, technical and administrative support for the implementation of the GSTP Agreement and the follow-up

and implementation of the third round of GSTP negotiations. GSTP participants continued to strive to secure operationalization of the results of the Sao Paulo Round. In 2018, UNCTAD intensified efforts to reinvigorate GSTP and the operationalization of the outcome of the third round of GSTP negotiations, including by holding consultations with participants, including in view of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation, (20–22 March 2019). For example, UNCTAD highlighted the relevance of GSTP for South–South trade cooperation at an informal thematic consultation during the Conference on “South–South cooperation for implementation of the 2030 Agenda: A trade and development perspective” (Geneva, 5 November 2018).

141. **Results and impacts.** UNCTAD support in this area has contributed to building the knowledge base and to wider dissemination of GSP-related information, including through the preparation of GSP handbooks, and collection and analysis of GSP trade data, as well as improved understanding and awareness of GSP among exporters and government officials in some individual beneficiary countries. UNCTAD contributed to making LDC preferences more effective, so that they better contribute to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and further, towards achieving the Goals. UNCTAD support provided to GSTP participants has ensured the operation of the Agreement and effective follow-up of the Sao Paulo Round results towards its effective implementation by the signatories. Further efforts are needed towards effective implementation of the Sao Paulo Round results, which could provide an important impetus for robust expansion of South–South trade and deepening South–South cooperation.

## 1.2. *Services for development and trade*

142. **Development context.** The services economy has gained increased importance over the last decade, contributing a growing share to GDP and employment. The services sector is not only important in its own right, but can also help improve efficiency and competitiveness in all sectors of the economy, as services constitute essential inputs to many other products and services. The role of services as inputs into other sectors is crucial. Exporting the value added of servicification is referred to as mode 5 of services trade, and this value is significantly higher than that of the direct cross-border exports of services. Infrastructural services such as financial services, telecommunications, transport and energy are important for economic diversification and the enhancement of domestic supply capacity. The integration of developing countries into the global services economy through increased services trade requires them to design and implement appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks, negotiate and manage trade agreements that cover services, establish institutional structures, create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and build competitive services supply capacities.

143. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD work on trade in services, services data and statistics and analyses of trade and services for development and on infrastructure is aimed at building the human and institutional capacities of key national stakeholders, including policymakers, trade negotiators, civil society and entrepreneurs, to harness the opportunities arising from strengthening the services sector and services trade. It is expected to contribute to achieving Goal 8.2, Goal 9 and Goal 10.

144. The particular objective of the project on the measurement of services value added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies is to reduce the knowledge gap in developing countries on measuring services value added in exports (mode 5) and on analysing policies that affect this value added. This should allow for evidence-based policymaking, as aimed at in the Goals, in particular with regard to trade and services-related policies that contribute to efficiency, increased productive and export capacity and greater participation in global value chains.

145. UNCTAD supports developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition in regional negotiations with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade; in participating in negotiations on the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services; and in responding to the challenges associated with parallel negotiations between regional tracks and the multilateral track. Apart from services policy reviews, work on services includes group training (in Geneva and in national capitals); advisory services on legal, economic and policy issues; support for stakeholder consultations; and support for

services negotiations at regional and multilateral levels. These activities are informed by evidence-based research and analysis on such issues as market trends and the economic and legal aspects of the services economy and specific services sectors, regulatory and institutional frameworks and international trade negotiations. UNCTAD activities assist countries and regional integration groupings in enhancing expertise and human, regulatory and institutional capacities to elaborate and implement national services regulatory frameworks, services sectoral assessments and preparations for regional negotiations, with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade.

146. **Outputs.** The sixth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade (7 and 8 May 2018) discussed the role of trade in services in achieving Goal 6, Goal 7 and the food-related targets under Goal 12, including an examination of the role of food-related logistics. This was the first international-level examination of the role of trade in these areas in achieving the relevant Goals. Discussions underscored the importance of strong legal and regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements to guide and ensure the development of services, such as ensuring universal access and an adequate and decent supply of water, and highlighted that regulators in both the energy and water and sanitation sectors should be independent and free from political interference, to allow for the development of a stable and predictable regulatory framework. It was proposed that countries should take a holistic approach covering different modes and segments in improving integrated logistics performance, as logistics services were a vital element of production processes and consumption.

147. UNCTAD promoted policy debate at the Global Services Forum organized in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, September 2018). The session focused on the important role of knowledge-based services for sustainable development, productive and export diversification, innovation and the internationalization of services. The Forum offered an opportunity for countries in Latin America to share expertise and best practices, as the recognition of the importance of services is increasing in this region. The deliberations underscored that services had not received the level of attention they deserved in structural transformation and trade negotiations, despite links to many of the Goals, including with regard to infrastructure development. UNCTAD is committed to more ambitious work on services, and the Forum served as a launching pad for its future work, including through the services policy reviews and the deliberations at the multi-year expert meetings.

148. The activities implemented to date under the project on the measurement of services value added in exports and analysis of related services and trade policies, including the preparatory work by UNCTAD, have provided inputs to support developing countries in using services value added analyses to envisage positive structural transformation, including through the UNCTAD publication on Services and Structural Transformation for Development. The project contributed to participation by UNCTAD at a congress on digital transformation (Coimbra, Portugal, 24 November 2017) and the following events in 2018, with inputs to support the use by countries of services value added for development: training workshop on services (Kiev, 16 April); international seminar on the services sector (Asunción, 23 and 24 May); training in services negotiation skills (Havana, 6 June); and WTO Public Forum (Geneva, 2 October).

149. UNCTAD support to countries in Africa in preparing for CFTA services negotiations aims to strengthen the expertise and capacity of policymakers and trade negotiators with regard to services policy issues and negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. UNCTAD organized and contributed to a meeting on “Simply services: CFTA and services integration in Africa – state of play and prospects” (Geneva, 3 May) and an African Union experts meeting on the services sector development programme and services negotiation guidelines for CFTA (Nairobi, 18–22 June).

150. UNCTAD conducted country case studies for Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Zambia on the use of the WTO LDC waiver to promote their services exports through preferential treatment and organized a workshop related to these studies, on enhancing the development potential of services trade for LDCs through preferential treatment (Geneva, 26 March).

151. In 2018, advisory missions were conducted to assist countries with the elaboration of national strategies for services negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels, including the following:

- (a) Training workshop on services scheduling techniques for trade officials of Ukraine (Lviv, 16 and 17 April);
- (b) International seminar on the services sector (Asunción, 23 and 24 May);
- (c) Summit Forum and Belt and Road Cooperation Forum of the fifth China International Fair for Trade in Services (Beijing, 28 May–1 June);
- (d) Training in services negotiation skills (Havana, 6–8 June);
- (e) Joint UNCTAD-CATIS training of trainers for digitalized trade among Belt and Road countries (Weihai, China, 30 July–2 August);
- (f) Eighth Services Congress of the China Association of Trade in Services (Weihai, China, 30 and 31 July);
- (g) Study tour of the delegation of Ukraine to Geneva on trade in services and investment negotiations (25 October).

152. UNCTAD has emphasized the importance of the potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad, as well as the issue of maximizing the development impact of remittances. UNCTAD collaborates with the Global Migration Group, international organizations and member States on migration issues, including participation in major inter-agency initiatives in the field with a particular focus on mainstreaming migration into development. UNCTAD contributed on the trade dimension during the preparation and consultations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted in December 2018 at Marrakech, Morocco, through both the United Nations Global Migration Group, an inter-agency group with 22 United Nations entities, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development composed of United Nations Member States. The global compact is expected to greatly facilitate the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, thereby contributing positively to reducing inequalities within and among countries. UNCTAD organized and contributed to the following meetings on migration:

- (a) Global Migration Group working level meeting (Geneva, 18 January);
- (b) Fifth preparatory meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2017–2018 co-chair and first Global Forum on Migration and Development round table team consultations 2018 (Geneva, 5 and 6 February);
- (c) Global Migration Group working level meeting (Geneva, 29 March and 2–4 May);
- (d) Global Migration Group principal level meeting (London, 2 May);
- (e) Global Migration Group working level meeting (Geneva, 13 June);
- (f) Seventh preparatory meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2017–2018 co-chair and final Global Forum on Migration and Development round table team consultations 2018 (Geneva, 3–5 September);
- (g) United Nations Network on Migration framing meeting (Geneva, 15 and 16 October).

153. **Results and impacts.** UNCTAD work on services, trade and development has helped developing countries better understand this area and the potential opportunities it can provide. Greater synergy was created between the three pillars of UNCTAD work on services. UNCTAD support to trade policymakers and trade negotiators in continuing to articulate their interests at multilateral, regional and bilateral services negotiations helped them to maintain a development focus in negotiations. The developmental benefits of international migration and related remittances have received added emphasis from UNCTAD in the light of their growing impact on development prospects. UNCTAD

support helped countries and regional integration groupings to ensure greater coherence in priorities pursued multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally. In addition, UNCTAD assistance was important in facilitating enhanced extensive multi-stakeholder consultations on services development. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned had been a special feature of UNCTAD support, which has been appreciated by member States.

## 2. Voluntary sustainability standards

154. **Development context.** With global demand for nature-based, healthy, eco-friendly, and socially correct products on the rise among consumers, major retailers increasingly opt for products that claim to be sustainable. One way a product can claim to be sustainable is by carrying eco-labels that confirm that products meet voluntary sustainability standards. Such norms and standards aim to ensure that a product in question is produced, processed or transported in accordance with certain sustainability qualities, such as minimal or zero environmental impacts. Around 500 voluntary sustainability standards exist today for the key exports of many developing countries, such as coffee, tea, bananas, cocoa, palm oil, timber, cotton and organic agri-foods. These norms and standards are developed by bodies such as Fairtrade International, the Marine Stewardship Council and the Rainforest Alliance.

155. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD undertakes analyses, builds the capacities of countries and provides a forum for intergovernmental discussion and consensus-building on the impact of voluntary sustainability standards on market access and market entry conditions facing exports from developing countries. It facilitates collaboration among interested United Nations agencies on supporting developing countries in strengthening national capacities to address voluntary sustainability standards and in conducting analysis on the trade and development implications of such standards. It also supports developing countries in making use of such standards, including through capacity-building programmes, in promoting trade in a manner that brings about economic, social and environmentally sustainable benefits.

156. **Outputs.** Under the project on fostering green exports through voluntary sustainability standards, implemented in three developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region, namely, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Vanuatu, UNCTAD undertook the following activities in 2018:

(a) A prototype voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit was developed, to collect hard evidence and fact-based information from the field on the involvement and preparedness of different actors in a value chain that can be deemed to be one of the green exports of a country;

(b) Three country case studies were conducted using the assessment toolkit namely, *Fostering the Development of Green Exports: A Case Study for Coconut Oil in Vanuatu*, *Fostering the Development of Green Exports Through Voluntary Sustainability Standards: Assessment of Organic Certification in the Coconut Oil Value Chain in the Philippines* and *Voluntary Sustainability Standards Country Study Lao People's Democratic Republic: Coffee Value Chain Assessment*. The sectors covered in the studies are organic coconut oil in the Philippines and Vanuatu and coffee in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Each study includes evidence-based analysis of the opportunities and challenges that each value chain actor faces when adopting sustainability standards, namely organic standards; and policy recommendations. The studies were distributed to stakeholders for review, in preparation for national workshops to be held in 2019, at which they can discuss the recommendations and develop national action plans.

(e) Preliminary findings from the three country case studies were disseminated at a session on Sustainable Development Goals learning, training and practice, organized during the High-Level Political Forum (July 2018), and during UNCTAD Non-tariff Measures Week on shaping sustainable trade amid protectionism (October 2018).

157. Within the framework of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, supported by UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the following activities were implemented:

(a) Production and dissemination of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards Third Flagship Report on Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Trade and Sustainable Development;

(b) Support for an international convention on sustainable trade and standards convened by the Quality Council of India (New Delhi, 17 and 18 September 2018). This event covered such topics as international trade, innovations in sustainable global value chains, sustainability standard settings, government policies and multi-stakeholder frameworks for sustainable trade; and was the first multi-stakeholder convention dedicated solely to practical questions with regard to leveraging trade, global value chains, standards and the Goals. Among the highlights was the release of the third flagship report;

(c) Production of a study on Sustainable Trade between the Andean Community and the European Union that examines voluntary sustainability standards and exports from the Andean Community to the European Union. The study was disseminated at two national workshops in Colombia and Peru;

(d) Conduct of two workshops in 2018 on “Andean Community sustainable trade: Agri-food value chain analysis” (Lima, 5 and 6 June, and Bogota, 5 and 6 December). Both workshops were organized at the request of the Andean Community, to support mainly small and medium-sized enterprise exporters and key policy officials in Colombia and Peru to further understand and potentially access the lucrative European sustainable development green market, including sustainability trends in the European market, in particular, supply chain standards; European Union export requirements; European Union food and vegetable regulations; and sustainable agricultural production and renewable energy. The first workshop was co-organized by UNCTAD (in the context of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards) with the sustainable development programme of Prom Perú, the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries of the Netherlands and the International Trade Centre. The second workshop received support from Pro Colombia;

(e) Transformation of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards website into a platform, to serve as an information-sharing instrument on voluntary sustainability standards and their impact on development. The platform has become a reference for information and best practices on such standards, covering the basic concept of such standards and access to research on such standards, such as the flagship reports of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, as well as detailed information on national platforms on such standards. The website received more than 16,000 visits in 2018.

158. Results. Given the different priorities among actors in global value chains, voluntary sustainability standards certification may benefit some while excluding others. As systematic ways to visualize the different needs of and challenges faced by different stakeholders are not available, the UNCTAD voluntary sustainability standards assessment toolkit can help policymakers gather substantive information to draft policies that are both economically beneficial and inclusive towards local communities. The country studies on voluntary sustainability standards in specific commodity sectors propose measures to increase the effectiveness of such standards in fostering green exports. The national consultations based on these studies to be held in 2019, may lead to the adoption and implementation of national action plans by stakeholders, to increase the effectiveness of voluntary sustainability standards in fostering green exports, including based on recognized best practices.

159. The United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards continues to serve as a strong partnership platform to foster inter-agency United Nations support for national-level efforts to support national consultations and the development of beneficial voluntary sustainability standards. Activities related to such standards will eventually contribute to substantial understanding among stakeholders on the impacts of domestic and international voluntary sustainability standards on the development of green exports and sustainable development objectives, improving the capacity of multi-stakeholders to jointly design, assess and implement strategic options for making the best use of such standards to develop green and sustainable exports and facilitate understanding by other countries within regions and beyond on how to make effective use of such standards for sustainable development.



### 3. Investment trends and issues

#### 3.1. Technical assistance on data collection on foreign direct investment and activities of multinational enterprises

160. **Development context.** Scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency in existing data reporting systems can cause severe problems in formulating policies and strategies regarding FDI. There is also a shortage of studies on the role of FDI and its impact on sustainable economic development and contribution to the transfer of technology, human resource development and export performance. In response to recommendations made by the Expert Meeting on capacity-building in the area of FDI: Data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries (December 2005) and endorsed by the tenth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (Geneva, 6–10 March 2006), UNCTAD continues to provide technical assistance in the area of FDI statistics.

161. **Objectives and features.** The overall objective of the project is to increase FDI inflows to developing countries, in particular LDCs, by formulating FDI policies based on quality FDI data and information on multinational enterprises operating in a region or country. This project aims to enhance the capacity of government agencies in these countries to compile, disseminate and analyse data on FDI and multinational enterprise activities by implementing internationally recommended methodological standards and enabling national authorities to maintain high-quality and up-to-date databases. It also intends to strengthen networking among national authorities involved in FDI data compilation and reporting and in FDI policy issues and investment promotion activities, to facilitate the exchange of experience.

162. **Outputs.** Technical assistance focused on improving FDI data collection methodologies through verification of data sent by national authorities and standardization, by requesting countries to report FDI data based on directional basis rather than asset or liability basis, showing a synergy between research in the *World Investment Report* and Global Investment Trend Monitor and technical assistance on improving FDI data.

163. UNCTAD continued inter-agency cooperation in the area of FDI technical assistance by participating in the Working Group on International Investment Statistics of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Balance of Payments Committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Eurostat–European Central Bank Task Force on FDI. The latest methodological standards on FDI statistics were discussed, reflecting the views and concerns of developing economies not members of these groups. In addition, cooperation between UNCTAD, the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and eight regional organizations were increased during the World Investment Forum in 2018, with regard to discussing experiences in collecting FDI data and building databases, analysing FDI-related issues and preparing investment reports.

#### 3.2. Technical assistance on investment reports

164. **Development context.** An important pillar of UNCTAD activities is to support developments in member countries through analytical work and technical cooperation. In this regard, UNCTAD continued to extend technical assistance to ASEAN to prepare the *ASEAN Investment Report 2018: Foreign Direct Investment and the Digital Economy in ASEAN*.

165. The annual *ASEAN Investment Report* series provides up-to-date analyses and data coverage pertaining to FDI and operations of multinational enterprises in the region. It also serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving the competitiveness of ASEAN to attract FDI. The series aims to promote a better understanding of the relationship between regional integration and FDI, and vice versa.

166. **Objectives and features.** The objective of the series is to present analyses of the latest developments in FDI and the regional investment environment in an integrating ASEAN, including implementing an ASEAN investment work programme in relation to the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment

Agreement. The report aims to provide analytical inputs for discussion by relevant ASEAN bodies of key investment issues and related policy.

167. **Outputs.** The *ASEAN Investment Report 2018* was published in November 2018. The report is part of the efforts of ASEAN to promote transparency and investment opportunities in the region. In the preparation of the *ASEAN Investment Report*, a series of consultative meetings between staff members of UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat were held to discuss the outline, key issues, messages, the research process and the production of the report. A consultative forum on investment in the digital economy in ASEAN was organized by UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat (Kuala Lumpur, 12 and 13 July 2018). The report was launched and presented at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (Singapore, 14 November).

168. **Results.** The report was well received by stakeholders. The contents of the report were used by ASEAN bodies and in ASEAN discussion on issues pertaining to FDI and the digital economy in the region. The report was also distributed at various official ASEAN and private sector meetings, including dissemination through the websites of the ASEAN secretariat and of UNCTAD.

### 3.3 *World Investment Report series*

169. **Development context.** As the focal point in the United Nations system for investment and technology, UNCTAD promotes understanding of key issues, in particular on FDI-related matters, and assists developing countries in attracting and benefiting from FDI and building their productive capacities and international competitiveness. The *World Investment Report* series provide up-to-date and comprehensive data on issues pertaining to FDI and multinational enterprises and analysis of trends and developments in FDI. The series examines the implications of activities by such enterprises related to these trends and assesses both international and national policy issues of relevance to developing countries. It serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving national capacities to attract and benefit from FDI, and as a capacity-building tool.

170. **Objectives and features.** The *World Investment Report* series is a key instrument in helping policymakers improve their understanding of emerging FDI-related issues and policy implications for development and, as a result, enhances their ability to formulate FDI policies that will contribute to development objectives. The series is therefore an essential tool for the formulation of FDI policies, which feeds into the technical assistance work of UNCTAD. The preparation involves the following interrelated activities:

(a) Policy analysis and research. An extensive peer review of the outline of the *World Investment Report*, drafts and final text. The preparation of each chapter and section involves dialogue with relevant stakeholders to ascertain facts and determine trends, including with experts, in particular those from developing countries, on the topics analysed;

(b) Capacity-building workshops and seminars. These enable policymakers, researchers and other experts from developing countries to directly share their experience, knowledge and information for each *World Investment Report*. As such, these activities constitute a key element of the peer review process;

(c) Dissemination of the report's findings and results. Dissemination begins with the organization of press conferences in national venues and increasingly through webinars on the launch date of the report, followed by seminars or workshops for policymakers in developing countries. These workshops allow stakeholders from developing countries to discuss the results of the research and policy analysis, including the ways and means of using them in concrete policymaking and implementation;

(d) Dedicated expert networks. In order to maintain consistent quality of the report, dedicated networks of experts are maintained and supported through a range of activities, including seminars and conferences.

171. **Outputs.** The *World Investment Report 2018* aims to provide a better understanding of the interaction between new industrial policies and investment policies. It provides an overview of industrial policy models, based on an inventory of industrial policies adopted

by more than 100 countries over the last decade, and the role of investment policies under each model. Based on the most up-to-date data collected, the report also presents global and regional investment trends and prospects and investment policy trends. It was released in June and was launched globally through four web-based press conferences in English, French and Spanish, as well as nationally through presentations via video and Internet telephone connections to selected locations. To facilitate global media coverage, nine sets of press releases were prepared and translated into official United Nations languages and other languages.

172. **Results.** The *World Investment Report 2018* was presented at the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board in September. From its release to December, all or part of its contents and supplementary data and information sheets were downloaded more than 300,000 times. The substance of the report was covered in nearly 1,800 press articles in 95 countries, with authoritative news publications, such as the *Financial Times* and the *New York Times*.

#### 4. Macroeconomic and development policies

##### 4.1. *Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa*

173. **Development context.** In recent years, developing countries have again been looking at how they can use development policies more effectively, in some cases to diversify away from commodity dependence or to make more effective use of abundant labour resources, in order to kick-start the process of sustained economic growth from very low levels of income, to break out of a middle-income trap or, in a few cases, to push towards the technological frontier. In Southern Africa, the country that has been using development policies more effectively has been South Africa, where the automotive and clothing and textile sectors have been strategically supported to facilitate a progressive diversification away from mining and energy. Other economies in the region have not been equally successful, however, and are struggling to find the right policy mix needed to unleash sustained economic growth. These experiences have added a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved and the challenges faced by policymakers across the developing world. There is therefore a growing demand to take stock of and share current experiences and to improve the understanding of approaches that have been successful in promoting structural transformation in different countries.

174. The 2000s also saw a strengthening of South–South economic ties, underpinned by a transformation in the composition of Southern exports from primary commodities to manufactures. The regional dimension of these ties is of particular importance. Most South–South FDI, for example, has been going to Asia (62 per cent of the total in 2011). Most of these flows originate in Asia, come from different countries in Asia and are invested to support the expansion of the regional production networks, mainly across East and South-East Asia. Compared with Asia and other developing regions, economies in Southern Africa are only weakly integrated through trade and capital flows. This relative backwardness, along with the existence of a potential production and growth pole (South Africa), indicates the existence of interesting possibilities to strengthen regional integration and pool resources for advancing structural transformation and increasing competitiveness in global markets.

175. **Objectives.** This project aims to facilitate economic cooperation and integration among the four developing economies in Southern Africa, namely, Mauritius, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and around the potential regional economic growth pole (South Africa). In particular, it aims to identify regional value chains and foster industrial policy coordination in the region. The project will also build the capacity of selected developing countries in formulating policies for the progressive diversification of the production and export structure of the economy by using different research methodologies and tools.

176. To achieve these objectives, a series of studies were commissioned to analyse the economic structure of the region and identify opportunities for fruitful cooperation. The results and the main policy implications stemming from these studies were discussed at two regional workshops designed to strengthen policy cooperation among the Governments of

the target countries and support the establishment of a regular dialogue between the public and private sectors at the regional level. In the final biennium, a series of national workshops will be organized in the target countries to enhance the comprehension of the dynamics behind the process of structural transformation and build local capacity to formulate policies to sustain industrial development and linking into the identified regional value chains.

177. **Outputs.** Implementation of the project started in June 2016, and a series of studies on promising regional value chains in the region were commissioned from regional consultants at the end of 2016. The results and the policy implications stemming from these studies were discussed at two regional workshops in 2017. In 2018, the project officially entered its capacity-building phase. Two workshops were organized with the objective of strengthening industrial policy capacity and facilitating dialogue between the public sector, private sector and civil society (Maputo, May 2018, and Zambia, October 2018). The workshops provided an overview of the process of structural transformation and its linkages with development, and equipped participants with knowledge of the key policies that could accelerate the gradual transformation of the economic structure, with particular attention to the key sectors identified by UNCTAD and the policies identified in the background studies. Panel discussions during the workshops were designed to facilitate the identification of policy priorities, considering the challenges faced by the private sector, focusing in particular on how to exploit regional markets and favour the development of regional value chains.

178. **Results.** Project activities are generating a lot of interest in the countries involved and raising awareness of the importance of strengthening regional ties and developing regional value chains in key sectors. This is reflected in the adoption of an outcome document by the participants of the second regional workshop in Pretoria and in the requests from the beneficiary countries for follow-up activities after the conclusion of the project.

#### 4.2 *Reclaiming multilateralism for global development*

179. **Development context.** It has been more than seven decades since the international community, drawing on the policies and ambitions of the New Deal, put in place a multilateral architecture tasked with both finding common solutions to the economic and political tensions that arise in a world of interconnected nation States and narrowing the income and technological gaps that risk pushing those States further apart. Much of that architecture has, over the last 40 years, been abandoned or reconfigured in support of a hyperglobalized world that has become steadily more unequal and unstable, and which is rapidly losing the trust of citizens everywhere. As highlighted in recent editions of the *Trade and Development Report*, in particular in 2017, rebuilding that trust and meeting the new challenges of the twenty-first century will require reclaiming and reconfiguring the old New Deal values of reflation, redistribution, regulation and rights.

180. **Objectives.** The objective of the project on reclaiming multilateralism for global development is to contribute to the international debate on globalization and the management of its consequences for developing countries. In doing so, the project aims to generate a collaborative document that critically examines the trends and prospects in the world economy and offers a set of principles for an alternative global cooperation for a sustainable future. The project is therefore highly relevant to development, at global, regional and national levels. It is fully in line with the aims of several United Nations conferences and summits and directly linked with the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals. The main institutional partner is the Global Development Policy Centre of Boston University. The project is resourced by UNCTAD, Boston University and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

181. **Outputs.** A select group of stakeholders from across the world convened to construct a narrative and set of guiding principles to help rethink the aims, rules and governance structures for international economic cooperation in general and the multilateral trade and investment regime in particular (7 and 8 December in 2018). The purpose of the meeting was to re-articulate the core weaknesses of the global trade and investment regime and draft core principles to reform the system for development, justice and environmental

sustainability; and to ensure buy-in from multiple stakeholders, to pave the way for two other meetings planned to take place in 2019, to disseminate the outcome document to establish a platform for debate on alternatives.

182. **Results.** The main events under this project will take place after April 2019. As is common with projects whose outcome is a knowledge product, it may not be possible to measure its exact impact. However, the discussions and debates on the main findings of the project and the collaborations that initiated during the process may continue into the future. Editions of the *Trade and Development Report* will benefit from the information and understanding generated on, for example, principles for a global green new deal for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the activities could generate interest in member States and among the general public in raising awareness of the possibility of a new deal, as the project is timely, with its focus on globalizing the popular topic of a green new deal in policy circles in many countries.

## 5. International cooperation on science, technology and innovation under the auspices of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

### 5.1. *Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society*

183. **Development context.** The World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003, and Tunis, 2005) was the first major United Nations event that discussed the potential opportunities and developmental impacts posed by information and communications technology. The Summit established a vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. In 2015, this vision was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of implementation of Summit outcomes. The years since the Summit have seen significant changes in the nature of the information society. Digital innovations are transforming lives and offering new opportunities to reinforce and invigorate efforts to achieve the Goals. However, effective policy development and programmes are required to realize the potential of information technology to enhance development, inclusion and empowerment, and to address the potential harms.

184. **Objectives and features.** A trust fund was established in December 2007 aimed at supporting the work of the Commission in assisting the Economic and Social Council in the system-wide follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society outcomes. The objective of the work of UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission, is to support the work of the Commission as mandated by the Council in its resolution 2006/46. The Council guides the work of the Commission in this area through its annual resolution on the assessment of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to Summit outcomes. The resources of the trust fund support the elaboration of the annual reports on the implementation of such outcomes and the participation of experts and non-State stakeholders in the work of the Commission, and other related activities.

185. **Outputs.** The secretariat concentrated its efforts in two main areas: supporting the Commission in its mandate related to the follow-up of the implementation of Summit outcomes; and supporting the Commission on the implementation of the request made by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit (General Assembly resolution 70/125). In this resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Chair of the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda.

186. As part of its activities to support the follow-up of the implementation of Summit outcomes, in 2018, UNCTAD invited inputs from United Nations entities and other stakeholders that act as facilitators of the implementation of Summit action lines, as well as from other relevant stakeholders. UNCTAD received inputs from 33 United Nations entities and other international organizations and stakeholders. Based on this information and other relevant sources, UNCTAD prepared the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. The report

highlights major activities to implement Summit outcomes undertaken by stakeholders in 2018. UNCTAD also prepared a report that includes additional substantive information on the implementation of Summit outcomes in 2018, which will integrate the documentation of the twenty-second annual session of the Commission.<sup>13</sup>

187. In response to the request of the General Assembly to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, the Chair of the Commission established the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on 2 May 2016. The Working Group held five meetings from September 2016 to January 2018. In his report, the Chair of the Working Group noted that, while consensus had seemed to emerge on some issues, significant divergence of views persisted on a number of issues.<sup>14</sup> In that context, the complexity and political sensitivity of the topic did not allow the Working Group to agree on a set of recommendations. The Chair's report was submitted to the Commission for consideration at its twenty-second session. The General Assembly, in its resolution A/73/218, welcomed the progress made by the Working Group, regretted that it could not find agreement on recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda and called for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda.

188. **Results.** The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2018/28, noted the role of the Commission in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing Summit outcomes. The extension and reaffirmation of the mandate given to the Commission by the Council in its resolution 2006/46 demonstrates the recognition of the valuable work carried out by the Commission. This work has been strengthened due to the support of the Trust Fund.

## 5.2. *South-South collaboration in the area of science, technology and innovation*

189. **Development context.** Strengthening science, technology and innovation policy capacity in developing countries is central to improving innovation performance in support of sustainable development. UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, has collaborated with the Government of China to strengthen South-South cooperation in the area of science, technology and innovation. In 2018, this collaboration developed a new set of customized two-week training courses on science, technology and innovation capacity-building. Two courses were held on science, technology and innovation policy and management for sustainable development and on high-technology park and incubator development, including practical lectures and field visits in Guangzhou and the Wuhan Optics Valley (September 2018).

190. **Objectives and features.** The workshops aimed to build the capacity of high-level policymakers through international cooperation between member States of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. They showcased the implementation of the policies of China on high-technology parks and incubators through practical lectures delivered by policymakers, practitioners and academics and on-site visits to high-technology parks, laboratories and enterprises.

191. **Outputs.** Over 30 high-level policymakers, including two vice-ministers from developing country members of the Commission participated in the workshops.

192. **Results.** Participants rated the workshops highly and requested continued training. The collaboration will continue in 2019, with an offer of additional capacity-building workshops on the implementation of science, technology and innovation policy in China.

<sup>13</sup> E/CN.16/2019/CRP.2.

<sup>14</sup> E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.

## II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

193. Poor people or nations are more vulnerable to external shocks. Eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require joint and persistent efforts to tackle the specific challenges faced by weak and vulnerable economies. To build their economic resilience, structurally weak economies need to develop sound strategies to diversify economies and build productive capacity. To combat climate change, it is important to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure and identify best approaches to mitigate climate change while enhancing economic development prospects.

194. UNCTAD technical assistance addresses the specific demand from LDCs, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict States to help them better tackle vulnerabilities and build resilience. In particular, UNCTAD improves the capacities of developing countries to effectively manage debt; supports commodity-dependent developing countries in their diversification efforts; promotes sustainable and resilient transport; and assists LDCs in trade policymaking, market access and achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation.

195. In this section, six products under the theme “Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience” are reported. The reports highlight the main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2018 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing products under this thematic area are reported under “B99 Other”.

### B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status

Table B1

#### Support to graduation from least developed country status

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-333H (AW9)	Supporting small island developing States in their efforts to build economic resilience	2015–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (F11)	Helping LDCs achieve structural economic progress toward and beyond graduation	2018–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (I11)	Strengthening services trade policymaking for Africa’s integration into regional value chains in support of the 2030 Agenda	2018–	Development Account

196. **Development context.** Helping LDCs achieve structural economic progress toward and beyond graduation from LDC status is an important goal of UNCTAD. Five countries (Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa) have already been reclassified from LDC status, and 10 more are either confirmed graduation cases or LDCs that are likely to be considered graduation cases in the 2021 review of the list of LDCs. A majority of these countries are geographically limited and constantly exposed to high risks of external shocks beyond domestic control.

197. UNCTAD aims to strengthen the capacities of policymakers in graduating LDCs to make the anticipated change of country status an opportunity to re-examine their need for special support measures. This implies helping relevant countries formulate a strategy for securing a smooth transition to post-LDC life. A smooth transition strategy will generally involve identifying the few international support measures that are deemed especially important to the country, as continued or phased-out LDC benefits, or possibly as concessions of a new type; and negotiating such measures with relevant development partners (measures systemically available to graduating countries do not need to be negotiated).

198. Developing the services sector is important for the development and graduation prospects of LDCs. Services are not only an important category of economic activity and trade, they are also a critical enabler of trade in goods and an enabler for a country's ability to participate in global and regional value chains.

199. Unlocking the potential of services trade requires the potential of services to be understood and supported in African policymaking processes. A major challenge in this regard is assessing the contribution of the services sector in the economy and understanding the complexity of global and regional services value chains which are essential for services to thrive. The UNCTAD and Economic Commission for Africa project on services trade in Africa endeavours to address this disparity. In particular, it strengthens capacities to measure the value added that is generated by the services sector and the degree to which developing this sector may improve the tradability of goods and services, and supports developing the necessary policy frameworks to enable the sector's growth.

200. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD aims to help the most advanced LDCs make the milestone of graduation from LDC status an opportunity to develop a long-term vision for structural transformation, a pathway which sometimes implies a need for continued special treatment by development partners after graduation.

201. UNCTAD provides advisory services to countries that are faced with the challenge of graduation from LDC status. It does so before an official decision has been taken by the United Nations as to whether the country should be removed from the list of LDCs and after such a decision has taken place through a General Assembly resolution, i.e. during the pre-graduation grace period (the length of time between the General Assembly resolution endorsing the recommendation to graduate a country and the actual date of graduation).

202. **Outputs.** In 2018, UNCTAD provided technical assistance to 10 LDCs pending consideration at the United Nations of their graduation from LDC status and its implications, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kiribati, Myanmar, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

203. The bulk of UNCTAD work in this field aimed to enable six potential LDC graduates to soundly approach the March 2018 review by the United Nations Committee for Development Policy and to advise the Governments of two further LDCs which became pre-eligible for graduation in March 2018 to prepare for a likely change of status in 2024. The task for UNCTAD, in accordance with a mandate from the General Assembly, was to prepare six country-specific vulnerability profiles and use them as a basis to provide relevant Governments with advisory services on the eventuality and implications of graduation.

204. The six country-specific vulnerability profiles were finalized in early 2018 (after preliminary work in 2017) and were submitted to the Committee for Development Policy for the March 2018 review. Consideration of these country profiles by the Committee led to three sets of decisions. First, Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands were recommended for graduation; all three countries in their dialogue with the Committee cited the vulnerability profiles as sources of evidence of their exposure to high risks. All three indicated their intention to seek a relatively long pre-graduation grace period, Bhutan of 5 years and Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands of 6 years each. Second, consideration by the Committee of Nepal and Timor-Leste was deferred to the next review of the list in 2021, at the request of the two Governments. Nepal requested the deferment without denying the likelihood of expected readiness to graduate eventually, should the country be recommended for reclassification at a later stage. Timor-Leste, on the other hand, made its request for deferment on grounds related to its high vulnerability, with the connotation that the country did not foresee graduation as a challenge it would be prepared to face in the foreseeable future; in doing so, the Government leaned much on the UNCTAD vulnerability profile. Third, Kiribati was recommended by the Committee for graduation, a move through which the Committee acted consistently, six years after it had taken a similar decision for Tuvalu. The two vulnerability profiles had amply focused on the absence of structural economic progress in both countries, and the two Governments had been resisting the idea of graduation from LDC status. The Committee took note of the high economic and environmental fragilities in Kiribati and Tuvalu. Yet it recommended



the two for graduation from the list of LDCs, while proposing that both countries be placed in a new category of highly vulnerable States, a systemic move the Committee called for without elaboration. The Economic and Social Council dismissed this idea and did not endorse the recommendation to graduate Kiribati and Tuvalu. The Council deferred to 2021 at the latest its decision on whether or not Kiribati and Tuvalu should graduate from LDC status.

205. Preparation of two more country-specific vulnerability profiles started in the last quarter of 2018. Discussions took place in Bangladesh and Myanmar with Government officials on the causes and consequences of each country's pre-eligibility for graduation. Both States are earmarked for reclassification on the grounds of increased per capita income, improved human assets and reduced economic vulnerability (such three-pronged graduation cases are unprecedented in LDC history).

206. UNCTAD, through the implementation of a project on services trade in Africa, supports six partner countries, including four LDCs (Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali and Togo). The project was launched in 2018 and the following activities and outputs were achieved in the first year of implementation:

(a) Active engagement of partner countries (key for the success of the project). This required demonstrating the value added by the project, namely, enhanced ability to measure the contribution of services to value chains, which will provide a more extensive knowledge base for policymaking;

(b) Development of a methodology and training materials for measuring the contribution of services to regional value chains, adapted to the context of the partner countries;

(c) Holding of a train-the-trainers seminar to discuss and validate a methodology for measuring the contribution of services to regional value chains (Addis Ababa, January 2019), attended by participants from four LDCs and two other partner countries, including focal points, national statistics officers and consultants. The skill and knowledge transfer provide the basis for the quantification of target value chains in each partner country;

(d) Preparation for national seminars that will sensitize key stakeholders of the target value chains of the relevance of the project and facilitate their participation in subsequent quantification;

(e) Development of a knowledge-sharing platform that will further facilitate engagement, learning and exchange among partners.

207. **Results.** Three main lessons were drawn from the work in this area in 2018 as follows:

(a) Enhancing the substantive ability of LDC Governments to develop and advocate a national position on the question of graduation, and to make a sound plea at relevant decision levels accordingly, is critical to the countries at stake, and justifies the advisory services UNCTAD offers. Particularly evident in this regard is the case of Timor-Leste, which was aptly and convincingly articulated by a delegation addressing the Committee for Development Policy group meeting to decide on whether the country should be reclassified (New York, 2 February 2018);

(b) Advising and supporting a growing range of graduating countries has made UNCTAD able to enrich the debate on systemic progress toward a fairer treatment of highly disadvantaged countries, whether small island developing States or landlocked or other LDCs. In particular, the three most highly vulnerable States under review in 2018 brought UNCTAD to propose, for future purposes, a reform of the graduation rule, namely the adoption of a vulnerability first clause postulating that the Committee for Development Policy refrain from recommending the graduation of any LDC with an exceptionally high level of vulnerability under the economic vulnerability index, irrespective of the country's performance under the other two LDC criteria (income per capita and human assets);

(c) Partner countries have a keen interest in sharing experiences and learning from each other. To facilitate such exchanges, the initially envisaged sectoral training

seminars were combined into one seminar. This also facilitated the building of networks and making use of the synergies among sector representatives.

## B2 Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

Table B2

### Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/2AO	Strengthening the debt management capacity of developing countries	2002–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FAH	Support to implementation of debt management facility, phase II	2016–	World Bank
ALB/0T/DBF <sup>a</sup>	Capacity-building for integrated debt management in Albania	2015–2018	Switzerland
ANG/0T/EBG	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestion de la deuda publica de la Republica de Angola	2015–	Angola
ARG/0T/DBJ	Strengthening public debt management in the province of La Rioja	2014–	Argentina
ARG/0T/FBA	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública de la provincia de Río Negro	2017–	Argentina
BGD/0T/BBY	Capacity-building for integrated debt management in Bangladesh	2013–	World Bank
BGD/0T/GAB	Support to foreign aid budgets and accounts to strengthen capacity in the use of DMFAS	2017–	Bangladesh
BKF/0T/GAG	Mise en oeuvre du SYGADE 6 et renforcement des capacités en matière de gestion de la dette au Burkina Faso	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
BOL/0T/HCA	Implementacion del SIGADE y fortalecimiento de las capacidades en gestion de la deuda en el Banco Central	2018–	Plurinational State of Bolivia
CAF/0T/FAE	Renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette publique de la Direction de la Dette et des Participations	2016–	African Development Bank
COS/0T/ECF	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública de la República de Costa Rica	2016–	Costa Rica
ECU/0T/CAW	Adquisicion, instalacion y capacitacion SIGADE 6	2013–	Ecuador
ERI/0T/HAB	Implementation of version 6 of DMFAS system within the Ministry of Finance of Eritrea	2018–	African Development Bank
ETH/0T/DAA <sup>a</sup>	Strengthening Integrated public debt management, phase 1 DMFAS 6 installation	2014–2018	Ethiopia
ETH/0T/HBA	Public finance management, DMFAS	2018–	Ethiopia
GAB/0T/9AT	Renforcement des capacités d'études et modernisation des outils informatiques de gestion de la dette	2012–	Gabon

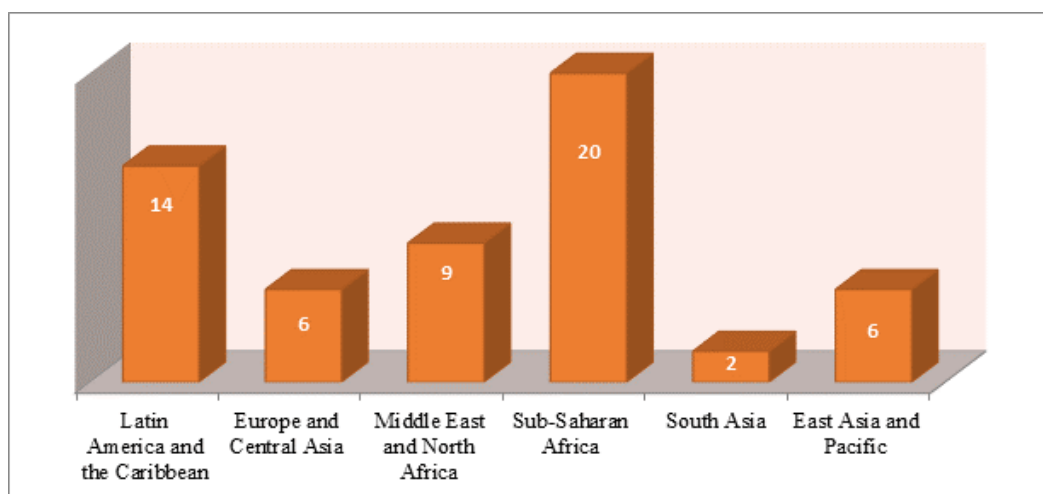
<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GBS/0T/FBH	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública de la República de Guinea Bissau	2017–	World Bank
HON/0T/BAU	Strengthening public debt management	2012–	United Nations Development Programme
INS/0T/ABB	Strengthening public debt management	2011–	Switzerland
IRQ/0T/BCI	Implementation of DMFAS 6 in Iraq	2013–	Iraq
IVC/0T/BCF	Projet de modernisation des outils informatiques et de renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette SYGADE 6 en Côte d'Ivoire	2013–	Côte d'Ivoire
MOL/0T/EAF	Implementation of DMFAS 6 in the Republic of Moldova	2016–	Republic of Moldova
PAK/0T/FAL	Capacity-building for external debt management	2018–	World Bank
PHI/0T/ABK	Strengthening debt management in the bureau of the treasury	2011–	Philippines
RWA/0T/BBC	Implementation services of DMFAS 6 for public debt management	2013–	Rwanda
SUD/0T/EAU	Technical assistance capacity-building for debt management in Sudan	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/FBG	Projet pour la mise en œuvre du SYGADE 6 et le renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette	2017–	European Union
VEN/0T/5AC	Proyecto para la Implementation del SIGADE 5.3 y los enlaces con los Sistemas de Analisis Integracion Financiera	2005–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
ZAM/0T/BDA	Strengthening integrated public debt management	2012–	Zambia
ZIM/0T/HAR	Support in building DMFAS integrated financial management information system interface	2018–	Zimbabwe

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

208. **Development context.** Effective debt management is an intrinsic part of sound public financial management and overall good governance. More than ever, the availability of reliable and timely debt data is essential for prudent risk analysis and the elaboration of government strategies aimed at ensuring sustainable debt levels. The critical role of debt and good debt management has been underlined in Goal 17.4, which recognizes the importance of assisting developing countries to attain long-term debt sustainability and reducing the risk of debt distress. In addition, in 2018, the Group of 20 called for greater transparency, both on the side of debtors and creditors, and the General Assembly recalled that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises. Public debt in developing countries has increased significantly in recent years.

209. **Programme objectives.** The DMFAS Programme is a leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management. It offers a set of proven solutions to improve the capacity of beneficiary countries to manage public debt, handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities, produce reliable debt data and perform basic debt analysis for policymaking purposes. The Programme works directly with 57 countries and 84 user institutions, including one new user country in 2018.

Figure 1  
**Geographical distribution of active DMFAS users, 2018**



210. **Outputs.** The DMFAS Programme continued to provide effective support to the 57 countries actively using its software. It delivered country-specific technical assistance and trained 697 debt officers from 39 countries through 79 capacity-building workshops and other activities. It also supported user countries through its help desk, which responded to 490 requests during the reporting period. During the year, the Programme actively managed 27 active technical assistance projects and signed five new projects and two addenda to existing projects.

211. The Programme worked in close cooperation with other international bodies, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional institutions, to enhance coordination and avoid duplication.

212. **Results.** For DMFAS client countries, concrete and sustainable results included improved external and domestic debt data recording, enhanced reporting and improved debt analysis capacities in line with the recording and reporting components of the public financial management value chain as defined under the public expenditure and financial accountability programme as follows:

(a) Complete, reliable and up-to date databases: 89 per cent of countries have developed comprehensive, reliable debt databases with regard to government and government-guaranteed external debt and 69 per cent of DMFAS 6 user countries whose debt management office is responsible for monitoring domestic debt use DMFAS to manage their entire domestic debt portfolio;

(b) Improved production of debt statistics: 39 countries regularly produce statistical bulletins on debt;

(c) Strengthened analytical skills: 23 countries regularly produce a debt portfolio analysis;

(d) Improved capacity for effective debt reporting: As a result of the Programme's assistance in helping countries in their reporting requirements, 90 per cent of DMFAS client countries with low or middle-income levels effectively reported to the World Bank through the debtor reporting system. In 2018, 86 per cent of DMFAS clients participating in the World Bank quarterly external debt statistics database reported on a timely basis;

(e) Results-based management: The DMFAS Programme applies comprehensive results-based management to its strategic planning and project implementation. This includes clearly defining the objectives, results, measurable indicators and means of verification that will be used to monitor and evaluate progress. It also defines the assumptions that represent the prerequisites for the achievement of the expected results, and the associated risks. Where applicable, baselines are used to benchmark progress over time. In 2018, as part of its efforts to strengthen monitoring of results, UNCTAD mandated an

independent evaluator to conduct a midterm review of the implementation of the 2016–2019 strategic plan. The evaluator’s final report highlights the continued relevance of the Programme and the high positive impact on core areas of public debt management relevant to debt data transparency. It also recognizes the high level of satisfaction among beneficiary countries, donors and partners. Noting the importance of the Programme’s focus on data recording, reporting and capacity-building, the report makes useful recommendations for further strengthening the impact of its support.

## B4 UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Table B4

### UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BEN/0T/EAN	Renforcement des capacités productives et commerciales du Benin, EIF	2015–	United Nations Office for Project Services
DRC/0T/HAY	Technical assistance on trade policy, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
ETH/0T/DBO <sup>a</sup>	Ethiopia diagnostic trade integration study (DTIS) update, EIF project	2014–2018	United Nations Office for Project Services
GAM/0T/ECB	Mainstreaming DTIS action matrix and building an industrial policy for the Gambia, EIF	2016–	United Nations Office for Project Services
HAI/0T/HAE	Technical assistance on trade policy – Haiti, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
MLI/0T/CBN	DTIS update – Mali, EIF project	2013–	United Nations Office for Project Services
MYA/0T/HAW	Trade policy advice for Myanmar, tier 1, EIF	2018–	United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

213. **Development context.** The Doha Mandate recognizes that EIF is a key mechanism for the provision of trade-related technical assistance to LDCs and calls on UNCTAD to intensify and strengthen its contribution to it. EIF is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade-related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for LDCs. It aims at enabling LDCs to mainstream trade into their national development plans, so that countries can mobilize the potential of trade to promote economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction at the domestic level and to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. In this context, UNCTAD continues to actively participate on the EIF Board by contributing to the LDC-friendly operationalization of EIF. In addition, UNCTAD assists LDCs both in terms of capacity-building for the ownership of EIF through its DTIS updating process and by providing trade policy, market access and strategy advisory services.

214. **Objectives.** UNCTAD provides tailored assistance in response to specific requests from EIF participating countries. The main objectives of this technical assistance is the capacity-building of LDCs for a better integration into multilateral trade and for their development through DTIS, trade policy, market access, etc.

215. In providing such assistance, UNCTAD uses a mix of national and international expertise to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and maximize results. The approach also contributes to national capacity-building.

216. **Outputs.** In 2018, UNCTAD actively continued its technical assistance by providing DTIS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; a trade policy study for Haiti; trade policy advice for Myanmar; technical assistance to the Government of Cambodia on rules of origin, duty-free quota-free market access, the Everything but Arms initiative and further cooperation; a trade strategy and industrial policy for the Gambia; and a national trade policy for Benin. In this perspective, UNCTAD provided technical support in the implementation of two regional projects on trade facilitation, transport and transit, one for West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger) and another for Djibouti and Ethiopia. Also, UNCTAD provided technical assistance on trade access for Asian countries.

217. Benin: Benin also benefited from UNCTAD expertise for its trade policy study. This study was expected by the Government to promote its trade and therefore its development. A pre-validation workshop on the national trade policy for Benin was held in Cotonou on 20 and 21 February 2018 (20 participants, including 8 women). Also, UNCTAD technical assistance contributed to improving Benin's trade regulatory framework and strengthening national capacities through training (i.e. conduct training on the issues identified in the national trade development policy document). As part of the EIF tier 2 project on strengthening productive and trade capacities, UNCTAD also conducted several activities to support the elaboration of the national trade development policy of the country and to strengthen the capacities of government officials, the private sector and civil society on trade-related issues.

218. Cambodia: Building on the long-standing collaboration between the Government of Cambodia and UNCTAD, UNCTAD was requested to provide support on the second DTIS update for Cambodia, the Cambodia trade integration study and trade sector-wide approach road map update 2019–2023. A mission was conducted to discuss the needs of stakeholders and the first draft of the document (3–7 December). UNCTAD will provide further support in the following areas: drafting of chapter one on market access of the Cambodia DTIS; expected participation at the validation workshop; developing of a research and capacity-building programme in ASEAN LDCs as a follow-up.

219. The Democratic Republic of the Congo: Following an official request, UNCTAD as lead agency in collaboration with the EIF secretariat has concluded the DTIS update for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This study is expected by the Government because some of its recommendations will be incorporated into the national strategic development plan. UNCTAD carried out a technical mission to Kinshasa for the DTIS update (19–26 July 2018). During this mission, UNCTAD met with public and private sector representatives and development agency partners, including relevant ministers. Agriculture, transport and trade facilitation were highlighted as areas of particular interest. Additional meetings were held with the ministries of transport and tourism, the customs director of trade (EIF focal point) and the national implementation unit, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency and an institute of vocational training to discuss current projects and challenges. UNCTAD will continue to work on the DTIS update of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade. The first version of the DTIS will be sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for comments and submitted to the EIF secretariat. The final step will be the validation workshop of DTIS by the Government.

220. Gambia: UNCTAD provided technical assistance on the trade strategy and industrial policy of the Gambia and organized the validation workshop in Gambia on 11–16 February 2018 (50 participants, including 20 women). This study will help the Government to

promote its trade and industry. The document, written in the context of a tier 2 EIF project, was validated and presented to the Cabinet.

221. Haiti: Following the official request, UNCTAD provided the trade policy study. This study aims in particular at the implementation of the trade policy and strengthening national negotiating capacities. Based on the deep analysis of the trade strategy and the resulting identification of priorities, a project proposal will be developed, including the implementation plan to be submitted to donors, in particular to the European Union European Development Fund.

222. After the next validation workshop, a proposal is expected to be made to implement the trade policy document as discussed with the Government of Haiti.

223. Myanmar: UNCTAD provided technical assistance for Myanmar on trade policy advice. The main objective of the project is to better understand the development challenges faced by Myanmar, and to pursue a new trade policy in the context of the dynamic environment in South-East Asia. Findings were presented during a wide series of consultations (Rangoon and Nay Pyi Taw, 10–14 December). The mission also served to align stakeholders on the final project structure and collect additional data.

224. Djibouti and Ethiopia project on trade facilitation, transport and transit: Following the DTIS recommendations for Djibouti and Ethiopia on the facilitation of trade, transport and transit, UNCTAD organized a workshop in Addis Ababa and Djibouti on this subject. The result of the workshop was the formulation of this subregional project, drawing on the DTIS action matrices of the two countries. This project aims in particular at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Djibouti–Ethiopia trade corridor and enhancing trade facilitation and logistics between Djibouti and Ethiopia along the corridor, in particular on the establishment of a joint management authority for the trade corridor. The strategy ahead is to secure initial funding from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, which is expected to be complemented by EIF funding under a revised project document. Discussion is ongoing on approval of the project.

225. Regional project for West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger): Following the DTIS recommendations for these countries on the facilitation of trade, transport and transit, UNCTAD organized a workshop in Florence, Italy on this subject. The result of the workshop was the formulation of this subregional project. The main points discussed were to implement the road map established by UNCTAD on how to coordinate the implementation of the DTIS action matrices of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger on cross-border trade issues related to transit, transport and trade facilitation issues (cross-border issues cannot be resolved in isolation but require overall coordination); and provide technical assistance on the trade facilitation agreement regarding the ECOWAS rules and agreement on trade and how to implement it. The approval process for this project is ongoing. Benin and Burkina Faso have already approved it. UNCTAD is awaiting approvals from Mali and the Niger. This project is estimated at \$1.5 million.

226. EIF Board: UNCTAD provided specific interventions at the EIF Board meeting on regional project guidelines and tier 1 and 2 project combined modalities (12 June 2018). Additional written comments on these aspects were submitted. UNCTAD worked with the EIF secretariat on revised regional project guidelines. In addition, UNCTAD participated at the EIF Board meeting in Ouagadougou (19–24 November 2018) and provided inputs to the proposed competitive process for the selection of main implementing entities. The proposed guidelines on the implementation of the value for money framework and related conflicts of interest were, upon the initiative of UNCTAD, further discussed and their formal decision postponed to the next Board meeting in spring 2019. Several follow-up meetings were conducted and UNCTAD submitted a revised proposal based on an accreditation-based system of additional main EIF implementing entities selected on specific criteria.

227. Global Forum on Inclusive Trade for Least Developed Countries (13 and 14 June 2018): During this forum, UNCTAD met with selected delegations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Mali and Solomon Islands to discuss further EIF-related assistance.

228. Results. In 2018, all of these activities were carried out by UNCTAD in the context of EIF. An increasing number of LDCs have made progress in mainstreaming trade policies into their national development plans as well as identified trade-related priorities and have implemented their action matrices. In addition, LDCs have been increasingly able to identify their main constraints in participating in international trade and develop initiatives to foster productive capacities at the subregional level.

## B5 Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

Table B5

### Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/4AY	Mainstreaming LDCs in the global economy	2004–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/AAK	Market access and trade laws for LDCs	2010–	Italy
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on statistics and data	2016–	Development Account

229. **Development Context.** LDCs are granted preferential tariff treatment in the markets of developed and developing countries under several schemes and arrangements. Among them are initiatives such as the Generalized System of Preferences, the Everything but Arms initiative of the European Union, the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States, trade preferences under African, Caribbean and Pacific States–European Union Partnership Agreements and other preferential trading arrangements that have rules of origin as key components. Yet LDCs face significant obstacles to market access.

230. UNCTAD provides policy advice and technical assistance to help developing countries comply with requirements on rules of origin under preferential trading arrangements – focusing on product origin – with a view to improving the utilization rates of trade preferences granted to them. Since 2006, for instance, UNCTAD has assisted LDCs that are WTO members in the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Declaration adopted at the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, China) on duty-free and quota-free market access. The declaration called on ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are simple and transparent, and contribute to facilitating market access. UNCTAD also provides support in relation to the WTO Ministerial Decision (Bali, Indonesia) on preferential rules of origin for LDCs.

231. In addition to assisting LDCs on market access regulations, UNCTAD provides support on geographical indications to enhance export diversification and specialization. Overcoming the limited diversification of LDC exports, the low value added of such exports and the continued challenge of bringing small local producers up front in the global commodity value chain remain concerns. At the same time, the rich biodiversity of several LDCs allows them to draw on their natural resources to create an array of traditional products and preparations with the potential to compete globally and secure higher returns from sales. Benefiting from that natural wealth can require taking steps to gain recognition of quality and generate a solid reputation for specific products in the eyes of consumers and buyers. One important approach can be using geographical indications in combination with a branding strategy for those products.

232. Unilateral trade preferences, if properly utilized, provide LDCs with a comparative advantage by lowering import tariffs. They are nevertheless not a panacea and competition from like products is strong. Adopting a regional branding strategy based on geographical indications could be a viable complementary poverty reduction and an environmentally sound policy to commercial and subsistence farming in LDCs. Associated origin conveys a certain reputation on a good and spurs trust resulting from a certain type of collective action. This holds especially true in today's globalized world in which consumers would



like to know where products come from and local producers therefore need to differentiate their products from generic competitors. LDCs face considerable challenges at a time when consideration of geographical indications as institutionalization schemes is precarious. LDC Governments have limited knowledge of geographical indications and geographical indications frameworks might not exist or, if available, might be incomplete. Moreover, sustainable models of regional branding of agriculture relying on terroir might simply be absent or mixed with other models of development farming such as organic farming or fair trade initiatives. These latter initiatives are not directed at promoting the unique nature of products and their cultural aspects.

233. Objectives and Features. The main objectives of UNCTAD technical assistance under this programme are to help LDCs better understand the rules and mechanisms of the multilateral trading system in order to access different markets and to assist rural communities and LDC Governments in enhancing the value of traditional products by exploiting trading opportunities such as geographical indications and facilitating compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. The principle of country ownership drives UNCTAD technical assistance on rules of origin, market access and geographical indications. For all schemes under the Generalized System of Preferences, products exported from a country receiving such preferences must fulfil the rules of origin of the countries granting such preferences.

234. Documenting evidence of compliance with such rules is necessary for products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment. UNCTAD services in support of developing countries and LDCs in this area include providing advice to Governments and the private sector in complying with origin requirements under unilateral (duty-free and quota-free arrangements and contractual trade preferences (free trade area and regional trade agreements); and delivering tailor-made technical assistance, such as advisory memorandums on policy options in drafting and negotiating preferential rules of origin under different trading arrangements. UNCTAD also carries out tailored services in providing LDCs with specific training material on market access trade preferences made available under duty-free and quota-free and regional trade agreements.

235. Identifying and registering traditional products under a geographical indication requires different steps, such as drafting a disciplinary of production, the main text that defines a product's unique identity. Being able to convey what makes products unique geographically adds value to products. Such information is also useful for customers who may be attracted to products when they learn more about them.

236. UNCTAD provides countries with support in identifying products that could be eligible to use geographical indications – signs used on products with a specific geographical origin and possessing qualities or a reputation based on that origin – and in drafting the legal specifications for those products and introducing a branding policy.

237. UNCTAD provided support in the negotiations on rules of origin to the trade commissioner of the African Union Commission.

238. **Outputs.** The main outputs are described in the following paragraphs.

## 1. Market access and rules of origin

239. Assistance to the African Union and member States during CFTA negotiations: Following a request from the trade commissioner of the African Union Commission, UNCTAD carried out a series of specific advisory services provided to African Union delegates during the CFTA Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin and discussed further EIF-related assistance with the selected delegations during the Global Forum on Inclusive Trade for LDCs, including delegations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Mali and Solomon Islands. Throughout the CFTA rules of origin negotiating process, UNCTAD delivered tailored technical assistance upon the request of the African Union secretariat and member States as follows:

(a) Following the request of the chair of the CFTA negotiations, UNCTAD intervened during the negotiations to provide technical advice and clarifications to guide negotiations on technical matters;

(b) UNCTAD received a special request from the delegations of Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mauritania, as well as from Saharawi to strengthen support and deliver additional assistance. UNCTAD prepared materials and delivered an additional training session in French;

(c) UNCTAD held consultations with Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan and Togo to discuss specific concerns and provide technical inputs;

(d) Consultations and technical inputs were provided to regional economic commissions and partners such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Southern African Customs Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

(e) Training for the fifth Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin (Addis Ababa, 5–7 February 2018; 50 delegates, including 15 women). The objective of the training was to address one of the central and most sensitive elements of CFTA for the African Union Commission, i.e. rules of origin. UNCTAD provided technical assistance at the sixth and seventh meetings of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin and advice during CFTA negotiations on rules of origin (Addis Ababa). Following the UNCTAD contribution to the fifth and sixth meetings of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin (February and May 2018), the African Union Commission requested renewed technical assistance

240. UNCTAD prepared a technical note on percentage criteria, as well as background documents and tailored technical assistance, for a workshop on 30 and 31 July 2018 and provided support during the negotiation process from 1 to 11 August 2018. UNCTAD technical expertise was requested by the African Union Commission during the eighth meeting of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin (10 to 22 September 2018).

241. The following inputs were delivered: Preparation and delivery of an informal consultative meeting on technical issues arising from the seventh meeting of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin to prepare delegations for subsequent negotiations; technical paper on metals and articles made of metals to facilitate consensus among African Union member States; study and draft regulation on the treatment of export processing zones in preparation for the next meeting of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin. All of these documents are available on the UNCTAD website.

242. UNCTAD gave a presentation on “Technical views on the process leading to CFTA: Tariffs scheduling and rules of origin” during the public dialogue on CFTA at the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum (Windhoek, 14 August 2018). UNCTAD provided technical insights into the current state of negotiations of the CFTA. Rules of origin, especially regarding agricultural products, were highlighted, and the inherent problem of wholly obtained requirements in the context of global value chains was discussed. The presentation emphasized the need for private sector involvement in the negotiations, the importance of transport and logistics considerations and rules of origin under economic partnership agreements parallel to the CFTA.

243. LDCs: UNCTAD provided advisory services to a delegation from the Central African Republic and Cambodia (the previous coordinator) to ensure the smooth transition of the WTO LDC Group coordination on 23 February 2018 and follow-up during the year. The LDC Group has specifically benefited from UNCTAD advisory services to LDC delegates during the informal session of the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin on “Measuring transparency on origin certification: A methodology and possible way forward” (18 and 19 April 2018). UNCTAD presented an analysis of the origin certification requirements across non-preferential and preferential requirements, highlighting their diversity and complexity. Building on this research, a methodology for measuring transparency of origin certification and its impact on trade facilitation was introduced. The LDC Group received from UNCTAD technical support for the preparation of two presentations delivered at a WTO Committee on Rules of Origin meeting (Geneva, 15 and 16 October 2018), which reviewed the utilization and application of preferential rules of origin for LDCs, considering the Bali and Nairobi ministerial decisions. Following the

UNCTAD contributions to the fifth through eighth meetings of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin (Addis Ababa, 2018), UNCTAD produced a technical paper on chapter 86 (railway and tramway locomotives, etc.) of the Harmonized System, to support negotiations at the ninth meeting of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin (24 October–3 November 2018).

244. On 28 June 2018, UNCTAD shared perspectives on areas where UNCTAD could support the LDC Group during a meeting of ambassadors, including by assisting LDCs in improving their duty-free and quota-free utilization rates and preferential schemes, supporting research and awareness building on rules of origin.

245. Seventh executive workshop on rules of origin for LDC delegates: In collaboration with the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute, UNCTAD organized this workshop (Florence, Italy, 8–10 October 2018). More than 90 per cent of the participants have given the workshops a rating of good or very good and 100 per cent consider that the workshops are relevant or very relevant to their work.

246. WTO Committee on Rules of Origin: UNCTAD also provided technical support for the preparation of two presentations delivered at the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin meeting on 15 and 16 October 2018, which reviewed the utilization and application of preferential rules of origin for LDCs.

247. *Cambodia*: UNCTAD carried out an advisory mission to Phnom Penh (31 December 2017–17 January 2018) to provide technical assistance to the Government of Cambodia, in particular the Ministry of Commerce, on rules of origin, duty-free and quota-free market access, the Everything but Arms initiative and further cooperation. In addition, support was provided to government institutions regarding a potential safeguard measure on rice exports to the European Union, through consultative meetings and a technical workshop with the Ministry of Commerce and the Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Programme. In this perspective, UNCTAD contributed in various areas, in particular to the establishment of a working group to monitor and trace the origin of milled rice for export facilitation (Cambodia, 9 February 2018). The support, in collaboration with CAVAC has played a major role in the creation of this committee to monitor the rice issue. UNCTAD provided advisory services to a delegation from Cambodia during the tenth Cambodia–European Union Joint Committee Subgroup on Trade and Investment with the Directorate General of Trade (Brussels). UNCTAD provided technical support related to the issues of trade policy, rules of origin and trade agreements for Cambodia. The following topics were also addressed: bilateral trade between the European Union and Cambodia; graduation from LDC status; issues of market access; and the investment climate in Cambodia. Regional and global developments were addressed in the matter of ASEAN integration (ASEAN Economic Community and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), ASEAN–European Union trade relations and recent developments at WTO and the future of the multilateral trading system.

248. *Myanmar*: UNCTAD provided technical assistance for Myanmar on trade policy advice as detailed above.

249. Regional project for ASEAN LDCs: As a follow-up to the UNCTAD technical assistance provided to Cambodia and Myanmar, a regional project for ASEAN LDCs was developed in close cooperation with the respective Governments. The Lao People's Democratic Republic formally endorsed the project idea through a note verbale. A similar endorsement is expected from Cambodia and Myanmar.

250. *Japan*: Consultations were held with the Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, related to work on rules of origin, including trade enhancing rules of origin for LDCs and an analysis of utilization rates of Japan's trade agreements (20 April).

251. *Sweden*: UNCTAD launched a joint study with the Swedish Board of Trade on the use of the European Union's free trade agreements and exporter and importer utilizations of preferential tariffs (Brussels, 26 June 2018). The European Union Trade Commissioner participated as a keynote speaker at the launch. The UNCTAD presentation focused on the underlying reasons for the low utilization rates of trade preferences of European Union exports by free trade agreement partners, focusing on the stringency of rules of origin; a

new methodology to identify the product-specific rules of origin that need to be modernized to allow for a better utilization of the trading opportunities offered by free trade agreements; and highlighted the need for the results to be validated by the private sector. UNCTAD delivered a presentation on the findings of the study at a high-level seminar at WTO (Geneva, 19 November 2018), focusing on the findings of the joint study, organized by the National Board of Trade Sweden and UNCTAD.

252. UNCTAD participated at the following events:

(a) Thirty-sixth session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin at the World Customs Organization (Brussels, 31 and 31 January 2018), with a presentation on the practical implementation of the WTO Nairobi decision on preferential rules of origin for LDCs, their utilization and procedural aspects;

(b) Session on “What are development-friendly rules at the international level: Agriculture, industry, e-commerce?” during the “Quo vadis for LDCs at WTO” workshop hosted by the IDEAS Centre with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation. The workshop provided an opportunity for informal dialogue and brainstorming between low-income developing countries concerning the role they can play in future WTO negotiations;<sup>15</sup>

(c) International trade hearing on future trade relations at the European Parliament (21 March 2018). The intervention focused on the issues of rules of origin, cumulation and tariff elimination arising from the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union;

(d) ASEAN Law Academy Integration Through Law Project (Singapore, 17–26 July). The Academy is an annual seven-day intensive programme based on the ASEAN Integration Through Law book series of the Centre for International Law.

253. UNCTAD prepared the following publications:

(a) *Handbook on Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin for the Least Developed Countries, Part I: Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Countries;*

(b) *Handbook on Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin for Least Developed Countries, Part II: Developed Countries and other Developing Countries;*

(c) *Turning Diagnostics into Action: The Djibouti City–Addis Ababa Transit and Transport Corridor;*

(d) Three documents expected to be published in mid-2019: Getting to better rules of origin for LDCs: From the WTO ministerial decision in Hong Kong, China (2005) to Bali, Indonesia (2013), Nairobi (2015) and beyond; Drafting rules of origin in free trade agreements: Methodologies and lessons learned from utilization rates and input and output matrix; Linking European Union free trade agreement utilization rates to rules of origin (second part of the joint study with the Swedish Board of Trade).

## 2. Geographical indications

254. In 2018, UNCTAD provided technical assistance on geographical indications to the following countries, organizations and groups.

255. *Benin:* As part of the tier 2 EIF project, several activities have been conducted to support the implementation of geographical indications for selected traditional products. In particular, UNCTAD took part in the launch of a continental strategy for geographical indications in Africa (Cotonou, June 2016) and organized geographical indications training for producers of in Benin “Pain de Sucre” pineapples and the flour “Gari Shohui”.

256. *Cambodia:* Advisory services were provided to the delegation to Geneva (7–13 March 2018) to sign the Geneva Act on Geographical Indications. Cambodia is the first country to join the 2015 Act and the European Union is currently preparing its

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ideascentre.ch/?p=6900>.

accession to the treaty. UNCTAD has been supporting the adoption of geographical indications in Cambodia and encouraged this legal step for ensuring the protection of products such as Kampot pepper. In addition, advisory services were provided to the delegation during the tenth Cambodia–European Union Joint Committee Subgroup on Trade and Investment with the Directorate General of Trade.

257. *The Niger*: At the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNCTAD participated in an executive workshop for the national geographical indications committee (Niamey, 20–23 November 2018). UNCTAD held a session on its work and vision on geographical indications for LDCs.

258. First executive workshop: In collaboration with the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNCTAD presented the first executive workshop on geographical indications for LDC delegates (Florence, Italy, 8–10 October 2018). The workshop emphasized the potential of geographical indications as a development tool for traditional products and territories in LDCs. Following up on the workshop, UNCTAD is drafting a work programme on geographical indications and rules of origin in close cooperation with the WTO LDC Group. This plan encompasses surveys on geographical indications, the drafting of concrete project proposals with the countries concerned and additional training workshops. The LDC Group coordinator committed to submitting this workplan to the Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2, a facility funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom to help developing countries effectively participate, to their advantage, in trade and investment negotiations. A follow-up meeting was held with the LDC Group (9 November) and discussions are ongoing.

259. UNCTAD was invited to provide a project proposal for the South–South Cooperation Assistance Fund, based on a concept note prepared in 2018. The comprehensive project proposal on geographical indications, produced by UNCTAD will, if accepted, enable eight LDCs to make significant progress towards the protection of their traditional products. The proposal, including a Chinese language version, has been finalized and submitted to the donor.

260. **Results.** UNCTAD technical assistance for market access and rules of origin contributed to helping LDCs to better understand market access rules and mechanisms. The research and capacity-building activities carried out under this programme enhanced the skills and knowledge of officials from LDCs on specific operationally important areas of international economic law and policy. The analytical and training activities provided the participants with a deeper understanding of alternative approaches and the implications of different trade policy rules and regulations, and enhanced their capacity to apply this knowledge in the course of international negotiations and the implementation of the WTO LDC package resulting from the ministerial declarations at Bali and Nairobi.

261. Rural communities in LDCs started to use geographical indications as a means of increasing their exports and supplying capacity of traditional products and recognized the importance of geographical indications as a rural development tool. In addition, a direct link has been established among the representatives of the rural communities, capital-based officials and LDC representatives in Geneva at WTO, contributing to better understanding of the trade development aspects of geographical indications.

## B6 Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

Table B6  
Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/9AX	Global Commodities Forum	2009–	Multi-donors

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/OT/HAN	Integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains	2018–	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ROA-2964 (P9)	Strengthening development linkages from the mineral resources sector in Central Africa	2015–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (K10)	Promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa	2016–	Development Account

262. **Development context.** The economic consequences of commodity dependence are severe. The volatility of commodity prices hits countries' macroeconomic stability. The lack of value added activities hampers economic diversification and industrial development. To ensure that commodities positively contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is therefore critical to break the chains of commodity dependence. In this regard, diversification and value addition are essential for commodity-dependent developing countries to reduce their economic vulnerability to commodity price fluctuation, while contributing to better jobs and livelihoods for their citizens. UNCTAD assists countries in this direction through its various projects on breaking the chains of commodity dependence.

263. **Objectives.** In response to a request for assistance, UNCTAD works with a country to evaluate its needs towards realizing the following four main thematic outcomes:

- (a) Developing value added activities in its commodity sector;
- (b) Establishing development linkages between the commodity sector and the wider economy;
- (c) Diversifying to non-commodity activities;
- (d) Integrating into global and regional value chains.

264. Breaking the chains of commodity dependence develops the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders in project countries to assess the economic viability of investments and commercial initiatives that contribute to the programme's four thematic outcomes, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development. For instance, the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa aims to strengthen the capacity of the four beneficiary countries (Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to assess the economic viability of investments in value added activities in cotton by-products, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development. The new project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains focuses on promoting the agri-food industry by supporting the efforts of local stakeholders in accessing new international markets in the four project countries (Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Uzbekistan).

265. The Global Commodities Forum provides a neutral platform to debate solutions to the challenges associated with the production and trade of commodities. The Forum assembles major stakeholder groups, including high-level representatives from Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and the press, to share ideas and build consensus on how to improve governance and ensure equitable outcomes in the commodities sector.

266. **Outputs.** In 2018, under the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa, UNCTAD completed the final surveys and national capacity-building workshops in the four countries, including drafting and submitting the national action plans agreed at each workshop. The Governments of Uganda and Zimbabwe have validated their plans, and the Government of Zambia is expected to do so in 2019. Using the commercial initiatives selected for the national action plans, UNCTAD recruited consultants to draft investment profiles. UNCTAD also worked with a partner, the Central Institute for

Research on Cotton Technology in India, to customize a study tour for project participants, aimed at introducing them to the processing technologies for the selected by-products, as they have been commercialised in India, including relevant supply chains, business models and machine fabricators. This tour gave participants valuable practical exposure to commercial processing activities in action, as well as contacts, which informed and animated their efforts, supported by UNCTAD, to establish similar businesses and value chains in their countries.

267. Under the project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains, UNCTAD conducted inception missions in three of the four beneficiary countries (Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia) to meet with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors and development partners operating in each country (March 2018). Stakeholders acknowledged the need to further investigate how to better realize the potential of trading food to promote sustainable development, given the particular challenges of being landlocked.

268. UNCTAD held the eighth Global Commodities Forum (Geneva, 23 and 24 April 2018) (on the theme of building skills for sustainable development). The programme featured 33 panellists, including high-level delegates from several international organizations and companies, as well as renowned experts. The Forum sponsored the participation of nine panellists, of which seven were from developing countries. All but one of the panels included one or more women. The programme included a special session on the role of natural gas in energy transition. UNCTAD partnered with the International Labour Organization and the World Energy Council Global Gas Centre on individual sessions. The Forum drew approximately 225 participants, of which half represented Governments or international organizations, 20 per cent were from the private sector, 18 per cent from academia and 10 per cent from civil society.

269. Results. In 2018, UNCTAD activities under the project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa improved awareness and capacity among stakeholders on how to add value to cotton by-products and provided Governments with several policy tools to support these initiatives. These deliverables and the remaining project activities will improve the capacity of the countries to develop new businesses and value chains, based on cotton by-products.

270. Implementation of the project on integrating landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries into regional and global value chains began in March 2018; it is too early to identify concrete results.

271. At the eighth Global Commodities Forum, three policy priorities emerged. First, participants urged Governments to embed skills development in the commodities value chain in a coherent, long-term human capital development strategy at the national level. Second, it was noted that since the private sector is the predominant employer in many commodities sectors, skills programmes must be demand-driven and involve public-private collaborations. Third, it was highlighted that countries should pursue a diversified energy mix in their transition, prioritizing renewables, with natural gas in a backup role, offering an efficient, lower carbon transition from coal and oil.

## B9 Sustainable and resilient transport

Table B9  
Sustainable and resilient transport

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/OT/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
ROA-2963 (O9)	Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States	2014–	Development Account

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ROA-2965 (Q9)	Building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport	2014–	Development Account

272. **Development context.** The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and driver of social development cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, the adverse impacts of freight transport activity on human health, the environment and climate are a cause for concern, as are the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and other coastal transport infrastructure. If left unchecked, unsustainable freight transport patterns are likely to undermine effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Goals and the Paris Agreement.

273. Sustainable and resilient transport is a direct enabler of Goals 8, 9, 14 and 17, as well as a contributor to the achievement of Goals 1, 5, 10 and 12. With the sustainable and resilient freight transport agenda gaining further momentum, UNCTAD has intensified efforts to mainstream sustainability and climate resilience considerations into its work programme on transport and trade logistics. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume and over 70 per cent by value carried by sea, sustainable and climate resilient maritime transport is a sustainable development catalyst.

274. By promoting efficient, affordable, resilient, reliable and sustainable transport infrastructure and services, UNCTAD work facilitates access to transport and reduces trade logistics inefficiencies that undermine trade activities, including for small-scale business and women traders. It also promotes new job and business opportunities, including for women, whose participation in transport and trade has yet to be further promoted. Such access is therefore also helping to reduce inequalities by creating employment and revenue, closing the poverty gap and promoting more inclusive growth.

275. **Objectives and features.** The overall objective of the programme is to assist the effective integration of developing countries into global and/or regional trading networks and transport systems and their participation in relevant value chains through efficient, reliable, cost-effective, well-connected, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient freight transport systems.

276. In 2018, UNCTAD contributed significantly to advancing the sustainable transport agenda. Relevant areas of intervention spanned the maritime transport sector, sustainable shipping, port hinterland connections, resilient transport infrastructure and transport and transit corridors by promoting sustainable freight transport. The objective is to promote economically efficient (i.e. cost-effective, competitive, reliable, smooth operations, energy efficiency, well-connectedness, etc.), green (i.e. environmentally-friendly, low-carbon, etc.) and socially inclusive (i.e. seamless, affordable, accessible, supporting rural areas and economic development, etc.) transport and logistics.

277. An important development in 2018 testifying to the recognized role of UNCTAD as a global key player in the fields of sustainable transport and sustainable development, is the agreement among all United Nations agencies that have a mandate in the field of transport, to nominate UNCTAD as the lead organization to represent them at relevant deliberations under the global Sustainable Mobility For All initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together a high-level group of diverse stakeholders to help transform the transport sector.

278. **Outputs.** As part of the project on building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport, UNCTAD continued its work with the Central and Northern corridors in East Africa to promote the sustainable development of the two corridors by integrating and mainstreaming sustainability principles into relevant planning, investment and decision-making processes, as well as in operating and management practices.

279. UNCTAD technical assistance activities and collaboration with the two corridors in 2018 were aimed at enabling and supporting the Central Corridor Transit Transport



Facilitation Agency and the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority in their efforts to define their sustainable freight transport priorities, as well as in reinforcing their commitment to promote sustainable freight transport principles in their respective corridors in collaboration with their member States (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). A capacity-building workshop organized in collaboration with the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency, to build the capacity of the Agency and its member States to design, develop and implement a sustainable freight transport strategy, was held in Dar es Salaam. An advisory meeting, held in collaboration with the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority, aimed at helping the Authority and its member States advance in implementing their green freight programme and formulating their sustainable freight transport strategy, was held in Mombasa, Kenya.

280. As part of its activities in the Caribbean, UNCTAD organized a regional training and capacity-building workshop on sustainable freight transport and finance for Caribbean countries in Bridgetown. The five-day workshop brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors in transport, infrastructure and finance of 10 Caribbean Community member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago), as well as international experts and regional and subregional organizations (including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Caribbean Forum, the Association of Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). The workshop helped to raise awareness and build the capacity of local and regional stakeholders to better understand the strategic implications of the sustainable freight transport imperative, including sustainable shipping and sustainable ports, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and the importance of ensuring the economic performance of the sector while taking into consideration the environmental and social sustainability dimensions of freight. It was instrumental in helping identify relevant technical assistance needs and implementation challenges. The workshop also helped to put forward a plan of action that identifies priority action areas and activities, designates key stakeholders that need to be involved and their role to help ensure the effective design, articulation and implementation of a sustainable freight transport strategy. Following the workshop, UNCTAD developed a Freight transport data observatory proposal that aims to facilitate data collection, storage, updating and sharing across the Caribbean. The proposal is currently under consideration with the Port Management Association of the Caribbean. In addition, UNCTAD developed a sustainable freight transport strategy that complements and enhances existing policy in the region such as the CARICOM transport policy and the Caribbean Development Bank transport strategy being developed. Other technical assistance activity in the Caribbean region included the development and delivery of an eco-driving training workshop for heavy duty vehicle operators in Kingston. The training was requested by the All Island Truckers Association of Jamaica, with support from the Ministry of Transport and Mining, Jamaica, following the regional workshop in Barbados at which both institutions were represented. The workshop was conducted in collaboration and partnership with the Department of Natural Resources of Canada, which provided technical expertise and supported the participation of two of their experts at the workshop.

281. In 2018, UNCTAD also developed and delivered a tailored training module in Port Sudan, the Sudan. The activity was supported by funding from the United Kingdom. The training package focused on port performance indicators; private sector involvement in port management and public-private partnerships and the port concession process; and port community systems and the single window. The training was positively regarded by the Sudan Ports Corporation, and emphasized economic sustainability and co-benefits, through environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness, that could be generated through improved port operations and efficiency.

282. In 2018, UNCTAD continued to contribute to collaborative initiatives for the effective implementation of international agreements and outcomes in the field of transport, infrastructure and logistics, highlighting in particular its recent work on climate change impacts and adaptation for transport infrastructure, notably a project on climate change

impacts and adaptation for key coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean, which benefited from extensive interdisciplinary and inter-agency cooperation, including with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission, the European Commission Joint Research Centre and international and regional academic experts.

283. UNCTAD also continues to participate in an international reference group contributing to the development of a law and climate change toolkit, an online database initiated by the United Nations climate change secretariat (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commonwealth Secretariat, in close collaboration with a number of international organizations, development banks and specialized agencies and in consultation with national experts and research institutions. The toolkit will provide a global resource to help countries put in place the legal frameworks necessary for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and their nationally determined contributions.

284. Results. In 2018, UNCTAD contributed significantly to advancing the sustainable and resilient transport agenda. Areas of focus included the maritime transport sector by promoting blue growth, sustainable shipping and ports, efficient port hinterland connections and transit transport corridors by promoting sustainable practices along such corridors. Concretely, UNCTAD support resulted in the development and subsequent implementation of the Central Corridor sustainable freight transport strategy (2018–2023) and the Northern Corridor strategic plan (2017–2021), which integrated relevant sustainability principles based on the UNCTAD sustainable freight transport framework.<sup>16</sup> By working closely with local stakeholders, namely, the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency and their member States, UNCTAD technical assistance aimed at building the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport is promoting ownership by the beneficiary countries and allowing for context-specific approaches tailored to the needs of the countries and region.

285. In 2018, a number of milestones were achieved under the project on project on building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport. Three main objectives were fulfilled by deploying the following knowledge products and capacity-building, which allowed for tailored solutions that responded to local conditions and the varying specific needs of users, as follows:

(a) Inform and partner by setting up the online sustainable freight transport portal that facilitates information sharing and partnership-building;<sup>17</sup>

(b) Build capacity by putting together a training toolkit on sustainable freight transport and finance that includes training modules, case studies and a compilation of good practices in the field of sustainable freight transport;

(c) Develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies and plans by applying UNCTAD step-by-step methodology that guides the planning, design, development, implementation and monitoring of tailored sustainable freight transport strategies, as set out in the UNCTAD sustainable freight transport framework.

286. Concrete examples of areas where UNCTAD assistance and tools have been deployed and resulted in tangible outcomes include capacity-building activities delivered in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to the benefit of the members and stakeholders of the East African Northern and Central Corridors as well as in Caribbean small island developing States. These activities and the supporting planning and decision-making instruments made available to the beneficiaries have helped enhance the capacities of transport stakeholders in these regions and enabled them to develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies. Another concrete outcome is the improved capacity

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.sft-framework.org/>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://unctadsftportal.org/>.

of public and private sector drivers in Jamaica to implement sustainable driving practices. This was made possible by the dedicated capacity-building workshop on eco-driving organized by UNCTAD in Jamaica to raise awareness and build the capacity of local stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

287. The technical cooperation project on climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean, implemented by UNCTAD in collaboration with a range of partners, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission and the European Commission Joint Research Centre and international and regional academic experts, was completed in 2018. The project contributed to strengthening the capacity of policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in small island developing States to understand climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, and take appropriate adaptation response measures. Key project outcomes include the assessment of potential vulnerabilities to climate variability and change of two Caribbean small island developing States, focusing on the potential operational disruptions and marine inundation risk to coastal international airports and seaports in Jamaica and Saint Lucia, under different climate scenarios, as well as a transferable methodology to assist in adaptation planning. Full documentation and information is available online.<sup>18</sup> Some of the main substantive findings and technical details of the methodology developed under the project have informed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment of the impacts of 1.5°C global warming on natural and human systems, highlighting substantial increases in risk to small island developing States; critical coastal transportation infrastructure from climate change-induced marine inundation as early as the 2030s, unless further climate change adaptation is undertaken.

288. The findings of UNCTAD technical assistance have already helped stakeholders in the Caribbean in their efforts to improve the resilience of their coastal transport infrastructure, with real impact on the ground. As confirmed by interviews conducted as part of the external evaluation of the project, the climate vulnerability assessments of seaports and airports in Jamaica and Saint Lucia (two airports and two seaports per country), the transferable methodology developed as part of the project and the three workshops in the region have helped enhance the understanding of impacts and contributed to improved decision-making in relation to coastal transport infrastructure planning and operation. As noted by beneficiaries as part of the independent external project evaluation, “the opinions of experts have found their way into policy”, “the positive feedback suggests that the authorities in Barbados will incorporate some of the learning into future planning” and “the workshop influenced the forward planning and gave a greater sense of urgency to the needed steps for the future”. Other key stakeholders noted that “there is now greater involvement of the division in climate change discussions”, that “policymakers will use the information received to make more informed policy decisions” and that the information and tools provided “will certainly help with planning for preparedness for the 2018 season”, “will strongly contribute to change in how we adapt our port operations in the future”, “will contribute to the overall national climate change programme and policies carried forward through the Ministry of Environment”, “will contribute to changes because plans are underway to mitigate against the effects of climate change especially as it deals with early warning systems” and “will be used in future planning and policy decisions as it is more apparent that Saint Lucia’s coastal transportation sector is at imminent risk from the impacts of climate change”.

289. In terms of concrete impacts on the ground, the independent external evaluation reported that the UNCTAD project findings were being used in the ongoing renovation of the international airport of Saint Lucia and had contributed to reversing the plans for an extension of the runway into the sea. In Jamaica, the UNCTAD project findings had informed the airport policy of the country, reinforcing the need for broader climate change and economic impact considerations in all strategic planning and providing “a confirmation

<sup>18</sup> <http://SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org>.

for the airports authority of Jamaica which had already initiated wave climate studies and the design of protective structures and rehabilitation works to existing protective structures”. At the time of the evaluation, it had been decided to install weather monitoring stations at Kingston Freeport Terminal, as recommended at the UNCTAD workshop.

## B99 Other

Table B99

### Other

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Cross-divisional</i>			
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
<i>Division on Investment and Enterprise</i>			
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN
<i>Division on International Trade and Commodities</i>			
INT9X42Z	Iron ore information	1994–	Iron Ore Trust Fund (subscription-based)
<i>Division on Globalization and Development Strategies</i>			
PAL/0T/FAS	Support for the capacity of UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people programme	2016–	Qatar Development Fund
INT/0T/FAR	Developing countries’ vulnerabilities in the current global economy	2018–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
ROA-2959 (K9)	Building capacity of developing countries’ policymakers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance	2014–	Development Account
<i>Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</i>			
INT/9X/77J	Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries: Core project	1997–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/DAC	Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries	2014–	Common Fund for Commodities
ROA-2961 (M9)	Building the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports	2014–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (M10)	Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries	2016–	Development Account

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>Office of the Secretary-General</i>			
GLO/OT/8CG	Support to avian influenza and food crisis coordination office	2008–	United Nations Development Programme
INT/OT/AAO	Civil society participation in UNCTAD activities	2011–	Multi-donors

## 1. Assistance to the Palestinian people

290. **Development context.** Economic prospects are not encouraging due to the unfavourable trends in the three main factors that support economic growth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: donor support; reconstruction in Gaza; and credit expansion for public and private consumption. Prospects are further clouded by the acceleration of the confiscation of land and productive resources and the unfavourable regional dynamics in the Middle East. As a result, the shackled Palestinian economy continued to underperform in 2018. The Occupied Palestinian Territory has the highest unemployment rate in the world. The persistence of the unemployment and poverty crises is rooted in the inability of the Palestinian people to utilize their human and natural productive assets due to measures imposed by occupation. Adverse labour market conditions disproportionately impact women and youth. Half the Palestinians under 30 are unemployed and one third of those in the 15–24 age group are considered not in education, employment or training.

291. There has been a long-standing consensus that sustainable development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory requires three pillars: Israel needs to ease restrictions on the Palestinian economy; donors need to remain engaged and enhance the scope and quality of aid; and the Government of the State of Palestine needs to implement reforms to facilitate growth. However, of the three prerequisites for development, the State of Palestine has been the only party to deliver. Israel has failed to ease restrictions and the record of donors has been spotty, at best.

292. UNCTAD has urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility to promote development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, yet the downward trend in donor support has continued and the success of the bold fiscal reform efforts of the State of Palestine have not been matched by positive donor engagement. In 2017, total international support was \$720 million; only one third of the \$2 billion in 2008. In the same period, budget support declined from \$1.8 billion to \$544 million; a 70 per cent drop. The worsening impact of occupation, cuts in foreign aid and collapsing fiscal space hinder the ability of the State of Palestine to carry on with State-building efforts.

293. In early 2018, the average household in Gaza received two hours of electricity per day. This shortage continues to seriously impact everyday life by crippling productive activities and impeding the delivery of basic health and other services. Producers, health-care providers and other service providers are greatly impacted not only by lack of electricity but by being forced to rely on generators, at a high cost. In 2000, 98 per cent of the people in Gaza had access to safe drinking water, but this had dropped to less than 10 per cent by 2014. This forced the population to rely on costlier alternatives such as water containers and bottled water, which now account for 90 per cent of the consumption of potable water. Trucked water is uncontrolled, less safe and up to 20 times more expensive than water from the network.

294. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continues to directly respond to paragraph 55 (dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which requests UNCTAD to “continue to assess the economic development prospects of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and examine obstacles to trade and development, as part of the international community’s commitment to building an independent Palestinian State, and with a view to alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people”. This programme is also guided by paragraph 31 (m) of the Doha Mandate, paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord and paragraph

35 of the Sao Paulo Consensus. The mandate of UNCTAD was further expanded by the General Assembly in resolutions 69/20, 70/12, 71/20, 72/13 and 73/18, which request UNCTAD to report to the General Assembly on the economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people. The programme aims to build and strengthen the institutional capacities of the Palestinian public and private sectors required for building a robust economy to underpin a future independent Palestinian State.

295. In 2018, the UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continued to respond to the evolving, multifaceted, complex needs of the Palestinian economy and sustained its efforts to build the Palestinian public and private sector capacities required for facilitating the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The programme addresses the Palestinian economy's constraints and emerging needs under four clusters, namely, trade policies and strategies; trade facilitation and logistics; finance and development; and enterprise, investment and competition policy.

296. **Outputs and results.** In addition to promoting international consensus on the needs of the Palestinian people, for over three decades, UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people through relevant policy-oriented research studies, technical cooperation projects and advisory services. The main counterparts of UNCTAD are the Government of the State of Palestine, Palestinian civil society, the private sector and international agencies and donors operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

297. UNCTAD continued to provide inputs and feedback to the United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in areas of its competency. As such, UNCTAD made contributions to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and to the United Nations Country Team action plan for operationalizing the United Nations engagement strategy in East Jerusalem. Moreover, in 2018, UNCTAD continued to provide advisory services to the Government of the State of Palestine and various public and private sector institutions, international organizations, researchers and academics.

298. UNCTAD analysis of the obstacles to trade and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory received wide endorsement and were used as inputs for the positions and policies adopted by Governments, the private sector, international organizations, researchers and academics. Publications by UNCTAD are also used as reference resources by universities and various national and international organizations.

299. In response to the General Assembly resolutions, in 2018, UNCTAD submitted a report to the General Assembly on the economic cost of occupation.<sup>19</sup> UNCTAD also released a study titled *The Economic Costs of the Israeli Occupation for the Palestinian People and their Human Right to Development: Legal Dimensions*. The study draws attention to the costs imposed by occupation for the Palestinian people and emphasizes the need to avoid actions that impede development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

300. In 2018, UNCTAD continued to benefit from a grant from Qatar. This helped UNCTAD to expedite the development of its macroeconomic model of the Palestinian economy and the provision of advisory services and the preparation of technical cooperation materials.

301. UNCTAD continued to hold dialogues with officials at the Palestinian Ministry of Finance and Planning and the donor community to reintroduce DMFAS, to enhance the quality and scope of Palestinian public financial management and to establish a new round of cooperation to modernize and update the version of ASYCUDA World presently used by Palestinian customs. The proposed new ASYCUDA intervention aims, among others, to strengthen Palestinian capacity for customs valuation, risk analysis and post-clearance controls. It also seeks to establish an interface between ASYCUDA in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the global gate system used in Israel to facilitate the exchange of trade data between the two systems in real time. However, the lack of extrabudgetary resources prevents UNCTAD from extending its technical support in these two important areas.

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<sup>19</sup> A/73/201.

## 2. Productive capacity-building in vulnerable economies

### 2.1. *Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries*

302. **Development context.** The key lesson from the research and policy analysis work of UNCTAD is that placing the development of productive capacities at the heart of trade and development policies is essential for landlocked developing countries to address their underdevelopment and to put them on the path of sustainable development. This calls for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities in landlocked developing countries through a careful identification of indicators. Therefore, the ultimate outcome of this project will be productive capacity indices constructed and validated for three beneficiary countries. In each beneficiary country, government officials responsible for statistical and development analysis will be trained in monitoring the productive capacity index and in its use for generating and implementing development strategies. The project is financed through the tenth tranche of the Development Account and complemented by other project funds (e.g. a project funded by the Common Fund for Commodities on commodity value chains).

303. By assisting landlocked developing countries to monitor their progress in building productive capacities, indices can assist them in achieving several Goals, in particular Goals 1–4, 7–10, 16 and 17.

304. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop productive capacity indices<sup>20</sup> and use them to support evidence-based policymaking. With this objective in mind, the project assists in defining the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators to be used in the construction of such indices.

305. **Outputs and results.** In 2018, the draft productive capacities index was tested and validated through national policy workshops at the expert level in two beneficiary countries (the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Rwanda). Furthermore, the findings of the project on defining policies for building productive capacities were disseminated at two regional workshops for landlocked developing countries in Africa (Botswana) and Asia (Mongolia).

306. National workshops on building productive capacities were held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (29 and 30 August 2018) and Rwanda (24 and 25 July 2018), at which 35 experts from Rwanda (including eight women) and 42 experts from the Lao People's Democratic Republic (including 11 women) had the opportunity to review the productive capacities index and compare the results with a qualitative assessment of productive capacities. They also received training on the crucial role played by productive capacities in sustainable development and in identifying national priorities for policymaking, including on graduation from the LDC category (in the Lao People's Democratic Republic).

307. Regional workshops on productive capacities, export diversification and structural transformation were held in Mongolia (16 and 17 October 2018) and Botswana (20 and 21 November 2018), at which 49 participants from five Asian landlocked developing countries, and 42 participants from eight African landlocked developing countries, including 25 women, received capacity-building on the concept of productive capacities and its role on structural transformation and export diversification.

308. Two further activities (not part of the original project plan) were completed in 2018, related to the Asia regional expert meeting on progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 2018) and brainstorming with

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<sup>20</sup> Productive capacity indices are composite indices or scores used, where data permits, to measure the state (condition) of productive capacities in economies on the basis of a set of subindices, covering areas such as structural economic transformation, transport, information and communications technology, innovation and technology, employment and labour productivity, energy and private sector development, and so forth.

ambassadors of landlocked developing country missions and senior experts, at the request of member States (New York, 18 December 2018). The objective of the regional expert meeting was to share the findings and conclusions of UNCTAD work on the productive capacity index and the brainstorming session was intended to apprise delegations of the index and its relevance to the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action in 2019. Halfway into the implementation period of the Programme, the assessment of progress achieved is not encouraging. Landlocked developing countries lag behind other developing countries on productive capacities and structural transformation, as revealed by UNCTAD work on benchmarking through the productive capacity index.

309. Work on the methodology of the productive capacity index continued with a focus on finetuning the index in the light of lessons learned at the national and regional workshops. It is envisaged that the index will be published in 2019 as an input to the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action.

## 2.2 *Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries*

310. **Development context.** UNCTAD, with the financial support of the Common Fund for Commodities, has carried out a series of activities to support export diversification and structural transformation in commodity-dependent landlocked developing countries. The countries covered by the current work have significant potential in energy exports (including reserves) in various forms, whether hydroelectricity, fossil fuel, solar and wind. They export mainly fossil fuel and hydroelectricity (e.g. in Bhutan) but still face the challenges of diversification, as can be seen from the degree and extent of their dependency on a few commodities for exports. Therefore, the work assists them to closely examine the role of energy in commodity diversification, with a focus on energy and fuel-exporting landlocked developing countries in Asia. Preliminary work shows that the relationship between the energy development index and the productive capacity indices of these countries is weak and, in most cases, inversely related. Such a relationship signifies that energy-exporting countries are not fully harnessing their potential to build their productive basis and accelerate economic transformation.

311. Many countries in Africa and Asia face challenges in their commodity diversification efforts partly because energy, in terms of both access and productive use, remains one of the key obstacles, undermining efforts to diversification, especially into manufacturing. Many landlocked developing countries are also unable to take advantage of opportunities presented by regional and global commodity value chains, mainly due to deficient energy infrastructure, poor access to modern energy sources, high transmission and distribution losses and an inability to use energy in productive sectors. However, economic diversification remains a challenge even in energy-producing and exporting countries, such as Bhutan (hydroelectricity exports to India represent 35–40 per cent of total merchandise exports), Kazakhstan (where energy and fuel exports account for 65–70 per cent of total merchandise exports), Mongolia (9.6 per cent of total merchandise exports excluding coal exports) and Turkmenistan (45–50 per cent). Supporting these landlocked developing countries to achieve export diversification can assist them in achieving Goals 8, 9 and 17.

312. **Objectives and features.** This is an UNCTAD-wide interdivisional project. The project has contributed to policy discussions on ways and means for turning commodity dependence into sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth for landlocked developing countries. In particular, it has assisted the provision of high quality analysis and substantive and technical inputs to national and global policymaking processes on how to best capture gains from natural resource wealth to spur the socioeconomic transformation of landlocked developing countries. More specifically, the project has helped to analyse how the landlocked condition affects the capacity of a given country to develop its commodity sector in a sustainable way.

313. Building on earlier work and in view of continuously addressing the challenges of economic diversification facing landlocked developing countries, the project has further explored the possibilities of economic diversification in fossil fuel and other energy exporting countries with a focus on Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.



314. **Outputs and results.** UNCTAD work on export diversification in a number of Asian landlocked developing countries has closely examined the role of energy in the economic diversification efforts of these countries, identified successful country experiences and best practices and recommended policies and strategies to use energy to build productive capacities and accelerate economic transformation. The findings and policy conclusions of UNCTAD research were shared and discussed with experts and policymakers from the region at a regional workshop on productive capacities, export diversification and structural transformation (Mongolia, 16 and 17 October 2018). The workshop was attended by 49 participants from five Asian landlocked developing countries and allowed for a detailed discussion of the sectors with export potential in Asian landlocked developing countries, as well as the policies and measures needed to support them.

### 2.3. *European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II*

315. **Development context.** Angola has a population of 25 million and had a GDP of \$102.6 billion in 2015, which is relatively high compared with other sub-Saharan countries, excluding South Africa and notable among LDCs. Buoyed by high petroleum prices, Angola has experienced accelerated growth in its GDP in the past 15 years, with the highest growth rates at 20.5 per cent in 2005 and 23.2 per cent in 2007. The 2008–2009 global economic crisis reversed the high growth rate, which dropped to 2.4 per cent in 2009 and rose to 7.5 per cent in 2013. In 2014, it fell below 5 per cent, and further decelerated to 3 per cent in 2015. Angola's slowing growth made it difficult for the country to meet the Millennium Development Goals and it will struggle to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the absence of economic diversification. The conflict in Angola, which lasted almost 27 years, continues to affect the main pillars of the country's economic development, particularly its physical infrastructure for trade, including ports, rails, roads, electricity and information and communications technology facilities. All of this makes it difficult for traders, especially those beyond the vicinity of Luanda, to import and export goods and provide services on a nationwide basis and to neighbouring countries.

316. **Objectives.** The UNCTAD–European Union Joint Programme for Angola will provide relevant training to government officials and private sector actors on the issues defined as a priority by the national counterparts, including various public and private stakeholders. As part of the broader trade support project in Angola, the joint programme will focus on the training of national experts and trainers of various public and private stakeholders in trade policy and negotiations, trade finance and logistics, small and medium-sized enterprise development, trade facilitation and scoping of non-oil trade opportunities.

317. **Outputs.** The European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II, was launched in Luanda (11–13 April 2018). The high-level launch aimed at raising political and institutional awareness about the overall project and its implementation strategies. It further sought to enhance coordination and mobilize all relevant stakeholders for the full and effective implementation of the project. The project is an UNCTAD-wide undertaking. It cuts across several work programmes of UNCTAD and addresses several Goals (directly or indirectly), including Goals 1, 8, 9, 12 and 17. The high turnout and active participation of key stakeholders, drawn from the public and private sectors, as well as academia and civil society, demonstrated the high level of interest and broad engagement at the national level with the programme. Also, media coverage of the Train for Trade II activities has played a key role in raising public awareness of the project and demonstrating the importance of the programme for Angola.

318. In 2018, UNCTAD conducted 15 activities, consisting of training workshops, study tours and train-the-trainer workshops. The activities included a national green export review, entrepreneurship, trade facilitation and commercial diplomacy.

319. **Results.** As at 31 December 2018, UNCTAD had trained more than 304 stakeholders. Train for Trade II has thus impacted 304 beneficiaries in total to date. Furthermore, key export items outside of the oil sector have been identified, including timber, honey, fisheries and coffee, together with potential export market mapping.

Testimonials of participants in the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme, Train for Trade II are available online.<sup>21</sup>

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

320. **Development context.** The fisheries sector holds significant potential for many LDCs. Six of the top 16 producers of fish from inland waters are LDCs and for 14 out of the 48 LDCs, fish are one of their top five export products. In terms of food security, fish accounts for 50 per cent of the animal protein consumed in many LDCs. The global average of animal protein consumed from fish and fishery products is about 17 per cent. The sector also offers employment opportunities for a significant share of many populations in LDCs. In Bangladesh alone, 15 million people are directly employed in the fisheries sector, and in Cambodia, 40 per cent of the population directly or indirectly depends on it. The sector remains largely informal, dominated by traditional or artisanal activities, with limited access to more productive industrial food processing. Consequently, over the last three decades, the share of LDCs and small island developing States in total fishery exports has been stagnant and remained negligible. This is due to a number of binding constraints on both the supply and demand sides of the industry. On the supply side, the main constraints are deficient transportation and storage facilities; poor energy infrastructure and high electricity costs; lack of investment, finance or credit to small operators; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, overfishing and the depletion of fish resources; water pollution; and a lack of common fishery policies among countries that share water resources. On the demand side, the most pervasive problem facing LDCs is their inability to comply with the food quality and safety standards imposed by importing countries. This problem is further compounded and reinforced by supply-side problems. Stringent safety and quality norms, public or private, block access to major importing markets for many fish exporters in LDCs and small island developing States. This is mainly due to the fact that standards are not harmonized and are costly for these countries to meet.

321. Upgrading the sector and increasing fisheries exports provides significant opportunities for LDCs and landlocked developing countries to generate growth and employment, in line with Goal 8. Improved management of the fisheries sector also supports Goals 9, 12, 14 and 17. The fishery sector accounts for a significant proportion of protein intake and employs millions of rural dwellers in LDCs, demonstrating its high potential for poverty reduction (Goal 1) and the reduction of inequality (Goal 10).

322. UNCTAD implemented a project on building the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports and, following its completion in 2017, there was clear demand from several beneficiary countries for continued training and assistance in the field of fisheries development. To meet this demand, UNCTAD used additional funding from the Development Account to implement follow-up activities in 2018 and 2019, including the establishment of two Regional Centres of Excellence for fisheries development.

323. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to contribute to efforts to build the capacities of selected LDCs to upgrade and diversify their fish exports. The activities implemented in 2018 helped in the identification of the key binding constraints on the development of the fisheries sector in the beneficiary countries, as well as policy recommendations on how best to overcome them.

324. **Outputs.** In 2018, UNCTAD established strategic partnerships and memorandums of understanding with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in Mauritius and with Nha Trang University in Viet Nam. The two host countries for the Regional Centres of Excellence were chosen based on their success in developing their fisheries sectors and the level of expertise and technology related to fisheries and aquaculture that is available for sharing with regional LDCs.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL4m6ro9BgRm8VEZMOz8x5jHRG8WK1tivU&v=ogqxTd5P4OM>.

325. UNCTAD further worked to develop a fixed course curriculum with 8–10 modules on fisheries development, drawing on partnerships with key agencies working on the fisheries sector, including the International Organization for Standardization, the Marine Stewardship Council, the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and the academic partners of Nha Trang University. Examples of course modules are as follows:

- (a) The environmental, social and economic role of the fisheries sector: Development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector (UNCTAD);
- (b) Standards and quality: Need for integrated quality infrastructure and institution building;
- (c) Managing fish stock, overfishing and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities (Nha Trang University);
- (d) Harnessing the potential of aquaculture for export diversification (Nha Trang University);
- (e) International trade, demand and supply trends: The trade and development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (UNCTAD);
- (f) Market access, subsidies and non-tariff barriers (UNCTAD);
- (g) Seafood technology and safety for export diversification and sustainable development in developing countries in Africa and Asia (Nha Trang University);
- (h) Environmental certification challenges, opportunities and prospects for weaker players (Marine Stewardship Council);
- (i) The social dimension of the fisheries sector (Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands).

326. The first regional training course on harnessing the potential of the fisheries sector for economic development in LDCs was held at the Asian Regional Centre for Excellence (29 October–9 November 2018), with 55 participants from 14 countries (including 11 LDCs), bringing the total number of experts reached by the project to over 500. A second training session is expected to be held at the African Regional Centre of Excellence in Mauritius in 2019. In the medium to long term, UNCTAD hopes to attract donor financing to ensure that the two Regional Centres of Excellence can continue to deliver the course autonomously, thereby ensuring sustainability of the training.

327. As a further follow-up to the Development Account project, and drawing on Common Fund for Commodities resources, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and the Common Fund for Commodities, organized a brainstorming meeting on impact financing in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in structurally weak and vulnerable economies (London, 14 November 2018). The meeting brought together representatives of development finance institutions, impact investors and environmental labelling organizations to brainstorm on how to attract more impact investment to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in LDCs. The idea for the brainstorming came from an insight derived from UNCTAD work on fisheries in LDCs, namely that, often, a small injection of capital can make a large difference in the export and revenue prospects of fisheries and aquaculture companies in LDCs. The meeting highlighted the investment potential of the fisheries sector in LDCs and generated broad interest in further activities to support impact investment in this sector.

328. **Results and impacts.** The project foresaw the identification of binding constraints to the expansion of fisheries exports in five beneficiary countries and the organization of national and regional workshops to address these constraints to fisheries exports. Based on these findings, several beneficiary countries have since acted to revise their domestic legislation and policies so as to better support the fisheries sector. Mozambique is intending to develop a domestic aquaculture policy and Uganda has expressed an interest in adjusting its domestic food safety standards. Further results of the project can be found through the following channels: newsletters about the Asian Regional Centre of Excellence and the first

regional training course;<sup>22</sup> links to televised coverage of the first regional training course at the Asian Regional Centre for Excellence;<sup>23</sup> and testimonials from participants at the first regional training course at the Asian Regional Centre for Excellence.<sup>24</sup>

### 3. Trade-related capacity-building in the least developed countries: Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries

329. **Development context.** Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries are aimed at strengthening the policymaking capacity of member States and assisting States in the preparation and implementation of projects and programmes of action.

330. **Objectives.** The objective is to provide LDCs with alternative and more relevant policy options and to assist them to develop their capacities to participate more fully in multilateral trade negotiations and implement trade and development-related policies.

331. **Outputs.** The following outputs, in the form of capacity-building workshops and technical advisory services, delivered in both English and French, aimed to support member States in diversifying and expanding trade through CFTA. At the request of the secretariat of the African Union Commission, UNCTAD organized a training workshop for member States in advance of the meeting of the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin in 2018. UNCTAD support addressed the central and most sensitive CFTA elements for the African Union Commission, i.e. rules of origin. In addition to providing intensive, advanced training, the technical tools developed by UNCTAD, based on utilization rates and an input-output matrix, were used to illustrate to the participants how to draft rules of origin. The overall objective of the workshop was to support countries in drafting and negotiating the appendix on rules of origin of the CFTA Agreement. In addition, UNCTAD provided advisory services to States on technical matters pertaining to rules of origin during various sessions of the technical working group. Tailored advisory services (including in French) were provided to member States (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ghana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan and Togo).

332. **Results.** As a result of the workshop and advisory services provided by UNCTAD, member State delegates were more fully informed of the technical issues related to rules of origin. Member States were able to more effectively participate in the technical negotiations and drafting of the appendix on rules of origin. UNCTAD expects this appendix to play an important role during the implementation phase of CFTA. The content of the appendix will be instrumental for the understanding and utilization of CFTA by Government officials, the private sector, customs offices and other relevant stakeholders.

### 4. Developing countries' vulnerabilities in the current global economy

333. **Development context.** In recent years, developing countries have faced growing macroeconomic and financial vulnerabilities in the context of volatile international capital flows and other exogenous shocks to their economies. This necessitates further analysis of what developing countries can do to protect themselves from the adverse macroeconomic impacts of such shocks.

<sup>22</sup> See [www.ntu.edu.vn/en/NewsAndEvents.aspx?idtb=6321](http://www.ntu.edu.vn/en/NewsAndEvents.aspx?idtb=6321); <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1962> and <http://norhed.ntu.edu.vn/news/1098>.

<sup>23</sup> See <https://vtv.vn/vtv8/unctad-chon-viet-nam-de-chia-se-kinh-nghiem-trong-chinh-sach-phat-trien-thuy-san-20181031113938012.htm> and <https://vtv.vn/video/thoi-su-12h-vtv1-31-10-2018-332100.htm>

<sup>24</sup> See the Gambia, <https://youtu.be/o2yDO8yapKw>; Madagascar, <https://youtu.be/NExb4gvBU0>; Uganda, <https://youtu.be/q6NLU6fiafU> and <https://youtu.be/aWb5acjsjXI>; and Zimbabwe, [https://youtu.be/yYUmo8rbw\\_w](https://youtu.be/yYUmo8rbw_w). See also news releases on the project available at [https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1983&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=Least%20Developed%20Countries;#2155;#UNDA%20Project%201415M:%20Fish%20Export%20from%20selected%20LDCs;#20;#UNCTAD%20Home;#1392;#Africa,%20LDCs,%20LLDCs%20and%20Special%20Programmes;#2248;#Impact%20Story](https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1983&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Least%20Developed%20Countries;#2155;#UNDA%20Project%201415M:%20Fish%20Export%20from%20selected%20LDCs;#20;#UNCTAD%20Home;#1392;#Africa,%20LDCs,%20LLDCs%20and%20Special%20Programmes;#2248;#Impact%20Story).

334. **Objectives and features.** The project aimed at facilitating a better understanding among policymakers in developing countries of the nature of macroeconomic shocks they may face in an international economic context characterized by slow recovery from the global financial crisis. It was designed to provide up-to-date policy analysis of the impacts of prolonged global economic volatility and recessionary tendencies on policy for sustainable development strategies, organized into the following two requested research papers: the impact of commodity price shocks on development strategies; productive policy responses for macroeconomic stabilization under adverse global economic conditions; and the global financial crisis, policy response and impact on emerging and developing countries.

335. **Outputs.** In April 2018, a workshop to discuss the main findings and policy recommendations of these papers with policymakers from developing countries was held in Caracas. This had been preceded by the delivery of both papers to the mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (June 2017) and two earlier workshops to present the main findings to developing country policymakers, primarily from finance ministries and central banks in Latin America and the Caribbean (July 2017).

336. **Results.** Both papers were very well received for their empirical analysis and applied policy design focus, and were disseminated by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and partner organizations, such as the South Centre.

### III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

337. Efficient market and effective and development-focused States are indispensable for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Market can play a useful role in the allocation of resources. However, without proper regulatory mechanisms, there are risks of market failures including abuses of monopoly power, negative externalities and inequality. It is the role of the States to correct market failures, create an enabling legal, regulatory and institutional framework and provide right incentives for market players to contribute more effectively towards sustainable development.

338. UNCTAD technical cooperation supports developing countries in fostering economic efficiency and improving governance. In particular, it helps to establish pro-competitive regulations, facilitate trade and business by removing bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment, mainstream sustainability into international investment agreements, and strengthen statistical capacity to formulate sound economic policies.

339. In this section, nine products under the theme “Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance” are reported. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2018 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme, but not linked with any of the existing nine products in this thematic area are reported under “C99 Other”.

#### C1 Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies

Table C1

##### Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Laws and Policies

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/DBG	MENA	2015–	Sweden

340. **Development context.** UNCTAD voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies allow developing countries to benchmark their legislative framework against international best practices. They also provide an

opportunity for reviewed agencies to self-evaluate their enforcement performance. The reviews are conducted using an interactive peer review method that promotes knowledge-sharing between competition authorities and consumer protection agencies at the regional and international levels, enhances informal cooperation networks and encourages both North–South and South–South cooperation.

341. **Objectives and features.** The reviews assess the legal and institutional frameworks features, the enforcement record and these laws and policies perceptions by relevant stakeholders. The reviews identify major procedural, administrative and legislative changes that might be necessary for the effective law enforcement and for the optimum functioning of the Competition and Consumer protection authorities. They provide insights into country-specific constraints, including political and economic challenges that restrict effective enforcement of the laws in question. The reviews serve as a basis for peer review examination during the annual meetings of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. The presentation and discussion of the peer review report is usually followed by a dissemination in the country and by a technical cooperation project led by UNCTAD to support the implementation of the report’s key recommendations.

342. **Outputs.** UNCTAD carried out two voluntary peer reviews in 2018: one on Competition law and policy in Botswana; and the other on consumer protection in Morocco, the first-ever exercise of this nature conducted at the international level.

343. Botswana, formerly known as Bechuanaland, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, sharing borders with Zambia to the North, Zimbabwe to the North-East, Namibia to the West and South Africa to the South and South-East. Its main seaport access is through South Africa. Botswana covers an area of 582, 000 square kilometres with a relatively small population of about 2,230,905 persons<sup>25</sup> (2016). Though sparsely populated, the Government of Botswana has committed resources to protect and preserve some of the largest areas of Africa’s wilderness.

344. In pursuit the goal to strengthen the functioning of markets, the Government has been developing and implementing policies and programmes for promoting the development of a dynamic private sector. Beginning in 1999, Botswana started the process of looking at business conditions and thinking of how regulatory measures can be put forward to ensure a level playing field for business to operate. An economic mapping report<sup>26</sup> was commissioned to look at the market structure and the business environment. A legislative inventory report was also initiated to look at laws that have a bearing on competition and determine whether there are provisions in such laws that can be considered anticompetitive and harmful to consumer welfare.

345. These two reports aided the drafting of the competition policy adopted in 2005 and a Competition Act, which was enacted in 2009 and came into force in 2010. On institutional framework, the Competition Act of 2010 provided for the establishment of a Competition Commission and a Competition Authority, which opened its doors in 2011 to deal with competition cases in merger control, abuse of dominance and other anticompetitive practices.

346. The voluntary peer review of Botswana began with the consultations phase carried out by an UNCTAD consultant and two staff members, which culminated in a detailed report that was commented and reviewed by the Botswana Competition Authority. The second step was the assessment phase. During the seventeenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy held on July 2018, there was an interactive exchange between a panel of reviewers from competition agencies from Kenya, South Africa and an academic from the United States of America and the reviewed party, based on the findings of the review report. The reviewers advised and focused on assisting Botswana in addressing weaknesses and identifying solutions for specific issues. Questions on institutional issues, merger control and

<sup>25</sup> [www.statsbots.org.bw](http://www.statsbots.org.bw) (accessed 17 March 2018).

<sup>26</sup> BIDPA (2002), *Economic Mapping for Botswana*, Gaborone, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism. See also *Legislative Inventory*, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism.

sanctions were addressed. Botswana took the opportunity to pose questions to delegates from other countries.

347. Morocco is a constitutional, democratic, parliamentary and social monarchy, with a population of approximately 35 million inhabitants. Income per capita in Morocco increased by about 90 per cent between 1990 and 2015. The World Bank recently reported that Morocco had made “undeniable economic progress” over 15 years, not only in terms of economic growth and living standards, but also in access to basic services such as electricity, water and public infrastructures. Agriculture is the largest of all economic sectors, accounting for 40-45 per cent of employment. Tourism is the second largest sector, with significant foreign currency earnings. The retail sector is evolving rapidly and has grown significantly in recent years. Likewise, electronic commerce is accelerating; the number of online purchases more than doubled in the three years leading to 2015, towards 2.5 million. Nevertheless, non-digital purchasing still dominates the market, with 87 per cent of transactions.

348. The Constitution of 2011 of Morocco refers to various issues related to consumer protection, and its legal and institutional framework for consumer protection is well established and comprehensive. Consumer protection responsibilities are shared among various public authorities, and an inter-ministerial approach is essential, reinforced by training and briefing in all the relevant ministries. Morocco also has a vibrant network of businesses and consumer protection associations.

349. The voluntary peer review of Morocco began with the consultations phase carried out by an UNCTAD consultant and one staff member, which culminated in a detailed report that was commented and reviewed by the Moroccan authorities. The second step was the assessment phase. During the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy held on July 2018, there was an interactive exchange between the reviewed party and a panel of reviewers from Consumer agencies from Belgium, Lebanon and Portugal, based on the findings of the review report. Questions asked by reviewers focused on policy coordination among public authorities and how to ensure consumer participation in the policymaking process, on the enforcement of consumer protection, on the role played by consumer associations and on the challenges faced by consumers using electronic commerce in Morocco regarding consumer dispute resolution and redress.

350. **Results and impact.** The efforts expedited in effective enforcement of competition policy and law in Botswana will undoubtedly lead to benefits for consumers (better prices, quality and variety of products), and in the generation of a climate of positive investment by the business community, both domestic and international. UNCTAD recommendations were considered in the update of the competition and consumer draft bills, which became law in December 2017. The recommendation for the need for more interaction between the Competition Authority and the judiciary and for the judiciary to consider attending competition forums will enhance and sustain knowledge and skills, as the judiciary forms a critical part of competition law enforcement in Botswana particularly in reviewing the Competition Authority’s decisions through appeals.

351. The peer review of Morocco was the first ever voluntary peer review on consumer protection in this country conducted by UNCTAD. It was also the first such exercise conducted internationally. The peer review report was shared with international consumer protection experts, who acted as peer reviewers. UNCTAD used the findings and policy recommendations of the peer review report to design a tailor-made technical assistance project to reinforce the effectiveness of consumer protection law and policy in Morocco. After the discussion in Geneva UNCTAD organized a two-day dissemination event in Rabat to discuss the findings and recommendations of the peer review with active involvement of a wider range of national stakeholders. Consequently, the Government of Morocco amended its legislation according to the report’s recommendations, illustrating the contribution of this exercise to the improvement of the consumer protection framework in the country.

## C2 Business facilitation

Table C2  
Business Facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ARM/0T/HAX	eRegulations Armenia	2018–	Armenia
BHU/0T/DCH	“Delivering as one”, DRT-F, Bhutan project	2016–	One United Nations
BHU/0T/HAF	Business Facilitation-eRegulations Bhutan (EIF)	2018–	UNOPS-Switzerland
CMR/0T/DBY	Business facilitation - eRegistration Cameroon	2014–	European Commission
ELS/0T/FAF	Simplification of business procedures	2016–	United States of America
IRQ/0T/HAH	Business Facilitation in Iraq	2018–	Public Donation
LES/0T/HAG	Business Facilitation in Lesotho	2018–	Lesotho
MLI/0T/EBL	Business Facilitation - eRegulations Malia		Germany
MOR/0T/HAP	eRegulations Maroc	2018–	Germany
RWA/0T/DBQ	Delivering as One, Rwanda project, Inclusive Economic Transformation, Youth and Women Employment	2014–	One United Nations
URT/0T/BBM <sup>a</sup>	Delivering as One, United Republic of Tanzania project	2011–2018	One United Nations
URT/0T/DAK	United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster DaO Joint Programme on Market Value Chains, United Republic of Tanzania	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive Growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/6AT	Business Facilitation Multi-donor Fund	2006–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/HCJ	Strategic Partnership the Netherlands	2018–	Netherlands
RAF/0T/FAA	Transparent Trade Processes in the ECOWAS Region	2016–	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016–	TMEA
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018



352. **Development context.** The business facilitation programme has developed a series of web-based e-government systems to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their investment, trade and business climates through transparency, simplification and the automation of rules and procedures related to enterprise creation and operations. The eRegulations system is a turnkey e-government software allowing administrations to publish their procedures online (online information portals for businesses, traders and investors). Trade portals are information portals, derived from the eRegulations system, showing detailed information on import, export and transit procedures and allowing countries to comply with the article 1 of the WTO Bali agreement. Once procedures have been clarified through the eRegulations/trade portal systems, a set of 10 principles of simplification of administrative procedures helps countries cut bureaucratic procedures and reduce the duration, cost and complexity of business-related procedures without changing related laws. Simplified procedures can then be automated through another e-government system called eRegistrations, which builds online single windows for businesses and investors.

353. **Objectives and features.** All tools and services developed by the business facilitation programme aim at the following: improving the business and investment climate and legal frameworks; lowering administrative barriers to business development, in particular for small businesses; increasing domestic and foreign investment and trade, promoting good governance and reducing corruption. They contribute to the following targets of the Sustainable Development Goals: 1.3 (implement appropriate social protection systems), 8.3 (encourage the formalization and growth of MSMEs); 16.3 (promote the rule of law); 16.5 (sustainably reduce corruption and bribery); 16.6 (develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions); 16.10 (ensure public access to information); and 17.1 (strengthen domestic resource mobilization).

354. **Outputs.** In 2018 new eRegulations systems were configured and installed in Armenia, Iraq and Lesotho describing step-by-step information on setting up a business, obtaining permits, activity licenses, etc. New trade portal systems were configured and installed in Afghanistan, Cuba, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and in 9 Pacific islands (Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Niue) presenting step-by-step information on import, export and transit procedures. In Bhutan and Morocco, the scope of the eRegulations system was extended to cover new regions, 14 and five respectively. New procedures related to business operations (work permits, visas, hiring employees etc.) were documented in the Kenya and Montenegro systems. In Benin, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, an average of 10 new procedures related to import, export, transit and clearances were documented in the country trade portal systems. A regional Trade Information Portal (TIP) for East African Community was launched during the East African Ministerial Retreat on Trade Facilitation. This regional TIP gives access to step-by-step guides on procedures for obtaining licenses, permits, and clearance formalities for the most traded goods within, to and from the EAC and is linked with country trade portals in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The regional TIP allows EAC partner States to exchange good practices and to track their progress towards facilitation goals. In El Salvador, an anti-corruption hotline system was established at the Municipality of Santa Ana, and the hotline number was disseminated among 80,000 businesses and households. Staff at the Municipality of Santa Ana were trained to support continued operation of the hotline.

355. Capacity-building sessions to train civil servants in best practices in administrative efficiency and in the use of the eRegulations/trade portals, eRegistrations systems were organized in all above mentioned countries.

356. Armenia, Iraq, Lesotho and Montenegro joined the 134 countries listed on the Global Enterprise Registration portal (GER.co) and, during the 2018 edition of the World Investment Forum, were praised with the Global Enterprise Registration (GER) Award for the exceptional quality of the information presented in their respective eRegulations portals. GER.co is a world index of online business registration sites developed by UNCTAD, in partnership with the Department of State of the United States

of America and the Kaufmann Foundation's Global Entrepreneurship Network. The GER award is given to Governments that demonstrate commitment to promoting transparency in the procedures applied to business creation.

357. **Results.** The results and impacts of activities are detailed below.

358. Transparency procedures documented in an eRegulations system are completely transparent and widely accessible in all countries where the system is operational. A total of 5,482 procedures are documented in national eRegulations and trade portal systems, with 19,500 steps (interactions between a user and a public entity), 49,257 forms, 6,612 norms and laws accessible online and over 5,000 civil servants and entities with contact data. Over 3,400,000 people visited national and regional eRegulations websites worldwide in 2018.

359. **Simplification and harmonization.** As a result of clarification through the eRegulations system in Iraq, the procedure for registering a local company was simplified more than 50 per cent, the total number of steps dropped from 35 to 14 and the total number of requirements dropped from 47 to 21. In Kenya, after documentation in the trade portal system, the national counterpart (KenTrade) announced that before the end of 2019, the following procedures will be simplified by at least 50 per cent reducing the number of steps, requirements and processing time: registering as an exporter, obtaining a coffee dealer's licence, obtaining a food hygiene licence, export health certificate, and import health certificate. All above simplifications are done without the need to change laws and existing regulations.

360. **Automation of procedures.** The eRegistrations system is an e-government system, designed to set up electronic single windows and computerize simple or complex administrative procedures. Its implementation was initiated in Lesotho and Mali and will be finalized in 2019.

361. Exchange of good practice and South–South cooperation. National experts in El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam have trained civil servants of their countries or provinces on the use of the eRegulations system and on UNCTAD principles for the simplification of procedures. Experts from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Kenya presented their country experience with eRegulations and eRegistrations systems in Cuba, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Pacific islands.

362. Good governance and public participation. The programme encourages public–private dialogue on improving the regulatory framework and its application by national administrations. Further to the implementation of an anti-corruption hotline system in Santa Ana, El Salvador, 50 corruption cases and 654 complaints for inefficiency were reported by the citizens and businesses in 2018; 8 corruption cases were transferred to the general prosecutor's office; and other corruption and inefficiency cases were solved by the concerned departments. Citizens and foreign and local investors have extensively used the eRegulations integrated customer relationship management system for sending simplification ideas or signalling the improper application of procedures.

363. Collaboration with other international and regional organizations. The International Trade Centre partnered with UNCTAD for the implementation of Trade portals in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Viet Nam. A new module showing country specific foreign trade statistics developed by the International Trade Centre is now integrated in all national trade portal systems. The EAC secretariat partnered with UNCTAD and ITC for the development and promotion of the regional trade information portal.

### C3 Trade facilitation

Table C3  
Trade Facilitation

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
INT/9X/31Y	Introduction of multimodal transport and micro-computer software programmes	1993–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/4CO	Capacity-Building in Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries to support their effective participation in the WTO Negotiations Process on Trade Facilitation	2004–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/EAX	HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Capacity-Building Programme	2015–	United Kingdom
INT/0T/HBG	HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Capacity-Building Programme	2018–	United Kingdom
RAF/0T/DAQ	Implementation support for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in three members of the Economic Community of Central African States	2014–	European Commission
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2016–	TMEA
RAF/0T/FAA	Transparent Trade Processes in the ECOWAS Region	2016–	German Agency for International Cooperation
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand

364. **Development context.** Trade facilitation has emerged as an important trade policy tool. The main objective of trade facilitation is to reduce complexities and costs associated with cumbersome border procedures and controls, while ensuring transparency and maintaining efficient compliance controls.

365. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, is a major international achievement. It aims to reduce trade transaction costs and bureaucratic barriers, speeding up clearance procedures for the cross-border trade of goods, thereby making trade easier, faster and less costly. The alignment of national and regional rules with the multilateral trade facilitation framework is instrumental to achieving increased trade integration.

366. Trade facilitation reforms are associated with several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 10 aiming at reducing inequality within and among countries, and Goal 16 which promotes inclusive societies, with access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Our work supporting NTFCs directly supports the compliance with article 23.2 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, as well as target 17 of Goal 17 on “effective public, public–private and civil society partnerships”.

367. **Objectives/features.** To facilitate the implementation of the technical and institutional obligations resulting from the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD assists developing countries and LDCs with a range of activities, as follows: elaboration of needs assessments and assistance with the ratification, categorization and notification of national trade facilitation implementation plans; development of project plans; assistance with the establishment of national trade facilitation committees; general capacity-building and technical assistance on trade facilitation reforms; and assistance with the implementation of trade facilitation measures through related activities such as the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) as well as trade information portals.

368. UNCTAD provides an intensive professional programme for the secretariat and members of national trade facilitation committees, namely the empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees. The main objective is to assist committees to implement, in a coordinated manner, trade facilitation reforms, including the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and to be able to monitor implementation.

369. With a view to ratification and implementation of the Agreement, UNCTAD support covers the following:

- (a) Assessments of technical assistance needs and preparation of categorization of provisions of the Agreement;
- (b) Tailored training on trade, transit and transport facilitation;
- (c) Advisory services on ratification of the Agreement;
- (d) Assistance in the creation and sustainable operation of national trade facilitation committees.

370. Upon successful completion of the empowerment programme, members of national trade facilitation committees are granted a certificate of completion. Empowered committees are featured in the UNCTAD repository of national trade facilitation committees, at [unctad.org/tfc](http://unctad.org/tfc), which contains data on and analyses of national trade facilitation bodies and assists several regional organizations in coordinating trade and transit facilitation reforms.

371. In addition to the empowerment programme, UNCTAD has provided support at the regional level in the East African Community (EAC), strategically advising the EAC Secretariat for several years on the best trade facilitation strategies at regional level and the harmonization of policies at the national level through national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) composed of public and private sectors involved in trade logistics.

372. **Outputs and results.** UNCTAD work in support of national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) in 2018 continued with the delivery of national training workshops to NTFCs throughout the year and concluded with holding the First African Forum for NTFCs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November.

373. Since the launch of the UNCTAD empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees in 2016, UNCTAD has been providing extensive support to NTFCs of 22 countries, planning to start soon in at least another 13 countries. Work reached more than 1,800 trade facilitation stakeholders (one third of them women).

374. A total of 93 per cent of beneficiaries said that the programme had helped them improve their knowledge of trade facilitation and 82 per cent of them felt in a better position to assume their roles as members of their national trade facilitation committee.

375. African countries seeking to reduce the cost, time and complexity of interregional and international trade in goods gathered for the First African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27–29 November. More than 250 participants from some 44 countries attended. The participants represented public sector agencies such as the Ministry of Trade and the Customs Authority as well as the private sector. Women represented one quarter of participants.

376. The landmark event, organized by UNCTAD and seven partner organizations, came as Africa scales up its trade easing efforts after the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force in February 2017 and as it prepares to implement the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement signed in March 2018.

377. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD has said: "The World Trade Organization calculates that current trade costs for developing countries are equivalent to applying a staggering 219 per cent tariff on international trade, and this hurts Africa. UNCTAD has supported Africa's work on trade facilitation for decades, including with our ASYCUDA automated customs systems, and capacity-building programmes. The culmination of this work is to support the institutions that can make trade work for all, and national trade facilitation committees must become the agents of change to boost international trade for developing countries."

378. At the end of the Forum, participants were distributed a link to an online evaluation form to share their impression about activities during the forum. A total of 100 people provided responses. The evaluation outcome shows very positive results: according to participants, the Forum met the expectations of 94 per cent of participants and 84 per cent considered that they had enough instances to express their views and interact with other participants.

379. UNCTAD technical assistance on trade facilitation in the East Africa Community contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 17 with support in the preparation of a Ministerial Declaration on Trade Facilitation the EAC. The Declaration was adopted and announced at the Ministerial Retreat organized by UNCTAD in Nairobi, on 13 December 2018, with funding provided by TMEA and ITC.

380. The Declaration highlights that trade facilitation is "a key determinant to the competitiveness and prosperity of the EAC economies" and that "the EAC Partner States agree to advance the trade facilitation agenda in the EAC countries and the regional Protocols through a strong political commitment to implement decisions concerning trade facilitation and intraregional trade".

381. The Ministerial Declaration on Trade Facilitation in the EAC was officially adopted during the Ministerial Retreat on Trade Facilitation in the EAC. As declared by the Minister for Cooperatives of Uganda whose country was the chair of the EAC: "...this is an opportunity for the EAC countries, many of which are landlocked, to sell their products within the region, in Africa, and across the whole world".

382. One of the main drivers of trade facilitation is transparency. In that regard, UNCTAD has largely contributed to it by building capacity and dialogue among the national trade facilitation committees with a public-private partnership but also through the trade information portals. Indeed, the trade information portal is an IT tool providing traders with the necessary information on trade procedures for export, import and transit operations. By implementing the trade information portal, the countries implement the article 1 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

383. For the EAC, the UNCTAD Regional Trade Portal Index was launched during the ministerial retreat that has as its aim to help simplify and harmonize trade procedures.

384. Correctly implemented trade facilitation measures not only boost trade but also improve revenue collection, safety and security compliance controls (for example, improving food safety) and can help to streamline government agencies. Such reforms help small cross-border traders, often women, enter the formal sector, make economic activities more transparent and accountable, promote good governance, generate better quality employment, strengthen information technology capabilities and generally modernize societies by bringing about benefits related to administrative efficiency. These reforms are a prerequisite for developing countries to join global value chains and start trading out of poverty.

## C4 ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

Table C4  
ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/9X/89S	Support for ASYCUDA implementation activities	1998–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FAK	Support to the Centre of Excellence, Gibraltar	2017–	National Governments
INT/0T/FBB	ASYCUDA Transit Module	2017–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
INT/0T/GAE	Projet d'interconnexion des systèmes informatiques douaniers ALISA/PACIR de la CEDEAO	2018–	ECOWAS
INT/0T/GAK	Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project	2018–	European Commission
INT/0T/HBV	Enhancement of ASYCUDA World to facilitate Pre-Arrival Processing	2018–	Germany
RAF/0T/6BC	Establishment of SEATAC (ASYCUDA)	2006–	Norway
RAF/0T/HAL	ASYCUDA Support Interconnectivity and PACIR		World Bank
RAS/0X/0DX	ASYCUDA implementation and support in the Asia-Pacific region	2000–	Multi-donor
RAS/0T/1DA	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific (ASMP)	2002–	Japan
RLA/0T/3AD	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas and Africa	2003–	National Governments
AFG/0T/BBD <sup>a</sup>	Implementation of ASYCUDA in the Afghan Customs Department (Phase 2: Rollout and Enhancement) <sup>a</sup>	2012–2018	Afghanistan
AFG/0T/FAM	Second customs reform and trade facilitation	2016–	Afghanistan
AFG/0T/HBU	Afghanistan Fiscal Performance Improvement Support Project (FSP)	2018–	Afghanistan
ANG/0T/CBO	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Angola	2013–	Angola
ANT/0T/DBC	ASYCUDA World Antigua and Barbuda	2014–	European Commission
ARU/0T/GAW	ASYCUDA World Consolidation – ARUBA	2017–	Aruba
BAR/0T/CAA	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Barbados	2013–	Barbados
BDI/0T/GAN	Technical assistance project for the enhancement of ASYCUDA World	2017–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
BEN/0T/CAP	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World	2013–	Benin

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
BES/0T/EAB	ASYCUDA Regional Centre for the Americas – Tax Administration of the Caribbean Netherlands – ASYCUDA World support	2015–	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba
BGD/0T/FAC	ASYCUDA World – ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2016–	Bangladesh
BKF/0T/EBM	Formation transit SYDONIA	2016–	African Development Bank
BKF/0T/HAM	Projet d'Interconnexion des systèmes informatiques douaniers – Burkina Faso	2018–	Burkina Faso
BKF/0T/HA V	Ouverture de SYDONIA World sur Internet	2018–	Burkina Faso
BZE/0T/EAA	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas – Customs and Excise Department of Belize – ASYCUDA World Support	2015–	Belize
CAF/0T/3AX	Migration vers SYDONIA++	2003–	Central African Republic, France
COI/0T/FAJ	Implementation de SYDONIA World	2017–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CUR/0T/FAY	Strengthening Customs Management capacity of Curaçao	2016–	Curaçao
DJI/0T/AAS	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2011–	Djibouti
DRC/0T/DBZ	Mise en oeuvre des Mesures de Performance	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRC/0T/DCB	Renforcement de la mise en place de SYDONIA	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EQG/0T/EAM	Mise en place du SYDONIA World à la Direction Générale des Douanes (DGD)	2016–	Equatorial Guinea
FIJ/0T/CBF	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2013–	Fiji
GAB/0T/DAH	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World	2018–	Gabon
GUI/0T/BCX	Implementation de SYDONIA World	2013–	Guinea
GUY/0T/GAI	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Cooperative	2017–	Guyana
HAI/0T/DAO	Consolidation of ASYCUDA World and Simplification of Customs Procedures and Operations in Haiti	2014–	Haiti
IVC/0T/4BV	Mise en place de SYDONIAWORLD a la Direction Générale des Douanes	2005–	Côte d'Ivoire
IVC/0T/HAD	Interconnexion des systèmes douaniers entre la Côte d'Ivoire et le Burkina	2018–	World Bank

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
JAM/0T/CBJ	ASYCUDA World Implementation in Jamaica	2014–	Jamaica
JAM/0T/GAS	Electronic Single Window for Trade	2017–	Jamaica
JOR/0T/AAB	Creation of the regional centre of excellence in the Aqaba special economic zone	2011–	Jordan
KAZ/0T/EBH	Modernisation of the Customs Procedures and Implementation of the Integrated Customs Component of the Automated System of Customs and Tax Administration (ASTANA-1)	2016–	Kazakhstan
KAZ/0T/FBJ	Implementation of the Single Window	2017–	Kazakhstan
LEB/0T/5BK	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Lebanon	2005–	Lebanon
LES/0T/BDC	Customs Management System	2012–	Lesotho
LIR/0T/8CD	ASYCUDA World Project in Liberia	2008–	Liberia
MAG/0T/EAC	Mise en œuvre de SYDONIA World	2016–	Madagascar
MAU/0T/CAD	Projet de Modernisation des Douanes de la République Islamique de Mauritanie	2013–	Mauritania
MDV/0T/HBK	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Asia Region (ASMA)	2018–	Trademark East Africa
MLI/0T/9BF	ASYCUDA World Technical Assistance and Support	2009–	Mali
MLW/0T/DBB	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Malawi	2014–	Malawi
NAM/0T/BAN	Implementation of ASYCUDA in Namibia	2012–	Namibia
NEP/0T/EAD	Implementation of ASYCUDA World	2015–	Asian Development Bank
NEP/0T/GAU	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
NER/0T/GAO	Technical assistance project for the second phase of the implementation of ASYCUDA World	2017–	Niger
PNG/0T/DAX	Computerization of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014–	Papua New Guinea
PUE/0T/FAG	ASYCUDA World Puerto Rico	2016–	Puerto Rico
RWA/0T/BBE	Customs Management and Electronic Single Window System	2011–	Rwanda
RWA/0T/HBE	Rwanda Electronic Single Window – TMEA	2018–	Trademark East Africa
SEY/0T/BBO	ASYCUDA project	2011–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
SIL/0T/GAH	Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project	2017–	Sierra Leone



<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
SOI/0T/BCO	ASYCUDA-Modernization and Automation of Customs Procedures and Data	2012–	Solomon Islands
SPM/0T/DAF	ASYCUDA World Implementation	2014–	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
SRL/0T/DBT	ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for Asia	2014–	Sri Lanka
STP/0T/CBE	ASYCUDA World Implementation – Single Window for the International Trade Operations, Phase 1 (pilot site)	2013–	Sao Tome and Principe
SUD/0T/8BG	ASYCUDA project	2008–	Sudan
SUR/0T/BAE	ASYCUDA World Implementation in the Republic of Suriname	2012–	Suriname
SRL/0T/DBT	ASYCUDA support mechanism for Asia	2014–	Sri Lanka
SWA/0T/HBB	Reinforcing analysis of risk profiling and installation and implementation of ASYPM 2018	2014–	Eswatini
SYP/0T/4BP	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in the Syrian Customs Directorate	2004–	Syrian Arab Republic
TIM/0T/DAP	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2014–	Timor-Leste
TOG/0T/EAS	Migration vers SYDONIA World et formation	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/FBE	ASYCUDA Training	2017–	Togo
TRI/0T/BDD	Strengthening customs management capacity (ASYCUDA World consolidation)	2012–	Trinidad and Tobago
TUK/0T/FBF	Implementation of the Integrated Custom Information System in the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan	2017–	Turkmenistan
UGA/0T/BBT	Implementation of a customs management system	2012–	Uganda
UGA/0T/DAZ	Uganda National Electronic Single Window System	2014–	TMEA
VAN/0T/EBZ	Computerisation of Customs Procedures and Data and Deployment of ASYCUDA World	2016–	Vanuatu
ZAM/0T/BDE	Customs Management System	2013–	Zambia
ZAM/0T/HAU	ASYCUDA World support mechanism – Zambia	2018–	Zambia
ZIM/0T/7AC	Implementation of ASYCUDA World in Zimbabwe	2007–	Zimbabwe

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

385. **Development context.** The ASYCUDA programme is directed at reforming and streamlining the customs clearance process, increasing trade facilitation and strengthening the institution in member States. An efficient and effective customs administration is essential to the welfare of any country as it benefits the national economy by collecting revenue, assists the Government to implement national and

international trade policy, protects the country by combating fraud and the illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods, provides statistical information on foreign trade transactions essential for economic planning; and supports international trade needs.

386. The ASYCUDA programme is committed to providing sustained support for development, both in-country and remotely. Over a period of more than 37 years, it has supported the changing and evolving needs, addressed challenges of the customs administrations of 115 countries and territories, and facilitated their international trade. Having originated as a means to help countries build and utilize the data collected at customs ports of entry through databases, the programme's scope has gradually widened to helping countries manage their economic and financial analysis and planning, as well as assisting the private sector in doing business. It has also expanded in terms of the customs management functions that it supports, from the initial data capture (now uploaded via the Internet) to assisting countries and territories in monitoring trade crossing inwards and outwards of their borders, making available trade statistics, measuring institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, and producing data critical to risk management analysis and enhancing the operational performance of customs and its integrity as an institution.

387. As an outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the mandate of the ASYCUDA programme is reflected in paragraph 38 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, as it was in the Accra Accord (paragraph 167). The document states that UNCTAD should "continue to provide assistance to developing countries to design and implement policies and actions aimed at improving the efficiency of trade transactions as well as the management of transport operations. It should also continue to cooperate with member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)". The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in document A/C.5/64/L.23, also refers to the programme when it encourages the Secretary-General of UNCTAD "in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration in Africa by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure" (paragraph 82). In the Doha Mandate, specific reference is made to the programme's work, reaffirming, inter alia, the importance and role of the ASYCUDA programme in supporting developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and in continuing its trade facilitation work. The mandate states that UNCTAD should "assist developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries, and some countries with economies in transition, to address challenges affecting their participation in trade from geographical constraints, with a view to improving transport systems and connections, designing and implementing resilient and sustainable transport systems, and enhancing transit infrastructure and trade facilitation solutions", "continue its work in the field of trade facilitation, including the Automated System for Customs Data programme" and "advise small island developing States on the design and implementation of policies addressing their specific trade and trade logistics challenges linked to their remoteness and geographical isolation" (paragraphs 56 (h), (i) and (j)). General Assembly resolution 70/1 recognizes "that baseline data for several targets remains unavailable," and calls "for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity-building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist" (paragraph 57). The resolution also makes reference to the need to "support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data" (paragraph 76). In relation to General Assembly resolution 70/1, it is worthy to note the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data Software Suite is being implemented in 41 African countries and territories, 37 least developed countries, 20 small island developing States and 21 landlocked developing countries, which makes it a unique possibility as a base repository for the extraction of trade and customs related data to strengthen statistical capacity and to support trade policymakers.

388. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the ASYCUDA programme is the modernization of customs, using information technology to speed up and simplify the goods clearance process. The ASYCUDA system manages the entire customs clearance process, from (and prior to) the arrival of goods up to their warehousing and ultimate release, after payment of duties and taxes. It includes an advanced risk-management and selectivity function and strong anti-corruption features. The implementation of an ASYCUDA project in a beneficiary country is based on the delivery of a comprehensive capacity-building programme, designed to transfer the full ASYCUDA functional and technical know-how to national staff and to ensure that the national team will be able to administer and maintain the national ASYCUDA system without external technical assistance and support.

389. **Outputs.** The ASYCUDA programme continued to allow for increased revenue collection by customs in the least developed countries and other user countries and territories, as well as reduced clearing times and costs. In particular, the Solomon Islands Customs and Excise Division reported in 2018 that for the year 2017 revenue collection had exceeded the mark of 1 billion Solomon Islands dollars (US\$126 million) for the first time in their revenue history; the implementation of ASYCUDA in June 2015 is one of the factors contributing to this. Automation of customs procedures is an integral part of the Agreement for Trade Facilitation adopted at the WTO meeting in Bali in December 2014. Among the criteria identified by WTO in this agreement is the publication of available information, transparency, accurate and timely publication of duties and taxes for import and export, electronic payment for the reduction of clearance times and cooperation between entities at the border. In 2018, six additional countries, namely Angola, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, adopted the new ASYCUDA module focusing on performance measurement within customs administrations and of their stakeholders. This performance measurement module leverages customs data (operational and transactional) present in the ASYCUDA system to study operational trends and to enable decision-making. Performance measurement within customs is more than a tool to fight corruption and enhance effectiveness and efficiency: it is a methodology to inspire its senior management to carry out reform at different levels. Furthermore, the implementation of ASYCUDA projects is always accompanied by various reforms and modernization programmes, and a project often acts as a catalyst for improving the work environment and the building of requisite infrastructure, such as telecommunications networks.

390. The technical and functional training of national experts is a major component of the technical assistance projects employed as a tool to provide the transfer of know-how. In 2018, Curaçao Customs hosted training sessions for other Dutch-speaking countries of the region using worldwide experts from UNCTAD. The customs courses mainly covered selectivity and risk management, and valuation. These courses assist national experts to establish a sense of ownership of technical self-sufficiency and to further enhance the operation of the system. Overall, around 271 training sessions were conducted, both technical and functional, for an audience of more than 2,350 participants, in the field.

391. Over 355 advisory missions were undertaken by staff or consultants in beneficiary countries and territories. The programme's mission statement clearly stresses the importance of providing technical assistance with an emphasis on the special needs of the least developed countries. Thirty-seven least developed countries, 21 landlocked developing countries and 20 small island developing States benefited from the ASYCUDA programme's support.

392. **Results.** The impacts and results of ASYCUDA projects can be assessed by various institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, including increased revenue, improved trade facilitation, shorter clearance times and the availability of reliable trade statistics data. The automatic calculation of duties and taxes results in increased State budget revenue, while reliable and timely trade and fiscal statistics assist governments in planning their economic policy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates that data collection is a key activity to develop baselines for the measurement of progress against goals and targets, consequently ASYCUDA exists as a source of data

within user countries. However, further efforts are required to leverage its use. ASYCUDA has had a major impact on e-business and e-government transactions, making international trade simpler and cheaper, while making international markets more accessible to enterprises from developing countries. In a growing number of countries, ASYCUDA constitutes the core system for building the single window for international trade.

393. The results and impact of ASYCUDA projects can further be assessed by evaluation measures that include projects in countries that are new users of the ASYCUDA system and also projects for the upgrade and maintenance in countries migrating from one version to another or extending functional or geographical coverage of an ASYCUDA system already in place. Since 2009, ASYCUDA projects have contained monitoring and evaluation tools such as the logical framework and its achievement indicators and the monitoring plan. These tools are reviewed at the inception of a project during the mobilization workshop.

394. In addition, the use of the ASYCUDA system by customs administrations contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as explained below:

(a) Goal 1. No poverty: customs' contribution to national revenue through revenue collections, and the subsequent investment of revenues into national development programmes;

(b) Goal 2. Improving the food security and food safety through strengthening Customs and inter-agency controls at the borders, automation of issuance and monitoring of use of phytosanitary and veterinary certificates, integrated quota monitoring for agricultural exports and imports;

(c) Goal 3. Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being, in particular targets 3a and 3d, by automating customs control of movement of excisable goods/tobacco products with ASYCUDA-DCTS and by strengthening of customs and inter-agency controls at the borders of pharmaceutical products, drugs precursors, introduction of electronic certificates for pharmaceutical goods and their efficient control in the single window environment;

(d) Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation, in particular target 6.3, by improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, as customs applies in their controls the international conventions of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm;

(e) Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth: customs make a key contribution to facilitating trade, enabling access to global value chains, innovation and employment opportunities;

(f) Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, in particular targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9.c: customs through the use of ASYCUDA, which has always combined state-of-the-art advanced technologies with proven in-the-field expertise, ensures an efficient and tailored support to countries thus contributing to their ICT infrastructure development and upgrade, including the simplification of customs processes, sustainable modernisation and automation initiatives promoting early taking of ownership by governments which contribute towards lowering the international market's barriers to entry for SME/SMIs, especially in the least developed countries and Africa, and by improving regional and cross-border infrastructure;

(g) Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in particular targets 11.2, 11.5, 11.b: technical assistance in the area of customs promotes the development of customs and trade infrastructure (ports, logistics terminals, warehouses, supply chains in cities), while the use of ASYREC in disaster-prone countries reduces the loss of lives through implementation of integrated policies and plans increasing resilience to disasters;

(h) Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: customs make a key contribution through more efficient customs and inter-agency controls over chemicals export and import;

(i) Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts: customs administrations using ASYCUDA can improve control for ozone depleting substances;

(j) Goal 15. Life on land, in particular targets 15.5, 15.7 and 15.c: customs contributes to protecting society from unwanted pests and preventing the flow of illicit wildlife products by applying health and agricultural policies, and the International Plant Protection Convention; customs also helps to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products by applying the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

(k) Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals, in particular targets 17.1, 17.6, 17.8, 17.9, and 17.18, through the use of ASYCUDA system: customs contributes by applying international standards, trade-related agreements and collaborating with other national authorities, countries and international agencies such as the World Customs Organization, to increased efficiency and coordination, strengthened resource mobilization and trade facilitation and statistics which in turn contributes to ensuring sustainable development; in addition, the ASYCUDA programme organizes a multitude of study tours and technical and functional training sessions for customs delegations to visit and learn from experiences of implementing a new technology and/or a new infrastructure in other parts of the world, directly contributing to North–South and South–South international and regional cooperation, ensuring capacity-building and transfer of know-how.

395. The ASYCUDA programme has always aimed at developing sustainable partnerships and cooperation with beneficiary countries and international and regional organizations. During the year, assistance was provided together with IATA in the promotion and usage of IATA Cargo-XML messages to Jamaica, Uganda and Angola, and inception work started for deployment to CARICOM countries, while participation continued with the World Customs Organization in its Data Model Projects Team's work sessions geared to establishing the interoperability of ICT systems of customs administrations and stakeholders. In 2018, a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) of the Charles Sturt University in Canberra (Australia) for the development of an ASYCUDA certification framework to recognise experience of individuals in mastering customs reform and modernization using the ASYCUDA software and deployment approach. Furthermore, discussions for partnerships continued with the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Customs Organization on safeguarding intellectual property rights, and with the latter to extend the existing memorandum of understanding to include collaboration on the time release study. Such framework instruments are important for the ASYCUDA programme to ensure the prompt delivery of technical assistance and long-term sustainability of cooperation, as well as for observing intellectual property rights for ASYCUDA software. In addition, discussions started with the Sri Lanka Customs (SLC), and the University of Moratuwa (Sri Lanka) for the setting up of an ASYCUDA Centre of Excellence in Sri Lanka to strengthen ASYCUDA and ICT capacity development in SLC, and in the region.

## C5 Statistics

Table C5  
Statistics

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
URT/0T/FBC	UNDAF II, inclusive growth 2016 DRTF	2017–	One United Nations

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
RAF/0T/BCR	Projet UEMOA-CNUCED pour la mise en place des statistiques du commerce international des services	2014–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
ROA-1819 (Y11)	Defining, estimating and disseminating statistics on illicit financial flows in Africa	2018–	Development Account

396. **Development context.** Harnessing the power of data and statistics is a necessary condition to fully implement and monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. This is true for all areas of sustainable development, and particularly for the areas that are most dynamic and where significant changes can be observed in relatively short periods of time, such as trade. Countries require accurate, timely and relevant statistics that could allow monitoring of trends in these areas and studying the impact of trade-oriented policies on development. UNCTAD is continuously taking action to assist developing countries that have decided to improve their statistical capacity in the area of trade and development.

397. Illicit financial flows (IFFs) raise serious problems for financing development since they constitute a drain on capital and tax revenues in developing economies. They compromise sustainable development by diverting resources from social spending and productive investment and by impeding structural transformation. They may also weaken political and institutional legitimacy. These risks have been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where the reduction of IFFs is listed as Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also mentions IFFs as a threat to the mobilization of resources for development and calls for a redoubling of efforts to substantially reduce IFFs. However, there is currently no standard definition of IFFs and no internationally agreed methodologies to measure them.

398. **Objectives of the product.** The objective of this product is to enhance the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders to monitor and report progress along the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on trade in merchandise and services, inclusive economic growth, finance, and other policy areas within the UNCTAD mandate. Specifically, the project with UEMOA had the objective of improving the statistical capacity of UEMOA member countries to establish a harmonized mechanism of data collection, treatment and dissemination of statistics related to the imports and exports of services. The e-learning and other training activities aim at building national capacities to collect, harmonize, analyse and disseminate statistics related to international trade of goods and services. UNCTAD, as a co-custodian of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1, also embarked on projects to propose methodologies to estimate IFFs with the objective of strengthening statistical capacity in beneficiary countries to define, measure and disseminate statistics on tax- and commercial-related IFFs. The outcomes of the IFFs-related projects would enhance the data infrastructure required to measure Sustainable Development Goal 16 and support evidence-based policy recommendations in this area.

399. **Description of activities.** The UEMOA-UNCTAD project started in 2014 and its activities continued throughout 2018. The UNCTAD Development Statistics and Information Branch (DSIB) implemented several activities in 2018, including the preparation of the first full survey to collect information related to all categories of international trade in services, except travel. The final adjustment of the questionnaire was agreed based on feedback from countries after they conducted the pilot phase in 2017, as well as the comments from UEMOA Commission. The first full survey was launched during a bilateral meeting organized in Dakar in June 2018 and data collection took place during the second half of 2018. The member states presented the results during a meeting that took place in March 2019 in Abidjan. The questionnaire specific for travel services, the only missing category from the main survey, was prepared by UNCTAD and discussed in the March 2019 workshop. UNCTAD also drafted the acte communautaire, the UEMOA Commission draft regulation on international trade in

services statistics, in alignment with the European Union regulation on statistics on international trade in services and with UEMOA regulations on statistics. The draft was discussed with UEMOA Commission and the member countries in the March 2019 workshop. Finally, UNCTAD proposed the design and specifications of IT modules for survey management, data entry, cleaning and compilation based on the results of the pilot phase; a final proposal for the IT solution will be submitted to UEMOA Commission for evaluation.

400. The training activities on trade statistics were developed by UNCTAD, in collaboration with WTO, and delivered as part of the Train for Trade Programme. Two courses were offered during 2018. First, a training on international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), with emphasis on countries from the Caribbean. The online component took place from 5 March to 13 April and the face-to-face training was organized on 15–18 May in Trinidad and Tobago. Second, a training on statistics of international trade in services (SITS), with emphasis on African countries, organized in collaboration with the WTO. The online-based part took place from 22 October to 7 December, and the face-to-face training from 10 to 14 December in Geneva.

401. In addition to the existing 10th tranche of the United Nations Development Account (DA) project on measuring IFFs in Latin America, UNCTAD in collaboration with UNECA embarked on a 11th tranche DA project to estimate IFFs with a focus on African countries. The new project started in March 2018. Throughout the year, several activities were implemented, including an international consultation (Geneva, 20–22 June 2018) to start the methodological work that will serve as groundwork for the country-level activities of the project. Also, country-level activities were initiated, with two missions (Nigeria and United Republic of Tanzania) in collaboration with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, with the objective of ensuring political buy-in at the highest level. The rest of the introductory missions will continue in 2019. Finally, UNCTAD and its partners set-up and launched of a statistical task force composed of representatives from national statistical offices and international organisations, with the goal of supporting the work of the DA projects.

402. **Results.** The UNCTAD-UEMOA project reached significant milestones in 2018, including the adoption of a revised survey questionnaire based on countries' feedback after the pilot phase, the implementation of the first full survey by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the member countries, the development of a travel services questionnaire, and the preparation of proposals for the acte communautaire and the specifications of the IT solution that will be discussed in 2019.

403. The training programme on IMTS had 144 participants (97 women) in its online segment and 23 participants (20 women) in the face-to-face component. The average satisfaction rate of the online and face-to-face modules were 88 and 81 per cent, respectively. The training programme on SITS had 29 participants (12 women) in the online section, and 14 (5 women) in the face-to-face module. The online and face-to-face modules had an average satisfaction rate of 88 and 85 per cent, respectively.

404. Finally, the DA projects on measuring IFFs made significant progress in 2018, in terms of defining the concept and scope of measurement of IFFs and proposing estimation methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1. This is an ongoing process that needs to be refined and adapted to the situation in developing countries in Africa. Setting up and launching the work of the task force is an important milestone in this regard. Also, the first steps towards country-level activities commenced in 2018 and they will accelerate in 2019.

## C7 Corporate accounting and reporting

Table C7

### Corporate Accounting and Reporting

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BCP	Accounting and Corporate Governance Trust Fund	2012–	Germany
ROA-1819 (H11)	Enabling policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting in Africa and Latin America	2018–	United Nations Development Account

405. **Development context.** A high-quality corporate reporting environment is a critical facilitator for attracting investment, allocating scarce resources in an efficient manner, and promoting financial inclusion and stability. In the past decades, there has been a clear trend towards the adoption of harmonized standards and codes by UNCTAD member States. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda has stressed the importance of sustainability reporting by enterprises as a key element in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, effective implementation of such standards and codes remains a challenge for many developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Elements that have an impact on the corporate reporting environment include weaknesses in legal and regulatory frameworks, lack of human capacity and relevant support institutions, or obstacles to the adequate monitoring and enforcement of international standards and codes. As such, there is a need for coherent efforts to support capacity building in the area of corporate reporting, with a view to enabling progress towards the convergence of national corporate reporting environments with global standards and codes. In particular, beneficiary countries require tools that enable the identification of gaps through international benchmarking, the elaboration of action plans for accounting reform, and the measurement of progress in priority areas.

406. **Objectives and features.** The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) was established with the mandate to assist Member States of the United Nations in harmonizing their accounting practices with international standards. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts achieves this by developing guidance documents, facilitating the exchange of views and best practice, and providing technical assistance on issues related to both financial and sustainability reporting, as well as auditing, and corporate governance, among others. This work is conducted through the annual sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, as well as associated workshops and roundtables, research activities and technical assistance, such as the Accounting Development Tool (ADT).

407. The ADT enables beneficiary countries to voluntarily assess their accounting infrastructure, including their national institutions, regulations, human resources and processes, against international requirements for high-quality corporate reporting. The Tool promotes an open and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders involved, which is required for conducting successful accounting reforms. It provides a quantitative benchmark of a country's position at a particular point in time and, when implemented more than once, allows countries to assess their progress towards achieving international best practice. The results of the Accounting Development Tool support the elaboration of national action plans and the identification of priority areas where further action is required in order to improve their corporate reporting environment.

408. **Outputs.** The thirty-fifth session of ISAR was held in Geneva from 24 to 26 October 2018. High-level government officials, policymakers and leading international experts deliberated on two main agenda items: experts discussed first ongoing UNCTAD work on the selection of core reporting indicators aligned with the



Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework; and also considered issues of practical implementation of international standards of accounting and reporting in the public and private sectors.

409. During the session, UNCTAD presented for consideration by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts draft guidance on a limited set of core indicators for enterprise reporting aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. These indicators draw on existing practice from sustainability reporting stakeholders and companies, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring mechanism. The set of indicators was based on previous UNCTAD work in the area of environmental accounting and corporate governance disclosures, additional empirical research in the form of a survey of companies, and extensive stakeholder consultations as part of Consultative Group meetings. These indicators also reflect increasing support for reporting benchmarks on sustainability, as evidenced in the final recommendations report of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, convened by the Financial Stability Board. Furthermore, the Group of Experts reviewed practical implementation aspects of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

410. At the thirty-fifth session of ISAR, a new initiative called “ISAR Honours” was launched. The initiative aims to support efforts on enhancing the quality of companies’ reporting on sustainability issues, and its usefulness for member States for monitoring of the private sector’s contribution towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. ISAR Honours were presented to policy, institutional or capacity-building initiatives that facilitate improvements in companies’ reporting on sustainability issues. Initiatives were assessed by a Review Committee, established by the UNCTAD secretariat, consisting of several distinguished international experts in the area of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting. Selection was guided by specific criteria with regard to the contribution of the initiative to harmonization, quality, consensus and capacity building on sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goal reporting.

411. In conjunction with the thirty-fifth session of ISAR, the UNCTAD secretariat organized a technical workshop on emerging issues in the areas of blockchain technology, digitalization and cryptocurrencies that took place in Geneva on 22 October 2018. The workshop highlighted the existence of several regulatory, institutional and capacity building challenges related to the use and effect of blockchain technology and drew attention to new opportunities for those who can adapt and learn, in a fast but also continuous manner.

412. On the side of the thirty-fifth session of ISAR, the UNCTAD secretariat organized a briefing for beneficiary countries of the United Nations Development Account eleventh tranche project entitled Enabling Policy Frameworks for enterprise sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting in Africa and Latin America on the scope and activities of the project. The main objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of Governments to measure and monitor the private sector contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in particular on indicator 12.6, and encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. ISAR will review progress on implementation of this project at its thirty-sixth session which has been scheduled to take place from 30 October to 1 November 2019.

413. In May 2018, the UNCTAD secretariat organized a meeting of the Consultative Group on Enterprise Reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals. Close to 50 experts attended the meeting. Participants conducted further discussions on two topics: metadata guidance on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1, number of companies publishing sustainability reports; and guidance on core indicators for enterprise reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. With respect to the metadata guidance, the meeting addressed definition of sustainability reporting, data collection mechanisms, as well as disaggregation and reporting boundaries. The Consultative Group proposed further refinements on the draft core indicators on Sustainable

Development Goals reporting pertaining to the economic, environmental, social, and institutional aspects of the performance of enterprises.

414. In April 2018, the UNCTAD secretariat organized a round table discussion on measuring the private sector's contribution to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The UNCTAD secretariat organized this event in cooperation with the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Royal Netherlands Professional Association of Accountants (NBA). Participants at the round table agreed on the important role of enterprise reporting in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be accomplished inter alia by promoting the integration of sustainability information into companies' reporting cycle, as well sharing good practices on measuring the private sector's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal implementation in a consistent and comparable manner. The event contributed to facilitating stakeholder dialogue and consensus building on the Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies by bringing a variety of perspectives from the public and private sectors. The UNCTAD secretariat incorporated input received at the roundtable into the draft guidance on core indicators on Sustainable Development Goal reporting.

415. In 2018, UNCTAD initiated implementation of the ADT in Belarus. Building on the experience of implementation in 15 countries over the past years, UNCTAD also finalized a substantive revision process of the ADT questionnaire. In particular, the revision took into consideration new developments in the area of accounting and sustainability reporting, drawing on UNCTAD research into corporate reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals. The revision also took into account the importance of accounting for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

416. During the year, UNCTAD contributed to committee meetings and webinars of international and regional stakeholders in the area of corporate reporting, including: European Commission High-level Conference on Sustainable Finance, 22 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium; EBRD-ACCA meeting on empowering businesses to engage with sustainable finance and the Sustainable Development Goals, 15–16 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium; Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 10–12 April 2018, Vienna, Austria and 6–8 and November 2018, Stockholm, Sweden; joint UNCTAD-UNEP webinar on the Sustainable Development Goal reporting: Task Force for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1, 31 July 2018. Such participation has been very useful for UNCTAD networking and consensus-building efforts among stakeholders in the corporate reporting community, which increase public awareness of the role of high-quality reporting in sustainable development.

417. **Results.** For more than 35 years, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts has been providing member States with guidance and tools on a number of corporate reporting topics. These products have had a positive impact, assisting member States in implementing International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and other internationally recognized practices, such as guidelines on corporate governance disclosure, and environmental and corporate social responsibility reporting.

418. The thirty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts had over 300 registered participants from almost 80 countries. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts is the largest expert meeting of UNCTAD and one of the longest standing groups of experts in the United Nations system. High attendance underscores the sustained relevance of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts' work in shaping the international agenda in accounting and reporting, and its role in bringing the views of developing countries in the standard-setting process.

419. A survey shows that 97 per cent of participants found the session to be useful or very useful. In particular, over 95 per cent of participants rated the session's organization, attendance and substance as satisfactory or very satisfactory. Similarly,

almost 96 per cent of technical workshop participants rated the workshop as useful or very useful.

420. In concluding its deliberations at the thirty-fifth session, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts requested the UNCTAD secretariat to finalize its work on the guidance on core Sustainable Development Goal indicators for enterprise reporting in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework, and to conduct pilot-testing of the core indicators at the country level and by supporting member States through capacity-building initiatives in this area.

421. Furthermore, the session called on the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its work in developing metadata guidance for indicator 12.6.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, “number of companies publishing sustainability reports”, in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme, and to submit a proposal for indicator reclassification to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

422. With respect to the second main agenda item, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts requested the UNCTAD secretariat to continue facilitating sharing of good practices on the implementation of international standards of accounting and reporting in the public and private sectors, in particular with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their capacity-building efforts towards high-quality and globally comparable enterprise reporting.

## C8 Investment and public health

Table C8  
**Investment and Public Health**

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
GLO/0T/ABG	Technical assistance in developing countries in creating prospects for the domestic private sector in implementing the TRIPS agreement	2010–	Germany
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/DBW <sup>a</sup>	Access to high quality and affordable medicines in Africa and South-East Asia	2014–2018	Germany
INT/0T/DCA	Promoting Access to Knowledge and Education in Developing Countries	2014–	Germany
RAF/0T/HBT	Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement support programme to eliminate non-tariff barriers, increase regulatory transparency and promote industrial	2018–	Germany

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

423. **Development context.** The use and effectiveness of intellectual property rights regime varies among countries based on their level of development. The Intellectual Property Unit seeks to enhance the capacity of developing countries to tailor intellectual property rights to their development context and provides technical assistance to promote coherence in related policies, such as investment, trade and innovation. The intellectual property work programme targets Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Sustainable Development Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and Sustainable Development Goal 17 (policy and institutional coherence).

424. **Objectives/features.** The objectives of the programme are the following:

- (a) Development of domestic technological capacities and promotion of foreign investment;
- (b) Promotion of coherence between intellectual property policy and related law and policies, including investment, intellectual property and health;
- (c) Promotion of stakeholder ownership to ensure the sustainability of programme activities.

425. **Outputs.** The Intellectual Property Unit provided policy advice and capacity building in two areas:

- (a) Policy coherence for local production of pharmaceuticals;
- (b) Use of intellectual property rights for regional economic integration.

426. In 2018, UNCTAD organized and delivered nine capacity-building programmes and advisory services for beneficiary countries, such as Indonesia, Paraguay, the Philippines and Thailand, and regional organizations, such as the East African Community and the TRIPARTITE partner States. UNCTAD also participated in two activities organized by WHO, and WIPO providing technical inputs.

427. **Results.** Thanks to its work on intellectual property and public health, UNCTAD enjoys a high reputation among developing country governments and United Nations sister agencies. UNCTAD has become part of the international efforts to address the investment gap to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The UNCTAD–WHO joint event on AMR investment in October 2018 on the margins of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum attracted high-level participation.

428. In addition, United Nations sister agencies and United Nations Member States increasingly invite UNCTAD to contribute its expertise in intellectual property. In August 2018, WHO invited UNCTAD to contribute to its Working Group on Influenza Vaccine Supply Hubs in Manila. UNCTAD was invited by the Government of Indonesia to be the main contributor to a workshop for Indonesian international trade negotiators and experts from international organizations that took place in Bandung and Jakarta, from 16 to 17 July 2018. UNCTAD facilitated discussions on intellectual property rights under free trade agreements, especially in relation to public health, but also the protection of traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

429. Furthermore, the following results were achieved at national level.

430. *Philippines.* Following an UNCTAD workshop in April 2017 with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) on the implications of intellectual property provisions in free trade agreements for pharmaceutical patent examination, IPOHPL in January 2018 published revised guidelines for the examination of pharmaceutical patents.<sup>27</sup> IPOHPL thereby followed UNCTAD policy recommendations of taking account of public health considerations when examining the applications for pharmaceutical patents, as laid down in one of its publications.<sup>28</sup> The revised guidelines enable the Philippines to assess patent applications against the specific national needs, relying on the flexibility in multilateral intellectual property frameworks as clarified through UNCTAD’s technical cooperation.

431. *Paraguay.* The judges training in Paraguay was highly rated by its participants in terms of meeting their expectation, the balance between theory and practices and the overall methodology. The Supreme Court published information on the course on its

<sup>27</sup> See [https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/images/2018Uploads/Patents/REVISED\\_GUIDELINES\\_ON\\_THE\\_EXAMINATION\\_OF\\_PHARMACEUTICAL\\_APPLICATIONS\\_INVOLVING\\_KNOWN\\_SUBSTANCES.pdf](https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/images/2018Uploads/Patents/REVISED_GUIDELINES_ON_THE_EXAMINATION_OF_PHARMACEUTICAL_APPLICATIONS_INVOLVING_KNOWN_SUBSTANCES.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> “Guidelines for the examination of pharmaceutical patents: Developing a public health perspective”, WHO-ICTSD-UNCTAD. Available at [https://www.ictsd.org/sites/default/files/research/2008/06/correa\\_patentability20guidelines.pdf](https://www.ictsd.org/sites/default/files/research/2008/06/correa_patentability20guidelines.pdf).

websites.<sup>29</sup> In October 2018 the Supreme Court requested UNCTAD to deliver a follow-up training course for Paraguayan judges, potentially involving the judiciary from other South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay).

432. *South Africa*. Following UNCTAD advisory services to the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa, the country adopted its first national intellectual property policy in May 2018 after extensive consultation with stakeholders during two workshops organized by UNCTAD. The policy reflects UNCTAD technical advice.

## C9 International investment agreements

Table C9  
International Investment Agreements

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/0BG	Capacity-Building in Developing Countries in IIA	2000–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors

433. **Development context.** Today's network of international investment rules is multi-layered and multifaceted. The past years saw an expanding regime of international investment agreements (IIAs), with intensified efforts at the regional level. At the same time, a number of IIA terminations took effect.

434. Growing unease with the current functioning of the global IIA regime and the investor–State dispute settlement system, combined with the evolution of the international investment landscape, the greater role of Governments in the economy and the current sustainable development imperative led countries to reform their IIA regimes. Today, the question is not whether or not to reform, but about the what, how and extent of such reform.

435. Integrating sustainable development objectives into IIAs requires addressing a number of questions, including how to safeguard the right to regulate while preserving protection; how to enhance legal clarity of certain provisions; how to reform dispute settlement; how to promote and facilitate investment; how to ensure responsible investment; and how to manage the systemic complexity of the IIA regime. As such policy changes are taking hold in new treaties, the large stock of old-generation treaties is lagging behind and becoming an increasing source of friction in the process of modernization of the investment regime.

436. **Objectives and features.** The UNCTAD work programme on IIAs responds to this trend of reform, aiming to make the IIA regime work better for both States and investors, and more conducive to sustainable development. The programme covers activities in the three pillars of UNCTAD (research and policy analysis, technical assistance and advisory services, and intergovernmental consensus-building). The IIA work programme is guided by the Accra Accord, which established UNCTAD as the key focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with matters related to IIAs (paragraph 151), the Doha Mandate, which ratified it (para. 65 (k)) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which calls on UNCTAD to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with member States on investment agreements (para. 91). In addition, the Nairobi Maafikiano reiterates the call for UNCTAD to continue its

<sup>29</sup> See La Corte Suprema de Justicia, Derecho de propiedad intelectual y salud pública, May 2018 and Taller sobre propiedad intelectual y salud pública, 2018.

existing programme (para. 38 (l)) and to continue promoting a better understanding of issues related to IIA and their development dimension (para. 55 (hh)).

437. **Outputs.** In 2018, the main outputs are outlined below.

*Research work related to technical assistance*

438. In addition to regular reporting and monitoring on international investment policy developments, the IIA work programme carried out research and policy analysis, among others, for the following publications:

(a) *World Investment Report 2018*. The *World Investment Report 2018* (WIR18) was launched on 6 June 2018. Chapter III provides an update on IIA and ISDS-related developments and discusses trends in investment policymaking. It also takes stock of IIA reform actions, which have been undertaken at all levels (national, bilateral, regional, and multilateral) to conclude a new generation of sustainable development-oriented IIAs (phase 1 of IIA reform) and to modernize the existing stock of old-generation treaties (phase 2 of IIA reform). Chapter III also explains the necessity for and provides policy guidance for phase 3 of IIA reform. After improving the approach to new treaties and modernizing existing treaties, the last step in the reform process is to ensure coherence with national investment policies and with other bodies of international law. Chapter III analyses how synergies between the IIA regime and the national legal framework for investment can be maximized and how the interaction between IIAs and other bodies of international law affecting investment can be improved;

(b) UNCTAD Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (2018 edition), October 2018, Geneva. Launched at the UNCTAD World Investment Forum (WIF) 2018, the updated Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (2018 edition) combines the research and policy analysis from the *World Investment Report 2015* (the road map for IIA reform), the *World Investment Report 2017* (the 10 options for phase 2 of IIA reform) and the *World Investment Report 2018* (the guidance for phase 3 of IIA reform) into one single document makes available a coherent, sequenced and user-friendly set of options for countries engaging in IIA reform;

(c) *IIA issues notes*. The following issues notes were produced:

(i) Trends in IIAs, 30 May 2018. For 2017, the note recorded the lowest number of IIAs concluded since 1983. Moreover, for the first time, the number of treaty terminations outpaced the number of new IIA conclusions. In contrast, negotiations for certain megaregional agreements maintained momentum, especially in Africa and Asia. The note also took stock of progress in IIA reform (covering phase 1 and phase 2 of IIA reform). The note was launched as a precursor to the launch of WIR18;

(ii) IIA issues note: ISDS, Review of Developments in 2017, 28 June 2018. The UNCTAD annual review of ISDS cases contained an overview of cases initiated pursuant to IIAs, overall case outcomes and a summary analysis of decisions. At least 65 treaty-based arbitrations were filed in 2017, reaching 855 known cases in total. Investors brought many of the new cases under IIAs that date back to the 1980s and 1990s. This points to the importance of addressing “old-generation” treaties through phase 2 of IIA reform. Moreover, decisions rendered in 2017 alluded to phase 1 reform issues, e.g. tribunals addressed regulatory changes under fair and equitable treatment, the police powers doctrine, indirect expropriation, provisions limiting ISDS access, host State law compliance, the scope of the most-favoured-nation and umbrella clauses;

(iii) Fact sheet on intra-European Union investor-State arbitration cases, 20 December 2018. This IIA issues note presented statistics and facts on intra-European Union investor-State arbitration cases by the end of July 2018. It highlights that most known intra-European Union cases were brought against three European Union member States (Spain (40 cases), Czechia (30) and Poland (19)) and that 95 per cent of intra-European Union cases were based on investment treaties signed in the 1990s or earlier.

By 31 July 2018, some 91 intra- European Union ISDS cases had been concluded and 83 were pending.

### *Capacity-building*

439. Based on the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and its Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (covering, among others, the five areas for reform (phase 1) and the 10 options for modernizing the existing stock of treaties (phase 2)), the UNCTAD IIA Section carries out a range of technical assistance activities and advisory services. During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented.

440. Advisory services. They include reviews of a country's or region's IIA network; comments on country's or region's model treaties, and other analysis of various aspects of countries' IIA universes. Comments are provided with a view to identifying options for maximizing IIAs' sustainable development dimension. The analysis is tailor-made, considering the specificities of each country and/or region and, typically, the submission of written advisory services is complemented by one or several videoconferences, discussing the analysis undertaken on behalf of the country.

441. In response to requests from member States, UNCTAD provided IIA reviews for Bangladesh (January 2018), Chad (July 2018), Madagascar (July 2018), Morocco (October 2018), Nigeria (March 2018) and Pakistan (June 2018). In addition, and in response to requests from member States, UNCTAD provided comments on the model treaties of Kazakhstan (June 2018) and Pakistan (June 2018).

442. UNCTAD supports the African Union (AU), UNECA and other stakeholders in preparing the draft for the Investment Protocol of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, in preparation for phase II of the negotiations. A Joint UNCTAD-AU-UNECA Expert Meeting on the investment protocol took place on 12-15 November 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Following the recommendations of the meeting, UNCTAD contributed specific sections to the draft, which will be submitted to member States for starting negotiations by mid-2019.

443. Regional or other training courses hosted or co-hosted by UNCTAD in 2018 include the following:

(a) Joint UNCTAD-ITD Regional Training Course on IIAs, PPPs and National Investment Laws, 19–23 February 2018, Bangkok. Jointly with International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and in collaboration with IISD, UNCTAD organized a Regional Training Course for thirty Asia-Pacific investment policy officials from 17 countries. The 4.5 days of training were preceded by a public forum, featuring high-level officials from Thailand, and open to a large number of invited guests;

(b) Joint UNCTAD–Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Moroccan Agency for Investment and Export Development (AMDIE) workshop on “Enhancing Regional Approaches to Investment Protection for Sustainable Development”, 18–20 December 2018, Casablanca, Morocco for 60 experts (government officials, academia and the private sector) from 30 countries. Discussions addressed the best ways to reform existing and outdated regional investment agreements with a view to strengthening their sustainable development dimension. Experts attending the workshop agreed on 10 actionable points to guide countries in reforming their IIA regimes. The workshop responded to a growing technical assistance demand on issues related to the regionalization of IIA reform, particularly from Africa;

(c) Joint IISD–UNCTAD Workshops on Harnessing Investment for Sustainable Development Through PPPs in Infrastructure and Public Services (with a special focus on agriculture and rural infrastructure), 6 February 2018, Nairobi. The two half-day workshops responded to the demands expressed by developing country policymakers and investment promotion officials on the one hand, and investment data experts on the other. Participants included 43 representatives from 21 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

444. **Overall results and impact.** There is strong evidence that the IIA work programme has a concrete and positive impact. UNCTAD policy tools have shaped investment policymaking at all levels.

(a) Sustainable development-oriented reform of the IIA regime is well under way across all regions. Since 2012, over 150 countries have taken steps to formulate a new generation of IIAs (phase 1 of IIA reform). For example, they have reviewed their treaty networks and revised treaty models in line with the UNCTAD Reform Package for the International Investment Regime. In striking contrast to the treaties concluded at the turn of the millennium, all treaties concluded in 2017 contain at least six “reform features”. Provisions that were considered innovative in pre-2010 IIAs now appear regularly (see WIR 2018);

(b) Countries are also modernizing their existing stock of old-generation treaties or adopting guiding principles for investment policymaking (phase 2 of IIA reform). A small but growing number of countries are, for example, issuing interpretations or replacing their old-generation agreements. Countries have also been engaging in multilateral reform discussions, including with regard to ISDS. The more than 3,000 first-generation treaties today (representing some 90 per cent of the IIA universe) present further opportunity for phase 2 reform actions;

(c) A 2018 high-level IIA conference, “Going beyond IIAs: Fostering Coherence in Phase 3 of Reform”, held on 24 October 2018 in Geneva confirmed the central role of UNCTAD in supporting and facilitating multilateral engagement on international investment policymaking for sustainable development. The Conference convened more than 300 experts, including high-level IIA negotiators, representatives from intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. Through the close to 60 formal interventions, the event generated a uniquely comprehensive overview of the state of play and next steps for IIA reform from a cross cutting point of view. The conference also singled out the annual high-level IIA conference as an important and unique platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues on IIAs and urged UNCTAD to continue its work in this field;

(d) At the joint Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)-UNCTAD high-level expert meeting titled “Investment Facilitation in Africa” on 24–25 January 2018 in Casablanca, Morocco, government experts discussed the joint OIC-UNCTAD investment guiding principles for member States of the OIC as well as the draft declaration of the next OIC-Africa Summit. The 10 OIC guiding principles, based on the UNCTAD core principles for investment policymaking, promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development; promote coherence in national and international investment policymaking; foster an open, transparent and conducive policy environment for investment in OIC countries; and align investment promotion and facilitation policies with the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) The meeting confirmed the impact of UNCTAD in the 57 OIC countries for issues related to investment policies for sustainable development, which is also evidenced by the draft Summit Declaration for the next OIC-Africa Investment Summit (held in Tunisia in June 2019): “We hereby subscribe to the OIC-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policies to help African countries create investment rules that respond to the aspirations of the African people and that ensures that investment contributes to sustainable and equitable development.”

445. Further evidence and positive feedback include:

(a) “The OIC guiding principles for investment policies developed jointly with UNCTAD are innovative and responsive to the needs of OIC countries [...]”. Senior Legal Adviser, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Nigeria;

(b) “Thanks a lot for the extensive efforts in preparation the OIC guiding principles for investment policies. I am also grateful for your professionalism and how you successfully interpreted different views and observations of the experts in the Principles throughout the meeting and fully reflected them in the final document.” Senior Associate Researcher, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);



(c) “As my final words, I would like to congratulate UNCTAD for the outstanding work regarding all aspects related to investment policies. Today’s conference is a clear example”. Secretary of Foreign Trade of Brazil, at the 2018 high-level IIA conference, held during the UNCTAD World Investment Forum (WIF) October 2018 in Geneva;

(d) “[The] Ministry for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan expresses its deep gratitude for rendering assistance and greatly appreciates an expert evaluation (...) to draft methodological recommendations for the development of international investment agreements”. Statement from letter, July 2018. Vice-Minister, Ministry for Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

(e) “In taking forward these discussions, UNCTAD is ideally positioned as a multilateral forum, and thus the discussions and recommendations from this meeting should form UNCTAD policy action plans”. Principal Secretary, State Department of Investment and Industry, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Kenya;

(f) “Je tiens à vous remercier ainsi que vos services pour la qualité des commentaires et recommandations formulées dans votre rapport”. Statement from letter, October 2018. Minister of Economy and Finance, Morocco;

(g) “I thank UNCTAD for its technical support in the validation of our assessment of our signed BITs, in the reform of our national investment law and for its consistent support over the years in relation to the reform of our IIA regime”. Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Nigeria.

## C10 Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks

Table C10

### Competition and Consumer Protection Policies and Frameworks

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ALB/0T/BCT	“Delivering as one”, Albania project	2012–	One United Nations
ALB/0T/EAR	“Delivering as one”, Albania project, DRT-F	2016–	One United Nations
CVI/0T/HBL	Cabo Verde 2018 One United Nations Fund	2018–	One United Nations
ETH/0T/DCC	Strengthening Competition and Consumer Protection Enforcement Capacities in Ethiopia	2015–	Luxembourg
URT/0T/DAK	“Delivering as one” joint programme on market value chains	2015–	United Nations Office for Project Services
INT/0T/DBG	MENA	2015–	Sweden
RAF/0T/GAF	Renforcement de la concurrence et la protection des consommateurs en Afrique Centrale	2017–	European Commission
RLA/0T/EAG <sup>a</sup>	COMPAL III	2016–2018	Switzerland
RAS/0T/DBM <sup>a</sup>	Strengthening Technical Competency for Consumer Protection in ASEAN <sup>a</sup>	2015–2018	ASEAN

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

446. **Development context.** Competition law and policy aims to make markets work for consumers, contributing to economic growth and sustainable development through market openness, innovation and economic efficiency. Competition policy complements trade policy, ensuring that the benefits brought by trade and investment liberalization are

not hampered by anticompetitive business practices. Consumer protection empowers consumers to play an active role in the market, through informed, responsible and sustainable choices, and it ensures that unfair commercial practices are sanctioned, and consumers protected. In a globalized world competition and consumer protection laws and policies are increasingly faced with cross-border challenges, which demand for regional and international cooperation to guarantee a level playing field for business and a high level of consumer protection across the world.

447. Most of the technical cooperation projects of UNCTAD comprise both competition and consumer protection and three significant projects have a regional dimension (COMPAL-Latin America; MENA-Middle East and North African countries; CEMAC-Central Africa Economic and Monetary Union), demonstrating the importance of competition and consumer protection policies as tools to promote regional integration in different continents.

448. Latin American economies are particularly vulnerable to anticompetitive and unfair business practices: poor business infrastructure and complex regulatory and licensing regimes make it harder for companies to enter these markets; their policies, laws and regulations are often not sufficiently robust, while their enforcement agencies may lack the capacity to effectively detect and address many instances of anticompetitive behaviour; and citizens and businesses are less aware of the importance of an open, competitive market and do not know and/or exercise their rights. Latin American markets are fragmented and lack of trust from consumers in regional and global markets discourages business investment. Moreover, in the region, legislations and capacities are weak and sometimes outdated, and financial and human resources in the area of competition and consumer protection are deficient.

449. In the MENA region, there is little trade between neighbouring countries and there is a large informal sector. The region also faces additional challenges regarding good governance and gender equality. The promotion of regional economic integration through improved competition and consumer protection policies, aiming for a positive impact on gender balance and good governance, is therefore appropriate and timely.

450. In Central Africa, competition and consumer protection policies are not effective. In order to promote the integration of the economies of the subregion and a competitive regional market, it is imperative to coordinate and harmonize existing legislation in the six member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and to extend this legislation to Sao Tome and Principe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

451. Following the recommendations of the UNCTAD voluntary peer review of the United Republic of Tanzania conducted in 2012, training on competition and consumer protection law and policies was requested, to assist the country's enforcers and main actors to better understand and implement these policies.

452. Cabo Verde is undergoing an important development strategy, as the recent UNCTAD investment policy review (2018) illustrates. The Government decided to establish a Competition Authority, to reinforce the framework for an effective market economy and to secure increased trade and investment flows.

453. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD aims to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in adopting or revising competition and consumer protection legislation and policies, to align with international best practices, as well as regional frameworks in these areas. Competition and consumer protection policies are complementary to trade and industrial policies and seek to promote economic growth and sustainable development. They play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

454. The UNCTAD competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks tool contributes to the strengthening of competition and consumer protection regimes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition by developing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks; drafting competition and consumer protection legislation adapted to member States' current challenges; designing institutional

frameworks; building human capacities through training programmes; and developing competition and consumer protection curricula for universities.

455. **Outputs.** In Latin America, COMPAL<sup>30</sup> work aims to improve competition and consumer protection policies and move towards convergence between the beneficiaries. UNCTAD completed the implementation of its three-year technical assistance programme for the 17 members of Latin America. The main objective of the COMPAL programme third edition was to enhance intra-regional trade and regional integration in Latin America through the adoption and implementation of competition and consumer protection laws and policies in a coordinated manner.

456. In 2018, the following activities were organized:

(a) “Promoviendo la competencia y la protección del consumidor en el Fútbol profesional y el Mundial en la Federación de Rusia 2018”: UNCTAD organized several conferences on the repercussions of the football business in the areas of competition, unfair competition and consumer protection (Lima, April 2018);

(b) IV INDECOPI-COMPAL School on Consumer protection on alternative dispute resolution (April 2018, Lima);<sup>31</sup>

(c) Event “Unfair Practices in Consumer Protection”, to promote the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection under the COMPAL programme in cooperation with the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce and the Externado University of Colombia (May 2018);

(d) Workshop on Consumer Protection for Judges in Dominican Republic, June 2018;

(e) Annual meeting of the International Consumer Protection Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico, October 2018: the UNCTAD COMPAL International Forum for Consumer Protection is the only regional meeting dedicated to consumer protection, engaging all relevant stakeholders – private sector, civil society, legal and economic practitioners and academics, apart from consumer protection agencies. For the Forum’s agenda UNCTAD suggested three panel topics, seeking to make the case for increased international cooperation: the contribution of consumer protection for sustainable consumption to identify priorities and ways followed by public authorities and the private sector, in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; consumer protection of financial services, to address challenges faced by Latin American consumers of financial services and actions undertaken by Governments to tackle them; the protection of children’s personal data online based on best practices and national and regional regulatory frameworks;

(f) Annual meeting of the Latin American Working Group on Trade and Competition organized in cooperation with Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (Brasilia, October 2018): the meeting boosted cooperation and stronger coherence between national competition and trade policymakers, as well as between the respective government agencies. It gathered 60 delegates from Latin American and Caribbean countries, most of whom were women, from competition and trade authorities to discuss on trade and competition in the use of port infrastructure and the international maritime transport. Participants agreed on the need for constant dialogue among trade authorities, regulated bodies and competition authorities to support the formulation of more effective policies;

(g) Establishment and consolidation of a knowledge-management platform for COMPAL member countries;

(h) Guidelines to advise companies on the application of competition and consumer protection rules and on leniency programmes for Colombia and Peru;

<sup>30</sup> <https://unctadcompal.org/>.

<sup>31</sup> See <https://unctadcompal.org/events/cuarto-programa-formacion-especializada-la-escuela-indecopi-compal-proteccion-al-consumidor-mecanismos-alternativos-conflictos-consumo/>.

(i) COMPAL undertook an assessment of the impact of national competition authorities' activities on their respective markets from 2015 to 2017. The report was made public in July 2018.

457. UNCTAD completed the implementation of activities of its four-year technical assistance programme for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, covering Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the State of Palestine. The main objective of the UNCTAD MENA programme was to promote regional integration through improved competition and consumer protection laws and policies. One of the results achieved was to enable the adoption and/or modernization of competition and consumer protection legal and institutional frameworks in all MENA beneficiaries, notwithstanding their different national models and experience

458. Under the MENA programme, UNCTAD organized the following activities during the reporting period:

(a) The opening of the Regional Training Centre for Consumer Protection in Egypt, followed by a regional workshop (February, Cairo): the MENA guidelines on consumer protection agency structure and business engagement and on consumer associations were discussed and validated. The framework of consumer protection agencies' structure and the role and relevance of consumer associations and of business for a more effective consumer protection system in the MENA region were widely discussed;

(b) A regional workshop on competition law and policy in the premises of the Regional Training Centre for Competition in Tunisia (May, Tunis): the guidelines on competition agency structure and business compliance were discussed and validated. The competitive neutrality report was disseminated, and the topic of competition and public procurement was also discussed. The target audience included representatives from competition authorities, relevant ministries and business representatives from MENA programme beneficiaries;

(c) A graduate course on Competition and compliance, in cooperation with the Zurich School of Management and Law (ZHAW), including two-week training in Geneva (July) and a one-week training in Cairo (November) for representatives of the MENA competition authorities. This course is organized under the memorandum of understanding between UNCTAD and ZHAW School. ZHAW School is one of the largest universities in Switzerland and is renowned for its expertise inter alia, in competition policy, law and economics, and international trade. Within the course, the beneficiary participants of UNCTAD MENA programme increased their knowledge and expertise on competition law and compliance for future use in their daily work and for dissemination in the competition authorities of their respective countries;

(d) UNCTAD conducted the first ever voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy of Morocco (July, Geneva): the peer review report included findings and recommendations, which served as a basis for the discussions at the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Law and Policy. The review panel included representatives of the consumer protection agencies of Belgium, Lebanon and Portugal;

(e) A regional workshop on consumer protection in the premises of the Lebanon Regional Training Centre for Consumer Protection (October, Beirut): the guidelines on complaint handling and dispute resolution and redress, on electronic commerce, on product safety and risk assessment as well as on gender equality and consumer protection were presented and validated;

(f) The opening of the Regional Training Centre for Competition in Egypt (November, Cairo);

(g) Sessions on competition, consumer protection and regulation (focusing on the telecoms, energy and financial services' markets) and on competition and gender were organized within the MENA programme final review meeting (December, Geneva);

(h) The MENA webpage was presented and made available: in this online knowledge sharing platform, all the programme's products (guidelines and reports) and

activities (background documents and presentations made in workshops and meetings) will be uploaded and made available;

(i) Two train-the-trainers modules on competition and consumer protection to support the competition and consumer protection authorities were disclosed;

(j) A cooperation framework between universities of MENA countries for teaching, training and disseminating competition and consumer protection was presented: it seeks to develop a network of institutions, scholars/researchers in competition and consumer laws in the MENA countries to promote teaching, training and dissemination of competition and consumer laws, to create a forum for discussion, and to foster collaboration and research in these fields.

459. The CEMAC project lies within the framework of the programme of support to trade and economic integration of this organization financed by the European Union and is linked to the Economic Partnership Agreement of Central Africa, currently being negotiated to create an environment conducive to economic growth, investment and a regional market largely integrated. In 2018, UNCTAD organized the following activities:

(a) The revision of the regional competition rules for the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). The rules have been validated by the six Ministers in charge of Competition law and policy of the CEMAC members in December. The adoption of the revised rules by the ministerial conference for the CEMAC took place in March 2019;

(b) Regional guidelines on consumer protection for Central Africa based on the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection: also validated by the six ministers in charge of competition law and policy of CEMAC in December. Its adoption is expected in 2019;

(c) The design of the competition law and consumer protection laws for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The competition law was adopted in June. The draft consumer protection law was submitted to the Parliament, with its adoption expected in 2019;

(d) The revision of the consumer protection of the Congo;

(e) The revision of the competition law of Sao Tome and Principe;

(f) The preparation of training material on economic analysis and competition policy which will be used to train officials working with young competition agencies in the beneficiary countries;

(g) The preparation of a guide on how to manage young competition agencies in Central Africa;

(h) The preparation of a report on the legal statutes of competition agencies in the context of the CEMAC;

(i) The adaptation of UNCTAD manual on consumer protection from English into French;

(j) Advocacy workshops on competition and consumer protection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa, May), Gabon (Libreville, May), Sao Tome and Principe (June) and Equatorial Guinea (Malabo, October).

460. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNCTAD organized three training workshops on competition and consumer protection law and policies as a follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations of the voluntary peer review of the United Republic of Tanzania conducted in 2012, in collaboration with the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) of the United Republic of Tanzania:

(a) The first one was about competition policy and law enforcement and targeted FCC and the Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) staff. It covered the link between competition policy and other government policies, the importance of policy coordination, substantive competition law enforcement issues, including anticompetitive agreements, abuse of dominance, merger analysis, etc.;

(b) The second training workshop was on consumer protection and covered topics such as the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection (UNCGP) and the Sustainable Development Goals, consumer information and education, product safety and liability, consumer protection enforcement systems in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, business conduct and consumer protection, consumer protection in e-commerce and financial services, dispute resolution and consumer redress, consumer protection in the digital era and international cooperation;

(c) The third training workshop addressed the Fair Competition Tribunal judges/members and commissioners of both ZFCC and FCC. The principal objective of the training seminar was to familiarize them with both the economics underpinning national competition laws and how this combines with the legal approach to competition law enforcement. The training also covered the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, UNCTAD work in this area and the current and emerging issues in the advent of the digital economy.

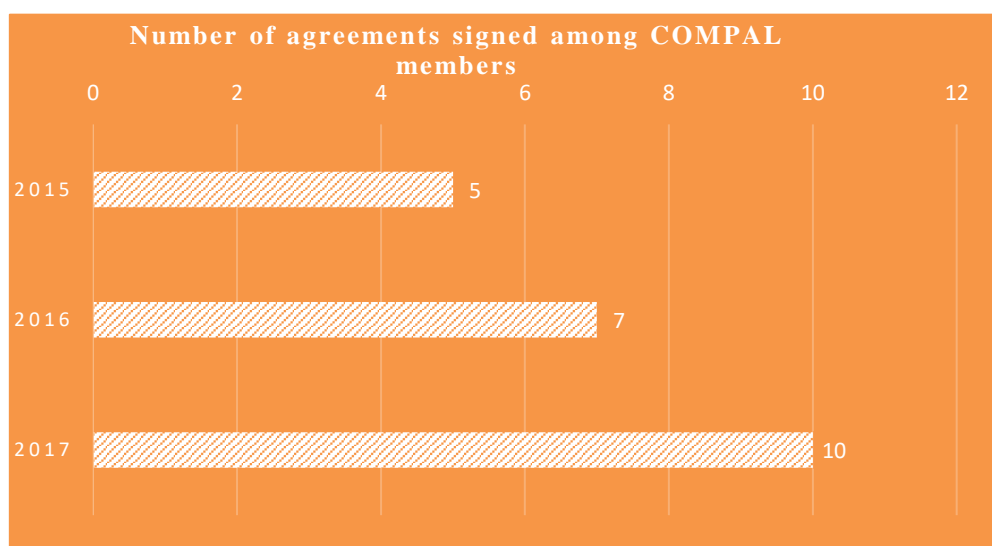
461. UNCTAD organized a mission to Cabo Verde to discuss the launch of the Competition Authority of Cabo Verde and UNCTAD cooperation under the UNDAF 2018–2022. UNCTAD also participated and intervened in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Finances entitled “The implementation of the competition law in Cabo Verde: the relationship between competition policy and sector regulation in a cooperation perspective”. The aim was to sensitize sectoral regulators and relevant stakeholders to the importance of a Competition (and consumer protection) agenda in view of the future creation of a competition authority in Cabo Verde and to encourage coordination and cooperation mechanisms. Other meetings with representatives of the Ministry for Industry, Trade and Energy raised awareness to the advocacy work needed in regard with the launch of the future competition authority as well as for the need of a formal Consumer protection policy.

462. Thanks to the fruitful cooperation and partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) Jakarta office, UNCTAD was able to address the request from Indonesia to undertake a Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Policy to be presented at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy in July 2019.

463. Furthermore, UNCTAD and GIZ participated in the fourteenth Annual Conference of the Asian Competition Forum (ACF) in Hong Kong, China, in December. UNCTAD and GIZ jointly presented a research on cartels and algorithms for the benefit of the whole Asian region, strengthening the fruitful cooperation between UNCTAD and the ACF;

464. **Results.** In order to measure the result of COMPAL activities, an evaluation questionnaire is circulated after each activity to the participants of courses/workshops or directly to beneficiaries. According to the questionnaires, the general perception ameliorates each year. A trend towards regional convergence in public policies of competition and consumer protection is shown by the indicators of new cooperation agreements signed between members and the monitoring of regional activities. There was a 50 per cent increase in new cooperation agreements signed among COMPAL beneficiaries since the third phase started in 2015. Members particularly appreciate the support that COMPAL gives them to strengthen informal links between agencies through the knowledge platform, appreciated the quality and content of training courses (average satisfaction of 92 per cent) and the richness of debate and discussion in the framework of international forums conducted by COMPAL.

465. Heads of beneficiary agencies of COMPAL unanimously agree that the programme enabled enhanced cooperation on competition and consumer protection.



466. In 2018 COMPAL published a detailed report on Cooperation among COMPAL members: evolution and perspectives.<sup>32</sup> The report found that 52 per cent of COMPAL beneficiaries believe that COMPAL had served to enhance cooperation activities through easier exchanges and 36 per cent found that COMPAL had been instrumental in engaging in new formal cooperation agreements. The report analysed all other regional initiatives on competition and consumer protection (Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation, Consumer Safety and Health Network, Ibero-American Consumer Protection Forum, Latin American Competition Forum, Regional Centre for Competition [currently inactive]). It also highlighted that COMPAL has the largest membership and that it set up constructive partnerships with all other initiatives, thus avoiding duplications. Given the high engagement of beneficiary countries, it concluded that COMPAL should undergo a fourth phase.

467. COMPAL undertook an assessment of the impact of national competition authorities' activities in their respective markets from 2015 to 2017. The assessment analysed: the enforcement experience, the economic impact of enforcement, the most important cases and a meta-analysis of the existing evaluations in terms of consumer welfare and gross domestic product (GDP). The assessment was open to all COMPAL beneficiary countries. The following countries participated: Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru.

468. The assessment found the following:

<i>Benefit for consumers due to national competition enforcement</i>				
<i>Benefit/GDP (%)</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Average 2015–2017</i>
Argentina	0.4218	0.4006	0.3672	0.396
Chile	0.0314	0.0357	0.0287	0.032
Colombia	0.1325	0.1095	0.2590	0.167
Ecuador	0.1676	0.3068	0.2031	0.225
El Salvador	0.0287	0.0526	0.0882	0.056
Peru	0.0199	0.0044	0.2202	0.082

<sup>32</sup> <https://unctadcompal.org/documento/cooperacion-entre-los-miembros-del-compal-evolucion-y-perspectivas>.

469. The benefits for consumers differ considerably, from 0.032 per cent of GDP in Chile to 0.396 per cent of GDP in Argentina (who uses a different methodology). These remain, nevertheless, within the range of variation of other evaluations. For example, considering the studies of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Union measuring these same effects in the 2008–2013 period, the annual benefit for consumers ranges from 0.006 per cent of GDP in the United States of America to 0.10 per cent of GDP in the Netherlands.

470. It is interesting to note that the data for Latin American countries is in general higher than the one regarding more experienced competition agencies from developed countries. Probably benefits for consumers of competition enforcement are greater in less developed economies where there is less competition and where impact of enforcement in markets is greater.

<i>Benefit for consumers due to national competition enforcement</i>				
<i>Millions of United States dollars</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Average</i>
Argentina	3 666.30	2 307.60	2 068.50	2 680.8
Chile	76.1	88.1	75.4	79.9
Colombia	386.4	309	796.4	497.3
Ecuador	167.9	300	200.2	222.7
El Salvador	7.5	14	24.1	15.2
Peru	38.3	8.6	462.5	169.8
Total benefit (6 countries)	4 342.5	3 027.3	3 627.1	3 665.6
GDP (6 countries)	1 484 228	1 394 016	1 526 549	1 468 264
Benefit/GDP (%)	0.293	0.216	0.346	0.285

471. In absolute terms the average benefit for consumers for the 6 countries was US\$3.665 million or 0.285 per cent of GDP. If these averages were kept constant for all 17 beneficiary countries of COMPAL, whose joint GDP is US\$4,061,700, the aggregate benefit for consumers due to national competition enforcement could be estimated to be US\$11,575 for the period 2015–2107.

472. These figures are much higher than the national budgets allocated to competition agencies, which shows a positive return on investment for public finances.

<i>Benefit for consumers versus national budget allocated to competition authorities</i>				
<i>Benefit/budget</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Average (2015–2017)</i>
Argentina	952.15	555.08	319.69	797.59
Colombia	-	34.71	76.57	57.28
El Salvador	2.94	5.52	9.46	5.97
Peru	9.06	3.30	124.64	45.66

473. Knowledge-sharing, exchange of experiences and peer learning among members are happening through the implementation of the COMPAL knowledge management platform. Agencies reported using the platform on a daily basis to look for documents and materials as well as for deepening informal exchanges among COMPAL members.

474. MENA programme activities and products were very well received. Five main results of the implementation of this programme should be highlighted as follows:



(a) The programme established cooperation networks between the beneficiaries' competition authorities and consumer protection agencies and with other relevant stakeholders. The three regional workshops organized in 2018 on various competition and consumer policy issues in the Regional Training Centres of Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon, following previous years' similar activities brought together competition and consumer authorities and experts, who got better acquainted and developed a working relationship as well as informal contacts that facilitate exchanges of information and networking. Furthermore, representatives from other government bodies, sectoral regulators, business, consumer associations and the judiciary widened the scope of the discussions, allowing for a comprehensive view of perspectives in both areas and opening informal cooperation possibilities;

(b) UNCTAD, in cooperation with the host countries' beneficiaries, established four regional training centres,<sup>33</sup> two on competition in Egypt and Tunisia and two on consumer protection in Egypt and Lebanon. The centres will serve as infrastructures to provide training for strengthening the capacities and expertise of the beneficiaries' officials and stakeholders and to further develop and expand cooperation in both fields at regional level. This will pave the way towards a more effective enforcement of Competition and Consumer protection laws and policies in the region;

(c) Two reports on gender and competition, and gender and consumer protection were prepared by UNCTAD under this project. This provided an opportunity to bring in the gender dimension to the discussions of competition and consumer protection policies. This led to raised awareness on the utmost importance of gender equality and the need to mainstream gender in these policies among the beneficiaries' stakeholders;

(d) UNCTAD developed two sets of train-the-trainers programmes for the MENA beneficiaries, regarding competition and consumer protection law enforcement targeted to enforcers and case handlers from the UNCTAD MENA programme beneficiaries. These training programmes will facilitate the strengthening of capacities in both fields in the beneficiary countries, building on the training activities organized under the project and will contribute as important tools to the sustainability of the programme's benefits by the beneficiary institutions themselves;

(e) Several reports on key competition and consumer protection issues (agency structure and business engagement and compliance; consumer complaints and unfair commercial practices; dispute resolution and redress; e-commerce; product safety) were produced to assist the competition and consumer authorities of the beneficiaries when designing new policies and for better enforcing their laws.

475. The revised community competition rules for CEMAC and the draft competition rules for the Democratic Republic of the Congo enhanced the knowledge of officials from the competition authorities on barriers to competition in the economic integration of the region and measures needed to reduce them. The information provided to stakeholders on necessary legal and institutional reforms contributed to improving the legal framework towards enhancing competitive markets and economic integration in the CEMAC area. The workshops raised the awareness of the participants on issues related to the enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws in the context of least developing countries. A declaration was adopted at the end of each workshop containing specific actions to be implemented at national level to enhance the institutional and regulatory framework for an effective enforcement of competition and consumer protection law.

476. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the training workshops contributed to enhancing enforcement capacities of the staff and Commissioners of the FCC and ZFCC. ZFCC was set up in March 2018. Both staff and commissioners from ZFCC greatly benefited from the training workshops, which increased their knowledge and understanding of current competition and consumer protection issues and how to address them. The training workshop for FCT judges/members helped enhance their understanding of adjudication of competition and consumer protection cases. Participants

<sup>33</sup> Working in Arabic and French in Tunisia and Lebanon and in English in Egypt.

also enriched their knowledge by exchanging ideas and experiences with regional and international experts.

477. In Cabo Verde, UNCTAD work underlined the importance of a competition authority, coinciding with the Government's priority on its launch and the interest to use the current UNDAF to support UNCTAD cooperation. The Government announced publicly that Cabo Verde would establish a competition authority in 2019, illustrating the commitment of the country to the competition policy, during the most recent mission of UNCTAD.

## C99 Other

Table C99

### Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
DIAE			
INT/0T/GAR	Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Regulator Capacity-Building	2018–	Public donations
GDS			
INT/0T/FAP	Wuhan Globalization Seminars	2016–	China
OSG			
INT/0T/0BU	Support to UNCTAD technical cooperation	2000–	Belgium

### 1. Capital markets and responsible investment

478. **Development context.** UNCTAD has deepened its work on responsible investment through several channels, particularly the activities of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative. Launched in 2009, the SSE was built on the demand from exchanges for a place to come together with investors, companies and policymakers to share good practices and challenges in a multi-stakeholder environment. The initiative has grown into what is now a global partnership platform including most of the world's stock exchanges. In 2018 the membership of stock exchanges grew to 81 stock exchanges and the SSE expanded its collaboration with regulators including capital market authorities from 16 markets joining the SSE Consultative Group.

479. **Objectives/features.** UNCTAD work on responsible investment aims to achieve the following objectives through research, consensus-building and technical assistance:

- (a) Providing capital market stakeholders worldwide with proof of concept of supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through capital market regulation, training and education, and market norms;
- (b) Supply data to help markets to better react to sustainability challenges;
- (c) Sharing of experiences and learning from other markets;
- (d) Developing a network support system.

480. **Outputs.** In 2018, research produced included a targeted policy guide for capital market regulators with the purpose of sharing experience in promoting sustainable finance and new work on the progress of stock exchanges' sustainability activities. These new publications provide capital market stakeholders with examples of best practice, market trends and an action plan for supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. A new ranking also provided insight into the level of sustainability disclosure of companies listed on 35 stock exchanges. The initiative also launched a new searchable

database with data on the sustainability practices of 94 stock exchanges worldwide, the most comprehensive database on stock exchanges publicly available.

481. The SSE held a number of events aimed at disseminating knowledge and building consensus on capital market transparency and sustainability, including the following key events:

(a) The Euronext opening bell on 27 November 2018 raised awareness of climate finance alongside the fourth Climate Finance Day in Paris;

(b) The SSE Global Dialogue brought together market leaders to deliberate on current challenges, exchange views on best practice and set the direction of travel for stock exchanges committed to promoting sustainable finance in Geneva, Switzerland on 23 October 2018;

(c) Four events covering commodity trading, sustainability bonds, blended capital and smart beta took place within the UNCTAD World Investment Forum in October 2018;

(d) SSE disseminated a Spanish version of its action plan on green finance alongside the Group of 20 meetings in Argentina at the Argentinean Stock Exchange (BCBA) in July 2018;

(e) SSE convened its Advisory Group in Geneva to build consensus on how security market regulators can support sustainable finance and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in April 2018;

(f) SSE Ring the Bell for Gender Equality events raised awareness on the business case for women's economic empowerment and the opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development in March 2018 at 65 stock exchanges worldwide;

(g) SSE partnered with IFC to hold a round table at the London Stock Exchange in January 2018 to disseminate new work on ESG guidance.

482. Through the SSE, UNCTAD has developed a new tool for capital market regulators and facilitated a new network for supporting the progress of capital market regulation in support of sustainable finance and sustainable development. Capital market regulatory authorities from the following countries were included in the working group: Brazil, China, Hong Kong (China), Croatia, Egypt, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

483. The SSE also provided technical assistance through providing bespoke training and by speaking at events. SSE team members contributed to 16 events in 2018, providing technical assistance to stock exchanges, regulatory authorities, industry associations, academics and civil society. The SSE also held a number of technical assistance calls with stock exchanges, regulators, industry associations, Governments and international organizations, including the European Commission, ASEA exchanges sustainability working group, the Federation of Euro-Asian Exchanges (FEAS), the Asian Development Bank, AIFC and IOSCO.

484. Eight webinars were held in 2018 to provide technical assistance on responsible investment on the following topics: sustainability reporting guidance for listed companies, security regulation that supports the Sustainable Development Goals, training markets on sustainability reporting and sustainable investment, and gender equality. More than 50 stock exchanges participated on a minimum of one of these webinars.

485. The SSE also provided technical assistance to stock exchanges who are working to develop guidance on sustainability reporting for their market as part of its objective to have all stock exchanges providing guidance on sustainability reporting.

486. Impact. In 2018 the SSE increased its membership by 20 per cent to 81 SSE partner exchanges. Five stock exchanges published a guidance for their market on sustainability reporting in 2018 and two exchanges committed to doing so in the coming

year. There are now 42 stock exchanges with guidance on sustainability reporting, up from just 14 when the SSE started encouraging exchanges to do this.

487. SSE work was endorsed by the European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (HLEG) in its final report, as well as the International Organization for Security Regulators (IOSCO) when launching its sustainability network in 2018.

488. Egypt: "I applaud the SSE and its Advisory Group for making a valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion among securities market regulators, exchanges, investors and issuers to promote sustainable finance. This new SSE research provides a constructive framework and practical set of illustrative examples to help securities regulators further explore how they can encourage investment in sustainable development." – Executive Chair, Financial Regulatory Authority, Egypt.

489. "The analysis in this report (the SSE 2018 report on progress) can help encourage some healthy competition between markets to enhance their information disclosure. This is important, but we all need to collaborate to enhance data, dialogue and the investment required for a smooth transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy." –CEO of FTSE Russell, London Stock Exchange Group.

490. "We are delighted to join the SSE initiative. This collaboration with the United Nations partnership programme for sustainable capital markets will help us build capacity to further promote integration of sustainability considerations and corporate transparency into our issuer's corporate behaviour and business practices. We believe that this partnership will help us strengthen our efforts in promoting the role of stock exchanges in fostering economic growth, improving SME access to finance and advancing corporate governance disclosure and performance among companies in Serbia." – CEO of the Belgrade Stock Exchange.

## 2. Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization

### 2.1. *Wuhan Globalization Seminars*

491. **Development context.** The rapid and successful integration of China into the world economy since the 1990s provides valuable lessons and insights of the opportunities and challenges posed by economic globalization for the process of structural transformation and development. Studying the country's recent development experiences and potential implications for own national development strategies is therefore of great significance for policymakers from other developing nations.

492. The Wuhan Seminars are a training programme, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China and UNCTAD since 2006. The programme is focused on the area of economic globalization and the development experience of China.

493. **Objectives and features.** The main objective of the project is to enable policymakers from developing nations to study the development experience of China in the context of the dynamics of economic globalization processes, and to gain a deeper understanding of strategic requirements for their national development processes in this context. Furthermore, the project also aims at supporting Chinese policymakers in their efforts to keep abreast of ongoing developments in the global economy and to enhance sensitivity to policy options at national levels to meet new challenges.

494. **Outputs.** Entrusted by the Ministry of Commerce of China, the China–Europe Vocational Training Centre and UNCTAD have successfully held and organized more than 20 international seminars on a range of issues relating to economic globalization processes, their impacts on trade, industrialization and macro-financial policy spaces in developing countries, as well as lessons to be learned from the development experience of China.

495. In 2018, UNCTAD delivered a Wuhan Globalization Seminar on challenges posed by current features of economic globalization for late industrialization and the financing of structural transformation on 12–18 September. Sixty-six participants from 19 developing countries benefited from the seminar.

496. **Results.** Since the beginning of the project, nearly 1 000 governmental officials from 89 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Oceania participated in the programme. The seminar series, including in particular the economic globalization series, has persistently received highly positive feedback and remains very popular with participants. The programme overall is very much welcomed by policymakers in developing nations and has, over the years, impacted substantially on training for developmental policy analysis and design.

#### IV. Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future

497. The transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It aims at ending poverty in all its forms and improving human well-being. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require, on the one hand, sound strategies and policies made by Governments and, on the other hand, the engagement of all people from different sectors of society, including local authorities, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, women and farmers. To support policymaking and the effective participation of people in this new development process, it is essential to strengthen their skills and update their knowledge base through capacity-building activities.

498. UNCTAD has developed well-targeted technical assistance programmes (including training) to build capacity for various stakeholders including policymakers, academic institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and port operators in developing countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD supports developing country policymakers in mainstreaming gender in trade policy and empowering women in trade.

499. In this section, reports are presented on three products under the theme “Empowering people, investing in their future”. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2018 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing three products in this thematic area are reported under “D99 Other”.

#### D1 Trade, gender and development

Table D1  
Trade, Gender and Development

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/CAI	Capacity-Building in Trade and Gender	2013–	Multi-donor
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-TMEA Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Trade and Gender	2014–	Germany
RAS/0T/HAQ	Transparency in Trade Regulation and Facilitation in PACER Plus	2018–	Australia, New Zealand
ROA-1617 (J10)	Informal cross-border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in the Great Lakes region	2016–	Development Account

500. **Development context.** Trade has great potential to foster economic growth and development, but many are at risk of being excluded or marginalized. There is growing awareness that the gains from trade are unequally distributed and that trade impacts different segments of the population, including men and women, in different ways. Women are important players in trade in their roles as producers, workers, entrepreneurs and traders: they have increased their share of the labour force, of management jobs and roles as entrepreneurs, and their growing participation in the economy has been a major

engine of growth and competitiveness. Despite all these advancements, women's potential in trade is too often held back by the many constraints they face. Trade liberalization may be a strong force for providing new opportunities for women but may inadvertently further entrench or exacerbate existing gender biases and discrimination. An in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is therefore necessary to make trade a tool for inclusive growth and the economic empowerment of women. To analyse such problems and offer solutions, UNCTAD has set up a work programme on trade, gender and development.

501. **Objectives/features of the programme.** Through its work programme on trade, gender and development, UNCTAD contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8, on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by promoting the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies, in particular trade policies, that are gender inclusive. UNCTAD work in this area is also strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5 and recognizes gender equality and women's economic empowerment as key elements to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specifically, the work programme supports the membership to (a) assess the gender ramifications of trade policy, (b) identify gender-based constraints that hinder women's beneficial participation in international trade and (c) devise strategies to overcome such constraints and make trade a tool for inclusive development.

502. **Outputs.** During the period under review, the UNCTAD trade, gender and development programme assisted beneficiary countries in assessing the gender effects of trade policies, and in devising strategies and policy measures to overcome gender-based constraints that hinder inclusive development. Activities carried out include:

#### *Training*

503. Fourth iteration of UNCTAD standard online course on trade and gender (28 May–15 July 2018). The course is part of the capacity-building project funded by the Government of Finland and was based on volume I of the UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender. The objective of this distance-learning initiative is to equip government officials, academics and civil society representatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with analytical tools to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and to produce gender-aware policy recommendations. In its fourth iteration, the course was taken by 79 participants and graduated 67 participants including 53 women and 14 men from 51 countries.

504. UNCTAD developed additional teaching resources with a focus on two regions in sub-Saharan Africa, namely the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC):

(a) Online course on trade and gender for the EAC region (21 May – 15 July 2018). The eight-week online course focusing on the specific needs and contexts of the East African Community region hosted 86 participants from the five EAC countries, graduating 35 women and 12 men.

(b) Online course on trade and gender for the SADC region (15 October – 9 December 2018). The eight-week online course on trade and gender for the Southern Africa Development Community hosted 62 participants, of which 37 successfully completed the course (21 women and 16 men).

#### *Analytical activities*

505. During the reporting year, two regional teaching modules were developed based on UNCTAD teaching material on trade and gender with the aim of applying the analytical framework presented in volume I, "Unfolding the links", to the specificities of the members of selected regions:

(a) Trade and gender linkages, an analysis of the Southern Africa Development Community (Teaching Module on Trade and Gender 4B);

(b) Trade and gender linkages, an analysis of MERCOSUR (Teaching Module on Trade and Gender 4C).

506. *Borderline: Women in Informal Cross-border Trade in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.* The study focuses on women's role in informal cross-border trade in the three countries, tackling two main areas: (a) the characteristics of informal cross-border trade in the three countries at stake; (b) an assessment of special trade regimes for small-scale traders as it exists on paper and as implemented in practice; and (c) the supply-side obstacles that limit the capacity of small scale traders, especially women, to benefit from trade activities and develop their business beyond subsistence.

*Events and workshops: awareness-raising and policy dialogue on the trade and gender nexus*

507. During the period under review, the trade, gender and development programme organized the following meetings and events on the topic of trade and gender:

(a) Short course for Geneva-based diplomats, "Shaping an inclusive and gender-responsive trade policy", 2 November 2018, Geneva;

(b) Trade and Globalization in an Unequal World – promoting inclusiveness, event at the Trade and Development Commission, 14 November 2018, Geneva;

(c) Regional Forum for Pacer Plus Signatory Countries, October 2018, Honiara, Solomon Islands;

(d) Data and statistics for gender-responsive trade policy – working session at the WTO Public Forum, 4 October 2018, Geneva;

(e) Launching of the EAC report: East African Community Regional Integration: Trade and Gender Implications and of the strategy document: Advocating for gender-sensitive trade policymaking in the East African Community, 9–10 May 2018, Nairobi;

(f) National seminar on mainstreaming gender in trade policy, 12 May 2018, Kampala;

(g) Making Trade Agreements Work for Rural Women – Side event at the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), 13 March 2018, New York;

(h) *Borderline: Women in cross-border trade* – Event on the occasion of International Women's Day, 6 March 2018, Geneva.

508. The trade, gender and development programme was invited to contribute to the following workshops by presenting the main findings of its analytical work:

(a) Second Policy Network Meeting on FDI qualities, OECD, 24 October 2018, Paris;

(b) Trade and gender workshop, organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 8 October 2018, Berlin;

(c) United Nations Human Rights Council Side Event: Human Rights: Perspectives for Trade Policy, 24 September 2018, Geneva.

509. **Results.** The above activities yielded positive and multiplier effects in terms of enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into trade policy.

510. Through the standard and regional editions of the online course on trade and gender, beneficiaries have considerably enhanced their understanding on the links between trade and gender and increased their capacities to formulate gender-sensitive trade policies. All participants agreed that the course had met or exceeded their expectations and enhanced their knowledge of the trade–gender links, with a number of them noting that the relationship between trade and gender was new to them, and that the course helped them learn more about it. According to the feedback received, the course succeeded in preparing participants to conduct their own research on the topic, and/or

incorporate trade and gender concepts into their teaching and policy-related work. The majority of the participants who took part in the standard edition as well as EAC and SADC regional courses delivered in 2018 rated the course as excellent (respectively 49, 63 and 67 per cent) or very good (respectively 35, 29 and 22 per cent). Two thirds of participants reported that they had acquired the necessary skills to assist policymakers in their own country to mainstream gender in trade policy formulation and implementation.

511. UNCTAD has been at the forefront of promoting policy dialogue on the trade-gender nexus. The results of UNCTAD analytical, capacity-building and advocacy work on the trade-gender nexus have contributed to the global debate on trade and gender. In 2018, it has provided numerous platforms in which national and international stakeholders have shared experiences and explored policy options on how to make trade and trade policy gender inclusive. Multi-stakeholder events have been organized during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the WTO Public Forum in Geneva and the UNCTAD Trade and Development Commission in Geneva.

### D3 Entrepreneurship development

Table D3

#### Entrepreneurship Development

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission
SAU/0T/CBI	Empretec Saudi Arabia	2014–	Saudi Arabia
URT/0T/BBM <sup>a</sup>	Delivering as One, United Republic of Tanzania project	2011–2018	One United Nations
URT/0T/DAK	United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster DaO Joint Programme on Market Value Chains, United Republic of Tanzania	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ZAM/0T/CAU	DaO. ILO led Green Jobs Joint Programme. Zambia project	2014–	International Labour Organization
INT/0T/3AO	Support to the UNCTAD–ICC Investment Advisory Council	2003–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-Building in Investment for Development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BBV	Strengthening SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	2012–	Private sector companies
ROA-1819 (AV11)	Promoting Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurship in East Africa, the Andean region and the Middle East	2018–	Development Account

<sup>a</sup> Operationally but not financially completed or fully completed in 2018.

512. **Development context.** The General Assembly of the United Nations, recalling its resolutions 67/202 of 21 December 2012, 69/210 of 19 December 2014 and 71/221 of 21 December 2016, emphasized the importance of improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and acknowledged UNCTAD work in entrepreneurship for development in its resolution 73/225,<sup>34</sup> adopted on 20 December

<sup>34</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/225 of 15 January 2019 titled “Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2018”. UNCTAD, in cooperation with United Nations DESA, prepared a report to review the progress of the implementation of the General Assembly



2018. Recognizing the value of entrepreneurship education, skills development and the dissemination of entrepreneurial thinking across all sectors, the General Assembly encouraged UNCTAD to continue with its behavioural approach programme, Empretec. Moreover, the principal ministerial declaration of the Conference (Azimio) in its paragraph 17 states: “We call upon UNCTAD to further develop its activities for promoting and facilitating investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development”. On the role of UNCTAD, the outcome document Maafikiano 76 (w) mandates UNCTAD to: Develop and disseminate further its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and assist developing countries in building a competitive microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises sector, as well as better integrating into global value chains, including through its Empretec programme, including for the promotion of youth and women’s entrepreneurship, and smallholding farmers;

513. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in September 2015, also emphasizes the role of entrepreneurship in sustainable development, particularly in Goals 4 and 8, including:

(a) Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), target 4.4: “By 2030, sustainably increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”;

(b) Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), target 8.3: “Promote development oriented policies that support productive capacities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”.

514. These mandates underpin UNCTAD technical assistance work on entrepreneurship development.

515. **Objectives and features.** UNCTAD assistance to member States in promoting development-oriented policies that support entrepreneurship includes the identification, formulation, implementation and assessment of coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. The objective is to support member States, at their request, to design initiatives, and identify measures and institutions that will promote entrepreneurship across six interrelated priority areas:<sup>35</sup> formulating national entrepreneurship strategy; optimizing the regulatory environment; enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development; facilitating technology exchanges and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking.

516. The other pillar of UNCTAD assistance to member States focuses on developing entrepreneurial skills and building local productive capacities of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, through UNCTAD Empretec and Business Linkages programmes.

517. The Empretec programme celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2018. Since its inception, it has been installed in more than 40 countries and has been assisting entrepreneurs by establishing self-sustained, local market-driven entrepreneurship development centres (Empretec national centres). In three decades of activity, over 442,000 entrepreneurs have benefited from Empretec workshops and business development services available in the existing network of Empretec centres worldwide, improving their efficiency, and contribution to job creation in the hosting countries.

518. The Business Linkages programme seeks to upgrade the capacity of local suppliers and facilitate their integration into global and/or regional value chains through

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Resolution 71/221 “Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” since its adoption in December 2016. The report discusses best practices and initiatives taken to support entrepreneurship at national, regional and international levels, including on the identification, formulation, implementation and assessment of coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and MSME promotion.

<sup>35</sup> As identified in the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, EPF, launched in 2012.

business links with large international or domestic companies. The programme currently operates in nine developing countries and has created substantial and mutually beneficial results, both for small suppliers and large domestic or international enterprises. The programme is increasingly geared to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, leveraging the incentives and resources of the private sector to adopt environmental and labour standards and ensure the beneficial inclusion of the poorest segment of the population, especially in rural settings.

519. As evidenced by several years of implementation, UNCTAD business linkages country programmes allow domestic MSMEs, including rural enterprises, to diversify and add value to their production, thereby participating more gainfully and effectively in international production systems. Country interventions provide support for small local suppliers, for instance, to meet the environmental, labour and production standards of transnational corporations or develop the entrepreneurial mind-set of poor rural entrepreneurs and marginalized urban producers.

520. **Outputs.** The main outputs in 2018 in the areas of Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, Empretec and Business Linkages are reported as follows:

### **Entrepreneurship Policy Framework**

#### *Ethiopia, national entrepreneurship strategy*

521. The Government of Ethiopia recognized that the absence of a specific entrepreneurship strategy resulted in fragmented initiatives and duplicated efforts. For this reason, it requested UNCTAD and UNIDO assistance to develop a national entrepreneurship strategy, which constituted an opportunity to design policies and strategies in all the pillars of the EPF (regulations, education, innovation, access to finance, awareness and networking) as well as in other cross-sectional policy areas (women and youth, environmental sustainability, rural-urban linkages). UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and UNIDO, engaged in a participatory process with all the relevant stakeholders, developing an evidence-based entrepreneurship strategy. As the result of a collaborative effort including based on local expert research the following activities were conducted:

(a) The organization of a first consultative workshop in Addis Ababa, which gathered more than 120 participants from over 70 organizations representing governmental and non-governmental organizations. This workshop laid the groundwork for acquiring initial feedback from the stakeholders to initiate the first draft National Entrepreneurship Strategy (NES);

(b) Two rounds of working group discussions on the thematic pillars (regulatory environment, education, innovation, access to finance, awareness and networking) i.e. 10 sessions with the involvement of approximately 190 participants from various organizations. Policy inputs and propositions were compiled and integrated in the draft;

(c) Four subnational consultation workshops on the NES have been conducted in the regions including Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Tigray, Amhara and Oromia involving 137 experts from at least 25 sectorial organizations in each regional government offices, and local entrepreneurs;

(d) The Government of Ethiopia appointed in late 2018 is building on these stakeholders' consultations to initiate institutional reforms, consolidating the economic governance and reducing the number of ministries. An inclusive cabinet has been put in place (with 50 per cent women and balanced regional representation), making a clear peace roadmap a priority.

#### *Angola, national entrepreneurship strategy*

522. As part of the activities of the European Union–UNCTAD joint Programme of Support for Angola: Train for Trade II, the design of initiatives and measures to promote entrepreneurship is a key element of the UNCTAD Empretec component aimed at supporting the Government of Angola to formulate an entrepreneurship strategy. A kick-

off and coordination high-level meeting provided an opportunity for selected national stakeholders to understand the content and the process of implementation of the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF), including based on UNCTAD experience in the application of the EPF in five countries (Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania). About 30 key Angolan national policy makers received information and guidance about the EPF methodology on how to design and implement a national entrepreneurship strategy and action plan through an interactive step-by-step approach. As a follow-up, the Government is in the process of identifying a national institution which will lead the process. Key implementation activities are planned for 2019.

*UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR policy guide on entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees*

523. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNCTAD developed and launched on 24 October 2018 the Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees. The guide focuses on the role of entrepreneurship in achieving and enhancing the positive effects of migration on economic growth and development. To inform policy decisions and programmes, the guide provides examples of successful initiatives and suggests different ways to enhance the resources and opportunities generated by migrants and refugee entrepreneurs, highlighting the positive social, cultural and economic contribution that they can make to their home and host countries. The guide aims to support policymakers and practitioners by highlighting the benefits of promoting entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees; identifying the challenges faced by migrant and refugee entrepreneurs; proposing a menu of policy objectives and policy options; and providing case studies and best practices from initiatives and programmes in developing and developed countries. The Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees was also presented at a side event of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, that took place in December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco.

*Ministerial round table on entrepreneurship for sustainable development*

524. UNCTAD assistance to member States on entrepreneurship policies was commended by ministers and high-level representatives from various Governments during a ministerial round table on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, which took place in Geneva on 25 October 2018, during the World Investment Forum. Participants highlighted the importance of incorporating sustainable development concepts in national entrepreneurship strategies as well as in regional and international agreements. The main points raised included the role of Government in partnering with start-ups, including by giving out preferential procurement contracts as well as investing in incubators, and that the time had come for Governments to cooperate with industry in creating entrepreneurship opportunities, especially for vulnerable groups such as young people and women. Government could also conduct State-sponsored research which could then be shared with start-ups and commercialized, support venture capital funds, fund innovation programmes that matched skills to industry requirements, supported microfinance institutions, formulated national strategy for sustainable development, had a harmonized policy framework for all stakeholders and provided access to quality research and feasibility studies.

525. The second part of the ministerial round table on entrepreneurship was dedicated to the celebration of the UNCTAD Empretec programme's thirtieth year anniversary. A solid and enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem had been recognized as a key element of national strategies that supported the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Entrepreneurship gave an economy its vitality. Entrepreneurs gave rise to new products and services, find new and different applications for existing products and services and create new business models.

*Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-employment (YES) Forum*

526. The UNCTAD 2018 Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees and 2015 Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship as well as a new policy guide completed together with the Commonwealth on entrepreneurship for the green and blue economy were used as basis for discussions at the YES Forum, co-organized by UNCTAD in Senegal, in November 2018. A featured event during the Global Entrepreneurship Week, co-organized by the partners in the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the YES Forum gathered policymakers, young entrepreneurs, social partners, civil society, private sector actors, and financial and business-support service providers, as well as international and regional institutions. Participants at the forum committed to scaling up action and impact for youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in West Africa and beyond, by sharing a declaration inspired by the United Nations Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth.

*Cameroon, formulating a national strategy document for entrepreneurship*

527. In 2018, UNCTAD and the Ministry of SMEs, Social Economy and Crafts (MINPMEESA) organized a workshop for the formulation of the entrepreneurship strategy of Cameroon and its action plan. Around 200 stakeholders participated in the five focus groups organized by areas: formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy, optimizing the regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development, facilitating technology exchange and innovation, improving access to finance, and promoting awareness and networking. Stakeholders reviewed the background entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping report and validated the recommendations formulated by the local experts and UNCTAD. The Government of Cameroon outlined seven steps for policy formulation. So far, five steps have been completed and the next is the validation of the strategic objectives and the action plan. The strategy formulation has been carried out in collaboration with the International Organization for the Francophonie, with a focus on women and youth. In this regard, pilot workshops on youth entrepreneurship took place in collaboration with the national agency for small and medium enterprises.

*Gambia, national entrepreneurship policy and action plan*

528. As a follow-up to the presentation of the national entrepreneurship policy of the Gambia at the ninth session of the UNCTAD Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission in November 2017, the policy has been presented for cabinet approval, and it's still pending review. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) has been tasked with the kick-off of the implementation of the national entrepreneurship policy and the establishment of a network of agencies, the Entrepreneurship Forum, as an integrator of public-private initiatives to ensure seamless service from one institution to another and eliminate any duplication. As a first bold step, the National Association of Business Angels has been established in the country leveraging links with the diaspora. In addition, the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) has been launched in 2018 with the support of the European Union and the International Trade Centre. The YEP is hosted by the Empretec centre creating synergies with other ongoing UNCTAD activities in entrepreneurship.

**Empretec**

529. In 2018, Empretec activities under the installation and consolidation phase continued in the Gambia, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, while a pilot workshop was organized, in collaboration with the local UNDP office, in Myanmar. The Empretec programme was restarted in Angola, thanks to the funding provided under the European Union -UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. Empretec impact assessment workshops were conducted in Angola and in the Russian Federation. Global events marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Empretec programme.

530. UNCTAD is following up on official requests for Empretec installation from 34 countries, and requests for assistance to revive Empretec activities in Senegal and the State of Palestine where some training activities have been conducted in the past.

531. Among the achievements of the Empretec network in 2018, under the guidance of the UNCTAD Enterprise Branch, the following had a particular relevance at the global or country level:

(a) The organization of the fifth Empretec Global Summit, in Istanbul, Turkey, during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress;

(b) The revamping of Empretec in Angola, with the organization of four Empretec training workshops and one impact assessment workshop;

(c) The celebration of 30 years of Empretec in Argentina and 25 years of Empretec in Brazil;

(d) The celebration of the Empretec programme's thirtieth anniversary and the 2018 Empretec Women in Business Award ceremony, during the 2018 UNCTAD World Investment Forum in Geneva;

(e) The conclusion of business linkages projects in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;

(f) The organization of a third event entitled "Start-up and Scale-up for the Sustainable Development Goals" in Geneva, during the 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Week, in collaboration with IOM, WIPO, Politecnico di Milano and Capacity Zurich;

(g) The launch of a new technical assistance project for entrepreneurship and migration with activities planned in Ecuador, Jordan, Peru and Rwanda as well as at regional levels;

(h) Organization of a first global training of trainers (TOT) for Empretec trainers from 12 countries on modernization of Empretec training tools jointly with the Empretec centre in Brazil (SEBRAE) and the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES);

(i) Organization of annual Empretec Directors meeting in Geneva to report on strategic and operational issues related to national Empretec programmes.

532. The following section provides some highlights on centres in the installation phase and more details about promising initiatives undertaken by some centres per region or geographic areas.

#### *Empretec in Asia*

533. Four Empretec workshops took place in India in 2018, under the overall coordination of the Empretec India Foundation. The national Empretec counterpart designed the High Impact Entrepreneurs from Emerging Regions for Action (HiEERA) programme, based on Empretec behavioural approach, which helps to identify and empower high-impact entrepreneurs as a way to facilitate economic prosperity, not only in India, but in other developing and in-transition countries that may be interested in strengthening their trade linkages with India. The programme makes specific business development and community engagement services available to a select set of graduates of the Empretec programme who relate to and practice their Empretec behaviours in an attempt to strengthen them and move them to habit. Empretec's HiEERA graduates are also in the process of initiating, developing, strengthening or extending the industry value chains their enterprises are in, using Empretec's values, principles and methodology.

534. In partnership with UNDP Myanmar and an international telecommunications company, UNCTAD organized a pilot Empretec workshop in Yangon, Myanmar, for a group of students, entrepreneurs and businesswomen. Winners and runners-up from a Hackathon event organized by Impact Hub and the telecommunications company were among the entrepreneurs to take part. The workshop was led by international trainers from Brazil and Viet Nam. The course is part of a comprehensive UNDP initiative to

boost sustainable and inclusive growth in Myanmar by promoting entrepreneurship, job creation and social impact investment supporting women and young people. Many participants found the workshop a “life-changing experience”; one of them said: “This workshop helped me to build up my business. I learned how to become a dynamic entrepreneur by learning to practice essential business competencies which are common for successful entrepreneurs. I want to become a lead entrepreneur in my research and training business.”

#### *Empretec country activities in Africa*

535. Under the framework of the European Union–UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, UNCTAD conducted four Empretec training workshops between August and December 2018 in Luanda, with the support of international trainers from Brazil and Mozambique. One hundred Empretec graduates, including young entrepreneurs and businesswomen as well as senior executives, benefited from the first four 6-day behavioural training sessions. Ten more workshops, planned during the project timeframe (2018-2021), will create a network of 400 Angolan empretecos (Empretec graduates) and allow for the certification of a team of local trainers. UNCTAD has started consultations with local counterparts to discuss further cooperation and assess their interest to become hosting institution for Empretec Angola. Further discussions will take place in 2019, in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce of Angola. During the launch of Empretec activities in the country, in August 2018, the Minister of Commerce expressed interest in having a gathering of all empretecos (Empretec graduates) trained in 2018 to discuss and assess the impact of the workshop on participants. Further to his request, UNCTAD organized an impact assessment workshop in December 2018, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, gathering over 80 Angolan entrepreneurs who attended the Empretec workshops during the year. All empretecos shared a very positive feedback about the workshop being an extremely practical tool that helped them discover inner strengths and motivation. In the words of one participant, Empretec is “a compass pointing to the right direction.”<sup>36</sup>

536. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), the national Empretec hosting institution, organized 11 Empretec workshops in 2018 and trained 344 entrepreneurs. The centre currently has 12 certified trainers, some soon to be certified as national master trainers and four are candidates for the international-level certification. GIEPA benefited from the support of Empretec Zimbabwe, which provided international trainers to supervise training activities conducted by Gambian trainers. The Gambian Empretec centre has also been partnering with IOM and FAO, with a view to scaling up the programme in 2019.

537. UNCTAD organized a training of trainers on youth entrepreneurship for a group of 22 certified local trainers of the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Agency in Yaoundé. Certified Cameroonian trainers are now able to deliver the training back to young graduates autonomously. Six youth entrepreneurship training in schools took place with about 150 students engaged in high schools and technical colleges.

538. In the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, Empretec training continues to be complemented by business linkages activities. The number of entrepreneurs trained with the Empretec workshops in 2018 was 177 (110 women) in the United Republic of Tanzania and 48 (21 women) in Zambia.

#### *Empretec country activities in Latin America*

539. In June 2018, the Empretec centre in Brazil (SEBRAE) celebrated 25 years since the establishment of the Empretec programme in the country. During the event, SEBRAE organized a panel with Directors of Empretec centres from Argentina, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Zimbabwe, to share views on entrepreneurial

<sup>36</sup> Video testimonies of participants to the first Empretec workshop in Angola (August 2018) are available on the UNCTAD Train for Trade II website at <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/ALDC/Technical%20Assistance/TFBK-Angola-Train-for-Trade-II.aspx>.

ecosystems in their respective countries. SEBRAE also hosted the first international training of trainers for Empretec facilitators from the global network. Fourteen experienced trainers from 12 countries participated in a workshop, during which SEBRAE shared content and structure of a new format of the six-day Empretec workshop. The new format, or modernized version of the six-day ETW, introduced changes in learning tools and in the sequence the training modules were going to be delivered. A rich and technical discussion followed, and suggestions were made for further improvements. A few centres expressed their intention to test the new format, provide feedback, and possibly host regional or national training-of-trainer sessions, moderated by Brazilian trainers, with a view to effectively transferring the new format to their respective countries. Preparatory work for such TOTs is being discussed in Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

540. Empretec Argentina celebrated in October 2018 its thirtieth anniversary since the programme was established in the country. Empretec representatives and entrepreneurs from Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay attended the event, which saw the participation of senior politicians, including five State ministers, discussing the importance of local value chains and how best to nurture local entrepreneurial systems.

541. Cafam, the Empretec centre in Colombia, in 2018 trained 367 entrepreneurs in 29 Empretec workshops. The centre started some training activities with vulnerable groups in various parts of the country, such as women entrepreneurs in poorer regions or a pillow workshop, based on the Empretec behavioural approach, for a group of young people with intellectual disabilities.

#### *Empretec country activities in the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia*

542. In April 2018, Empretec Russia conducted its second impact assessment survey and impact workshop in Samara, in collaboration with Arconic Foundation, within the framework of its activities to improve the quality of life of local communities. Forty participants in three Empretec workshops conducted between 2016 and 2017 attended the impact workshop. According to the survey analysis, the Empretec workshop had a very positive impact on participants and their businesses, helping them overcome challenges with sales, access to market and product development. The workshops also had a positive impact on participants' motivation to start a new business.

543. The eighth Empretec workshop for women entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia took place in January 2018. Twenty-three entrepreneurs graduated as empretecas at the end of the last workshop, of a series of 8 for women entrepreneurs, led by an international trainer from Jordan, who was assisted by a local Empretec trainer and three local trainee trainers. The Saudi Development Bank, which financed 16 Empretec training workshops, 8 for men and 8 for women, pledged to support further the consolidation of the Empretec programme in the country with additional funding in 2019.

#### *Empretec global network activities*

544. UNCTAD participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC), organized in Turkey during the month of April and attended by more than a thousand entrepreneurs and investors, corporates and civil society representatives, and start-up champions from nearly 170 countries. Participants shared ideas and best practices for boosting their countries' entrepreneurship ecosystems and helping entrepreneurs become more innovative, global and attractive to investors. A common message echoed throughout more than 100 sessions over three days: entrepreneurship drives economic growth, creates jobs, and has the potential to solve global challenges. During the congress, UNCTAD held its fifth Empretec Global Summit, which provided attendees with a unique opportunity to learn about the Empretec mindset changing methodology, as well as explore and establish cross-border business links throughout the global Empretec network in more than 40 countries. The Summit discussed the specific role that the Empretec methodology can play on bonding different groups of population, and in particular how Empretec can facilitate the smooth integration of migrants into local communities.

545. Ministers and other stakeholders celebrated the 30th anniversary of the launch of the Empretec programme in Geneva, during the 2018 UNCTAD World Investment Forum (WIF). A solid and enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem has been recognized as a key element of national strategies that support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Entrepreneurship gives an economy its vitality. Entrepreneurs give rise to new products and services, find new and different applications for existing products and services, and create new business models. Panellists from Empretec national programmes in Argentina, Brazil, Mauritius and Zimbabwe provided insights about how Empretec has been contributing to promoting entrepreneurship at the national level and how the behavioural training can provide participants with a can-do, positive and proactive mindset. Two entrepreneurs, who benefitted from training and technical assistance from Empretec programmes in Brazil and India, talked about their entrepreneurial journey, providing examples of how the workshop was a turning point in their professional and personal lives, helping them to focus on their strengths and acquiring the right habits to run a business.

546. The WIF also provided a stage to celebrate outstanding women entrepreneurs who, after benefitting from the training and services offered by Empretec centres around the world, managed to start, grow and internationalize their enterprises. The 2018 UNCTAD-Empretec Women in Business Gold Award went to the founder of a construction company in Mozambique, for her commitment to quality, sustainability and environmental protection, as well as for her pioneering leadership in a traditionally male-led sector. Other finalists to the 2018 Women in Business Award represented a wide range of industries, including robotics, manufacturing and education among others.

547. Eleven representatives from nine Empretec national centres attended the XXV annual meeting of Empretec Directors in Geneva, in October 2018. The meeting provided participants with an opportunity to highlight the major achievements over the past 12 months, and to report on strategic and operational issues related to national Empretec programmes. Several partnership initiatives at the country level, targeting in particular youth entrepreneurs, and migrants' and refugees' communities, were illustrated by the centres. The Empretec centres in South Africa and Zimbabwe expressed interest in collaborating with UNCTAD on the formulation of national entrepreneurship strategies, following the active involvement of other Empretec centres (Cameroon, Ethiopia and the Gambia) in providing inputs and advice to their respective national Governments in the preparation of entrepreneurship policies or strategies. The Empretec centres staff collaborated in national surveys and in workshop facilitation. They also drafted inputs into the entrepreneurship education strategy. Official requests for assistance from South Africa and Zimbabwe will likely be submitted to UNCTAD in 2019.

548. UNCTAD continued its partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Week, organizing for the third year in a row a pitching event for start-ups contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. The "Start and scale-up for Sustainable Development Goals" event attracted over 200 applications. Five start-ups and seven scale-up businesses spent a week working with a panel of experts to develop their business model and refine their pitch. The first prize for the start-ups went to a Nigerian entrepreneur and the one for the scale-up business was assigned to an entrepreneur from Ecuador. The winner of the 2017 pitching event was invited again in Geneva to talk about her social entrepreneurial journey at the TEDx PlaceDesNations that took place in December 2018. In her speech she said: "Then a miracle happened: I got an opportunity to enrol in a six-day training by the United Nations, called Empretec, and in the training I got to learn what it really takes to start, grow and run a successful enterprise. I also met other budding entrepreneurs and it really gave me the confidence to believe in myself and the product that I was making: a sanitary pad with a purpose."<sup>37</sup>

<sup>37</sup> The TEDx talk is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCpgjOuNoCM>.



## Business linkages

549. The following activities were carried out in 2018:

550. *Myanmar.* A new Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) project under the SECO–United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity was approved towards the end of the year. It will be implemented by the United Nations Trade Cluster (UNIDO, ITC, UNCTAD and the ILO) and its area of intervention will focus on the development of backward linkages between horticulture producers and sustainable tourism industry in a given geographical zone. The concept is similar to SECO–United Nations Cluster projects which have been implemented in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania. A scoping mission to Yangon took place in December 2018 to meet with the United Nations Cluster Coordinator and to illustrate the main areas where UNCTAD business linkages component would play a major role, borrowing from the successful experience of the United Republic of Tanzania.

551. *United Republic of Tanzania.* In 2018, UNCTAD assistance in the country targeted farmers in two specific areas, Moshi and Morogoro, with a view to helping them upgrade quality and quantity of products supplied to local hotels and processors. Women farmers in Moshi were associated to the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organization (KWIECO) and were producing different types of horticultural products, including fresh fruits and green vegetables, which are demanded by tourist hotels in the Kilimanjaro region. The activities in Morogoro were carried out in collaboration with the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO). The main beneficiaries in this case were passion fruit growers.

552. All along the year, two Entrepreneurship Training Workshops (ETWs) and four Farming-as-a-Business (FaaB) workshops were organized in Moshi, in partnership with KWIECO, respectively assisting 62 and 122 women farmers. Both types of training were very well received and instilled in participants a new, more entrepreneurial, mindset helping them to seize opportunities provided by the tourist market in the region.

553. In partnership with SUGECO, three ETWs and five FaaB workshops took place in Morogoro. Eighty-nine farmers, agricultural students from the Sokoine University, and entrepreneurs in the passion fruit value chain successfully attended the Empretec workshops, while 186 farmers participated in the FaaB training sessions.

554. *Zambia.* In the first quarter of 2018, UNCTAD and its national implementing partner, the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), conducted the final phase of activities, under the Zambia Green Jobs Programme (ZGJP), which included training workshops in two different provinces benefitting 48 contractors in the residential building construction sector.

555. A business-to-business round table on best practices for access to market and finance took place in Solwezi, Zambia, during the month of April. A private sector delegation of 120 participants congregated to outline solutions to challenges regarding the participation of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the value chain in the North Western province of Zambia. The discussions were premised on ZGJP field experience and proposed a roster of good practices for sustainable business linkages which included: MSME mindset and skills development training, procurement policies, supplier databases and surveying of vendors, peer to peer networking, collective platforms for business engagement in policy and regulatory advocacy and facilitating access to finance.

556. **United Nations.** The leading role of UNCTAD in enterprise development is recognized in the 2018 United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/RES/73/225), both in the area of entrepreneurship education and dissemination of entrepreneurial thinking, through the Empretec programme (paragraph 17), and in the area of support and assistance to Member States on entrepreneurship policy and MSME promotion (paragraph 31).

557. The relevance of UNCTAD work on entrepreneurship policies is attested by a steady growth of requests of assistance from member States. National entrepreneurship

strategies have been developed in Ethiopia and Cameroon, and work has started in Angola. Ministers from Bahrain, Chile, Indonesia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, who attended the Ministerial Roundtable on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, in October during the 2018 WIF, reaffirmed UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework essential role in providing countries with a useful toolkit to identify constraints, design and implement policy measures, and develop entrepreneurship national strategies and action plans. The practical implementation of entrepreneurship strategies and policies at the national level in several countries (Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania) was included in the official report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, based on the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework.<sup>38</sup> In the United Republic of Tanzania, which was one of the countries that benefitted from UNCTAD assistance in the past three years, during the presentation of the action plan for the implementation of the country's Inclusive National Entrepreneurship Strategy, a preoperational tax was identified as an obstacle in the regulatory framework area and was abolished as a first concrete measure kicking off the implementation phase. Ecuador eased access to finance by establishing a venture capital fund for innovation, and upgrading financial literacy and inclusion; enhanced entrepreneurial education by establishing an annual entrepreneurship boot camp with 3,000 hours of training delivered to young people; developed business linkages, engaging 23 large enterprises to procure from SMEs and rolled out implementation plans in two cities (Guayaquil and Cuenca).

558. The UNCTAD/IOM/UNHCR Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, launched in October during the 2018 WIF, follows broadly the structure and logic of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and offers practical guidance that ensures refugees and migrants can use their skills and abilities to build their livelihoods while contributing to host communities and economies. The guide was presented at a side event of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, that took place in December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, and a copy of it was delivered in person to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Migration, who manifested interest and appreciation for the joint efforts of the three United Nations organizations. The guide was also presented in one of the policy dialogue sessions running in parallel to the official conference entitled "Partnerships and innovative initiatives for the way forward". As a consequence, the topic of migrant and refugee entrepreneurship was reflected in the proceedings of both the plenary conference and the dialogue sessions.

559. Surveys regularly conducted by Empretec programmes in various countries, confirm the positive impact of Empretec on entrepreneurs. A standardized approach to assess the impact of Empretec in different countries has been applied in recent years in Brazil, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia and, in 2018, in Angola.

560. Between February and March 2018, SEBRAE, the national Empretec centre in Brazil, conducted an impact assessment with over 2,800 participants who graduated from the Empretec workshop in 2017. The country-wide survey confirmed a Net Promoter Score<sup>39</sup> (NPS) for the Empretec programme close to 88, meaning that most of those who attend the workshop make positive referrals to other potential customers (they are called Promoters). Empretec scores were high (9.2/10) both in terms of meeting participants' expectations and the quality of the workshop. Among those participants who were not entrepreneurs when they attended Empretec, 11 per cent started and owned a business at the time of the survey. Among those who were entrepreneurs at the time they attended the Empretec workshop, 56.4 per cent reported an increase in sales and 56.6 per cent an

<sup>38</sup> Best practices on the implementation of entrepreneurship policies are included in the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/73/258), prepared for the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly and referred to in General Assembly resolution 73/225.

<sup>39</sup> The NPS is a management tool that can be used to gauge the loyalty of a firm's customer relationships. It serves as an alternative to traditional customer satisfaction research and claims to be correlated with revenue growth.

increase in profits. The average number of employees per business also increased from 9.5 to 11.4 employees, in a time span of 12 months.

561. In April 2018, a survey conducted of 50 empretecos, who attended Empretec workshops in the Russian Federation followed by a half-day impact assessment workshop, indicated a high rate of appreciation (82 per cent) for the Empretec workshop and its quality (85 per cent), compared to other entrepreneurship workshops. Ninety-five per cent of participants indicated that the workshop helped them overcome key business challenges, and 83 per cent reported an increase in their income after attending the workshop. The behavioural training inspired the majority of them (83 per cent) to start a new business in three years' time, and 72 per cent agreed with the fact that the workshop equipped them with the necessary skills to start a new business. Twenty per cent of those participants who had a business before the workshop, reported an increase in the number of people they employ.

562. A similar impact assessment survey, followed by a half-day workshop, was conducted in Angola in December 2018. Although it might have seemed premature to conduct an assessment on workshops delivered, respectively, only four and two months earlier, including also participants to the two most recent sessions in November–December, the exercise provided an opportunity to test and refine the questionnaire and strengthen bonds and networking among the first group of Angolan empretecos. Eighty-seven empretecos participated in the survey: all of them considered the learning important for their immediate outcomes. The Empretec workshops received an average grade of 9.3/10 and 83 per cent of participants rated them “well above the average” training they attended in the past. In a short period of only four months, the number of entrepreneurs among participants rose by almost 10 per cent; 15 per cent of those who had a business before the workshop opened a new one or expanded the existing one to new areas; the total number of people employed grew by 8 per cent; and 30 per cent of the entrepreneurs recorded a sales growth. Seventy-two per cent of the non-entrepreneurs among participants felt their employability level had grown.

563. The Zambia Green Jobs Programme's final evaluation, conducted in March-April 2018, highlighted the effective UNCTAD approach, through the combination of its Empretec and Business Linkages tools, in upgrading the capacity of MSMEs to effectively participate in the building construction, green building products and services. The UNCTAD component contributed to increasing MSMEs' awareness and knowledge related to business development and green technology to improve their chances for job opportunities and involvement in the house building construction sector, as well as part of its value chain, such as timber/sawmilling and forestry tree growing. The involved MSMEs and business associations have increased their knowledge on how to operate a business, including through encouraging women entering non-traditional occupations. The Empretec training curriculum was adapted to bring in more examples and cases from the context of the green business environment of Zambia. Six hundred entrepreneurs were trained over the project's duration, thanks to the strategic collaboration with the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), which was well placed to create business linkages and deliver Empretec workshops, as it has specific departments/divisions for attracting large scale foreign direct investments and certified trainers to support small and medium-sized enterprises' development. The evaluation also pointed out the effective partnership strategy pursued with some large private sector enterprises (Lafarge, Frist Quantum Kalumbila mine, Barrick Lumwana mine), with the purpose of linking MSMEs with these companies to take on jobs using green technology and materials at affordable cost.

564. Under the framework of Business Linkages activities in the United Republic of Tanzania, an assessment conducted on various groups of beneficiaries of Empretec and Farming-as-a-Business workshops in Moshi (horticultural products) and Morogoro (passion fruit), showed that their business turnover increased on average 78 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017. Improved business performances were causally linked to a changed mindset in the farmers who received assistance: following their attending behavioural workshops, most of them were ready to invest in improved breeds of horticultural products and passion fruit, growing varieties with higher productivity or

that would better meet the buyers' needs. For instance, the average productivity per acre among women farmers in Moshi increased from 10,000 kg to 30,000 kg.

## D6 Train for Trade

Table D6  
Train for Trade

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
INT/0T/4AB	Mise en place d'un projet de renforcement des capacités de formation portuaire pour les pays en développement (Programme Train for Trade)	2004–	Developing country ports
INT/0T/5BS	Coopération entre l'Autorité Portuaire de Valence (Espagne) et le programme Train for Trade de la CNUCED	2005–	Valencia port authority
INT/0T/6AR	Train for Trade Trust Fund	2006–	Multi-donor
INT/0T/7BR	UNCTAD/ Train for Trade Port Training Programme for English-Speaking Developing Countries	2007–	Ireland
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on Statistics and Data	2016–	Development Account
ROA-1819 (N11)	Leapfrogging skills development in e-Commerce in South-East Asia in the Framework of the 2030 Development Agenda	2018–	Development Account

565. **Development context.** With a view to supporting the development of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the UNCTAD Train for Trade Programme proposes tailored technical assistance to best meet countries' needs in key areas pertinent to trade. The Programme aims to develop local capacities and knowledge and skills, to empower countries to reap the benefits of international trade. The Programme promotes national ownership, supports South–South and triangular cooperation and leads to poverty reduction. Specifically, the Programme helps developing countries in building sustainable networks of knowledge, developing trade-oriented policies to reduce poverty and promoting ICT solutions and innovative thinking, to enhance the capacities of international trade players. In recent years, the Train for Trade Programme has enlarged its scope, with recognized expertise in international trade and port management. With regard to international trade, the Programme covers a number of interrelated areas, such as the following:

- (a) E-commerce, including issues such as the legal aspects of e-commerce, digital authentication and best practices;
- (b) Trade statistics, including statistics on international trade in services, international merchandise trade and FDI;
- (c) Competition law and consumer protection.

566. The Train for Trade Port Management Programme (PMP) plays a vital role in supporting port communities in developing countries in quest for efficient and competitive port management. In many developing countries, ports play a key role in connecting them to international trade. Furthermore, 80 per cent of international trade is channelled through ports (this percentage is even higher in LDCs). Hence, the way the maritime sector is organized has a profound impact on trade volumes and transport costs and is therefore decisive for a country's competitiveness. Since the trade and maritime transport sectors are subject to constant regulatory changes, it is paramount that port officials are able to grasp the growing complexities of port management.

567. **Objective/features.** The Train for Trade programme contributes to work for development-led globalization, where the development paths are sustainable and inclusive, by disseminating international trade-related knowledge and developing skills and capacities. Train for Trade has proven to be very useful and instrumental in connecting UNCTAD research and analysis with sustainable capacity-building activities in developing and transition countries. TFT's activities help to facilitate South-South and North-South collaboration and foster communication between trade and training experts. UNCTAD Train for Trade is based on a methodology including training of trainers, coaching and blended learning. It provides the countries with a public-private partnership model, sustainable training and capacity-building, talent management scheme and systematic methodology combining blended learning and digital technology. The PMP brings together public, private and international entities to share expertise and best practices. Talent management and leadership development is a crucial part of the Programme. The PMP operates through three language-based networks (English, French and Spanish) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Programme also hosts the high-end course on modern port management, which entails a powerful scheme to induce value added solutions in port communities and performance measurement indicators.

568. Partnerships have been established with European ports to share their knowledge and expertise with ports in the South. Annual regional meetings bring together port officials from different countries, promoting sharing of experiences and expertise. South-South collaboration between port communities is promoted as it is crucial for knowledge sharing. For example, exchange of participants is encouraged in order to increase participants' exposure to different port set-ups, as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge. Furthermore, the beneficiary ports of the Port Management Programme (Argentina, Benin, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Mauritania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania) continued to contribute financially to the Trust Fund. This self-sustaining aspect indicates the level of commitment and interest from the national port communities (public-private partnerships). Partnerships and synergies have also been established with regional organizations (ACS, ALADI, ASEAN, CEDEAO, SELA, SIECA, UEMOA) and international organizations (UNSD, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP, WTO). Moreover, the TFT programme collaborates with UNCTAD divisions/programmes according to the mandates/thematics and requests from beneficiaries.

569. The Programme also offers training-of-trainer courses and coaching sessions in order to support capacity development of the instructors. The modern port management course targets middle and senior managers and consists of 240 hours of training activities, which are divided into eight modules and delivered over a two-year span. The eight modules of the Modern Port Management course are:

- a) International trade and transport;
- b) Organization of a port system;
- c) Functioning of a port system;
- d) Future challenges to ports;
- e) Methods and tools of port management;
- f) Economic, commercial and financial management;
- g) Administrative and legal management;
- h) Technical management and human resources development.

570. To obtain the UNCTAD Certificate in Modern Port Management, participants must complete each module and defend a dissertation. Many former participants in the modern port management programme become instructors and therefore take more responsibility at the senior management level, thereby also multiplying the effects of the Programme. Other indicators of the effectiveness of the Programme in the field are the

validation of the quality of participant's dissertation by international and regional port experts, and the relevance of the dissertations (about 150 each year) to improve services in the port community.

571. **Outputs.** Under the Port Management Programme, the key outputs of the French-, English- and Spanish-speaking networks during the reporting period are highlighted below.

572. *French-speaking network.* In 2018, the French-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo.

573. The twentieth Coordination Meeting of the French-speaking network took place in Geneva, from 9 to 11 April 2018. The participating Director Generals and Focal Points of the ports from Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo, nine representatives of the UNCTAD, two representatives of the Port of Toamasina, Madagascar, and the representative of the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations reviewed the activities of the network, exchanged best practices and agreed on the way forward;

574. A new cycle of training-of-trainers workshops (ToT) took place from 11 to 22 June in Nantes, France, with the participation of the port management experts from Cameroon, Gabon, Senegal, and two experts from the Port of Marseille, for the delivery of the following modules:

- (a) International trade and transport;
- (b) The organization of a port system;
- (c) The functioning of a port system;
- (d) The main challenges of the future.

575. Following the delivery of the ToT workshop in Nantes, the training material of the modern port management modules have been updated in French;

576. In the French-speaking network, South-South cooperation is an essential element of the programme. In 2018, a total of 14 exchanges of port instructors were organized in the Network involving Benin, Haiti, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal;

577. In Cameroon and Senegal panel of port experts assessed final work (called dissertations) of participants to award the Port Certificate upon successful results.

578. *English-speaking network.* In 2018, the English-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. The English-speaking network continued to benefit from financial contributions of Irish Aid and from the collaboration of Irish ports, namely Port of Cork Company (PoCC), Dublin Port Company (DPC), and Belfast Harbour Commissioners (BHC). Other port/maritime industry entities including terminal operators, logistics companies and cargo handling companies and the University of Cork provided support in-kind by allowing their experts time to deliver in the programme.

579. *Ghana.* In cooperation with Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), 26 middle managers (including 5 women) from the port communities of Ghana who were enrolled in the Cycle 4 of the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme, participated in the presentation of the final dissertations in Accra that took place from 7 until 9 March 2018.

580. *Indonesia.* In cooperation with the Pelindo I, II, III and IV, 16 middle managers (including 2 women) from the port communities enrolled in the Cycle 4 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Indonesia, took part in the presentation of the final dissertations in Jakarta on 21 and 22 November 2018.

581. The Coaching Workshop in Medan was organized by Pelindo I from 13 until 16 November 2018. There were 17 participants, including 5 women and participants from Ghana and Kenya.

582. *Malaysia*. In cooperation with Johor Port Berhad (JohorPort), 23 middle managers (including 10 women) from the JohorPort who were enrolled in the Cycle 1 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Malaysia, took part in the following events in Johor:

- (a) Delivery of module 3 (26–29 November 2018)
- (b) Delivery of module 2 (24–28 September 2018)
- (c) Delivery of module 1 (16–19 July 2018)

583. The Coaching Workshop was held in Johor (5–8 February 2018) for 20 middle managers (including 9 women) from the port communities of JohorPort, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and PT Pelabuhan Indonesia I (Pelindo I).

584. *Nigeria*. In cooperation with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), 25 middle managers (including 6 women) from the port communities who were enrolled in the Cycle 2 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for Nigeria, took part in the following events:

- (a) Delivery of module 5 in Calabar (19–23 November 2018)
- (b) Delivery of module 4 in Lagos (3–7 September 2018)
- (c) Delivery of module 3 in Abuja (30 July – 3 August 2018)
- (d) Delivery of module 2 in Port Harcourt (7–11 May 2018)
- (e) Delivery of module 1 in Abuja (5–9 March 2018)

585. *Philippines*. In cooperation with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), 23 middle managers (including 5 women) from the port communities of the Philippines who were enrolled in the Cycle 2 of UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme for the Philippines, took part in the final dissertations in Manila (21–22 September 2017).

586. The Coaching Workshop in Manila (25–28 September 2017) was attended by 12 participants (including 3 women).

587. *Serbia*. Preparatory meeting was held on 1 November 2018 in Belgrade to discuss the possibility for the Port Governance Agency of Serbia to join the UNCTAD Port Management Programme.

588. *United Republic of Tanzania*. As a former member of the UNCTAD Port Management Programme from 2007–2013, Tanzania Ports Authority rejoined the programme. An assessment mission was organized on 6–8 February 2019 to prepare for the launch of Cycle 3 in May 2019.

589. *Kenya*. Kenya Port Authority (KPA) has expressed interest to join the UNCTAD Port Management Programme. A needs assessment mission was organized on 4–6 February 2019 to present the features of the UNCTAD PMP and discuss the possibility for KPA to join the programme. 2 Participants from KPA took part in the coaching workshop in Indonesia (November 2018).

590. The Training of Trainers Workshop 2018 of the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme English-speaking network was held from 19 to 26 June 2018 in Dublin. The workshop was co-organized by Dublin Port Company, with the support the Port of Cork Company (PoCC), and Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

591. The Port Management Week: The UNCTAD/ Train for Trade Port Management Programme (PMP), with the support of Irish Aid and in cooperation with PMP port partners, organized the Port Management Week from 9 to 13 April at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Over 60 participants from 20 countries, including CEOs and port experts, took part in the Port Management Week. The event's highlights include: the Coordination Meeting of the Port Management Programme French-Speaking Network from 9 to 11 April; and from 11 to 13 April: the MoU Signing Ceremony with Irish Ports, the Launching Ceremony of the Port Management Series Volume 5 (PMS 5) Port

Management Case Studies and finally, the International Port Performance Scorecard (PPS4) Conference held from 11–13 April in Geneva.

592. The Port Management Series Volume 5 (PMS5) Port Management Case Studies presented the top 12 dissertations from the 2015–2017 cycle of the English-speaking network of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme. The publication focused on the following subject matters: social, economic, financial and operational results of the research done by the participants from member countries: Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines.

593. *Spanish-speaking network.* In 2018, the Spanish-speaking network of the Port Management Programme was composed of the port communities of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Peru. The Spanish-speaking network benefits from the collaboration of Spanish ports of Valencia and Gijon. The Port Authority of Valencia also gives a financial contribution to the programme.

594. Organization of a Training of Trainers Workshop of modules 5 to 8 of the Modern Port Management course in Gijon, Spain from 16 to 27 of April, with the cooperation of the Port Authorities of Gijon and Valencia. 12 port managers (including 3 women) from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela participated in the course. The aim of the course was to prepare the senior managers for their roles as future instructors to deliver modules 5 to 8 in their port communities.

595. With the delivery of modules 1 to 4 of the course Modern Port Management for senior and middle port managers of Port Communities, Argentina started the second cycle of the course. Modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade).

596. With the delivery of modules 5 to 8 and the dissertations, Peru completed the fifth cycle, the Dominican Republic the third cycle and the Plurinational State of Bolivia completed the first cycle of the said course. Modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade).

597. The International Coordination Meeting of the Spanish-speaking network was held in the Dominican Republic from 17 to 18 October with the participation of representatives of the member countries, the Spanish Port Authorities of Valencia and Gijon and UNCTAD. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the results of the cycles and to evaluate the scope of strengthening and expanding the programme.

598. A study tour was organized in Valencia, Spain, for two participants from Argentina, who spent a week in the port of Valencia with experts from the Port Authority.

599. The International Port Performance Scorecard (PPS4) Conference held from 11 to 13 April in Geneva: 97 delegates attended the Conference from 26 countries (Angola, Argentina, Benin, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Ireland, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mauritania, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Senegal, Spain, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) representing the four linguistic (French-, Spanish-, Portuguese- and English-speaking) networks of the UNCTAD Train for Trade Port Management Programme. The objective of the meeting was to consider the quality and scope of the PPS Scorecards, their interpretation, and their value as a strategic port management tool. A number of senior port managers made contributions and exchanged best practices on their own experience of port performance indicators and their views on the value of the UNCTAD PPS Scorecard.

600. In addition to the Port Management Programme, TFT also delivered another on-line course and contributed to Institutional collaboration on Trade in Services Statistics (SITS) which was organized from 22 October to 7 December 2018. The Train for Trade worldwide course SITS with emphasis on Africa, organized in collaboration with UNCTAD/Statistics and WTO had 43 participants mainly from the African Union. Overall, 29 participants (12 women) from more than 27 countries took part in the



distance-learning course which is the response to several demands for technical assistance in trade-in-services statistics and addresses directly the aims of Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A follow-up face-to-face workshop was organized in WTO with the collaboration of UNSD and UNCTAD for 14 participants (5 women), 12 extra participants were invited by AU but could not travel at the last minute. In terms of results-based management, the success rate of the course is 76 per cent, with a satisfaction rate of 88 per cent for the online course and 85 per cent for the face-to-face workshop.

601. The second course on International Merchandise Trade Statistic was delivered for the Caribbean from 5 March to 13 April 2018 with 144 Participants (97 Women). A follow-up regional face-to-face workshop was organized in Trinidad and Tobago from 15 to 18 May 2018 for 23 participants (20 Women). The success rate of the course is 79 per cent, with a satisfaction rate of 88 per cent for the online course and 81 per cent for the face-to-face workshop.

602. Results. By 2018, the key facts of the programme stand at:

- (a) 4 port networks (Portuguese-, Spanish-, French- and English-speaking);
- (b) Advisory support and services involving 34 countries and over 200 Port Community Entities;
- (c) 3519 port managers trained;
- (d) 100 national training and capacity-building cycles;
- (e) 81 workshops for the training of trainers;
- (f) 1,387 UNCTAD port certificates delivered.

603. The active member ports of the PMP are Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Togo. More concrete results of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme are summarized below.

604. *French-speaking network.* Since the beginning of the French Network, 1,433 Port operators have been trained with 24 per cent women which, comparatively with the port industry is a very good score. Six hundred and seventy-seven trainers have been certified by the TFT programme.

605. At the end of the twentieth Coordination Meeting in Geneva, the nine members of the French-speaking network presented the report of the activities carried out during 2017. The representatives also discussed the actions done for the recommendations in 2017 and came up with new recommendations for 2018, as well as the planning for the upcoming twenty-first Coordination Meeting to be held in Lomé, in April 2019. There were 19 participants (with 3 women) during the Coordination Meeting;

606. The vast majority of participants of the Training of Trainers Workshop in Nantes considered the organization of training good or very good. Most participants felt that the approach used to teach the modules was effective and that the quality of the training material was good or very good. The content of the modules was evaluated as good or very good by a large majority of participants. Participants particularly enjoyed discussions and exchanges among themselves, as well as the audiovisual media used (slides, videos, port visit, etc.);

607. The ToT workshop of Nantes was evaluated very positively (satisfaction indicator: 87 per cent) by its participants in terms of subject matter and depth, teaching method, time allocated, and exercises given. All participants trained have to deliver in the next two years' part of the Port Certificate in their respective countries.

608. *English Speaking Network.* At the end of the Training of Trainers Workshop in Dublin, Ireland, the Performance Indicator (based on Individual Tests) was of 82.5 per cent. The satisfaction rate for the modules 1 to 4 was of 91 per cent, while the final satisfaction rate (based on the end of course questionnaire) was of 88.9 per cent.

609. *Spanish Speaking Network*. The instructors trained by Train for Trade in the Training of Trainers workshop participated in the delivery of the modules 5 to 8 of the course on Modern Port Management in Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Peru which clearly shows a multiplier effect in the capacity-building process of the member ports. It is also important to highlight that some participants from previous cycles have now reached higher positions of responsibilities in their port communities and they are supporting the programme.

610. Sixteen participants from the Dominican Republic, 17 participants from Peru and 14 participants from the Plurinational State of Bolivia presented their final work and obtained the UNCTAD certificate. The final dissertations aimed to identify a problem in the port community and to propose a feasible solution. Some of these projects are being implemented to improve ports' efficiency.

611. The Coordination Meeting concluded with a positive evaluation of the Port Management Programme in terms of the effectiveness, sustainability, South–South cooperation dynamics and impact. The meeting concluded with a work plan for the sixth cycle in Peru, the fourth cycle in the Dominican Republic, the second cycle in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the continuation of the second cycle in Argentina. The countries also confirmed their financial contribution as members of the network.

612. Twenty-two participants from Argentina enhanced their knowledge and competences on issues related to international trade and maritime transport, and the organization of a port system. The delivery of modules 1 to 4 of the modern port management course was evaluated by the participants with 88.9 per cent satisfaction rate.

## D99 Other

Table D99

### Others

<i>Project number</i>	<i>Short title</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Source of fund</i>
<i>OSG</i>			
GLO/OT/ABA	Support and capacity-building for Group of 77 countries	2010–	Multi-donors
INT/OT/1AK	Financing of participation of Experts from Developing Countries and Countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD Expert Group Meetings	2001–	Finland, Iceland and Mauritius
<i>GDS</i>			
INT/OT/6AP	Trust Fund for the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development	2006–	Multi-donor

#### 1. Management and coordination

613. The trust fund for the financing of experts attending UNCTAD expert meetings was used to finance the travel of 16 experts from developing countries to enable them to participate in one of the multi-year expert meetings or to the single-year expert meeting held in Geneva in 2018.

#### 2. Virtual Institute

614. **Development context.** The capacities of developing countries to undertake economic analysis, formulate national policies and implement them to achieve their development objectives is lacking in many respects. Universities and research centres can play an essential role in building such capacities, as they educate future decision-makers and can provide analytical inputs to inform their Governments' economic policy decisions.

615. **Objectives/features.** Training and Outreach unit, including the Virtual Institute (Vi), the UNCTAD capacity-building and networking programme for academia, works with academic institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their teaching and research in international trade and development issues, and to increase the policy orientation and relevance of their work.

616. **Outputs.** In 2018, three new academic institutions joined the Vi: Gedik University from Turkey, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology from Kenya and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador from Ecuador. With these three additions, the reach of the network has increased to 137 universities and research centres from 64 countries, including 15 LDCs. The Virtual Institute continued to provide its member institutions with services in three areas: (a) support to teaching, (b) professional development for academics and (c) facilitation of cooperation among the members of its academic network and dissemination of UNCTAD research to the academic community. During the period under review, the Vi received financial support from the Government of Finland.

617. The Vi published two short video articles on two separate themes: first one on debt, finance and the fragility of financial system and the second one on microcredit and universal basic income. Furthermore, one international professional development workshop/ summer school was organized in Turkey in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries unit in DGDS and the Vi Turkish core member, the Istanbul Commerce University, to offer training on industrial policy.

618. Two online courses graduated 162 researchers and practitioners, of which 57 were women, from more than 50 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. There were two study tours and visits which trained 52 students from two countries and two universities. Libraries at Vi member institutions were enriched with more than 2,000 UNCTAD research reports and Vi teaching resources. Finally, four videoconferences presented UNCTAD's research findings to 232 university students and lecturers from two countries.

619. **Results.** The Virtual Institute contributed to enhanced teaching and research on trade and development issues at member institutions and increased policy orientation of their work by providing support for the development of both individual and institutional capacities in this area. The multiplier effect of Vi workshops and online courses, videoconferences and study tours, as well as the distribution of UNCTAD publications embedded the organization's research and perspective in graduate programmes at numerous universities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

### 3. Course on key issues on the international economic agenda – Paragraph 166

620. **Development context.** Paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action was adopted at the tenth session of the UNCTAD ministerial conference, calling on it to strengthen its capacity building activities, particularly through training courses on key trade and development matters. The paragraph also underlines that the training courses would draw on the expertise and policy analysis work of the UNCTAD secretariat. This mandate was renewed by the São Paulo Consensus, the Accra Accord, the Doha Declaration, and reaffirmed in UNCTAD 14 of Nairobi in 2016.

621. Located in the Knowledge Development Branch (KDB) of the Division of Technology and Logistics (DTL), the Policy Capacity-Building Section (PCBS) delivers the courses on key issues on the international economic agenda, known as Paragraph 166 courses. The Programme delivers the short courses (half-day) for Geneva-based delegates and regional courses for the five developing regions. All nominations are received directly from the permanent missions to the United Nation based in Geneva. The primary beneficiaries are mid-level officials working for relevant public institutions; however, others, such as academics, are considered.

622. The regional courses are inducted in the UNCTAD mandate and are cross-divisional in terms of content. The curricula are designed and developed by PCBS of

KDB, in collaboration with the experts from various divisions. During the design phase, collaboration is also sought with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and with national experts to ensure coherence among the various themes of the economic policy framework. Ranging from economic theories to trade policy, FDI, among others, the programme focuses on sustainable development as a central theme. In illustrating how economic policies have an impact, the curriculum is integrated and showcases the various models of development.

623. Additionally, the curricula in 2018 continued to illustrate the formulation of national and international development policies and strategies and how they are placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, providing the overall framework for development policies in the 2015-2030 era. The training comprises a number of lectures on economic trade and finance theories and their relevance to policy development, the role of investment and technology, along with detailed case studies and lessons learned from previous policy decisions. It is designed to promote critical thinking, with emphasis placed on policy design, coherence, coordination, implementation and measurement. Central to the course are policy development and simulation exercises, examinations and critiques of best practices in policy development, group work and debates.

624. **Objectives and features.** The overall curricula of the regional course include a central theme: a fully integrated and interrelated approach for several substantive topics developed in the research work of UNCTAD. Additionally, it is adapted to each developing region and contributes to knowledge development and the understanding of contemporary economic issues among trade policy officials, finance and investment experts and academics who work in these areas. This generates a curriculum for each region focused on the development of appropriate trade, finance, investment, innovation and technology policies that are critical to achieve economic gains, which in parallel meets the development objectives of participating countries.

625. Achieving macroeconomic stability, with a sound monetary and fiscal regime, is paramount to the design of and support for development objectives. Policymakers are encouraged to consider sound fiscal policies to support such initiatives in a changing global environment. The need to stimulate productive investment, develop local markets and promote diversification will require adopting relevant industrial policies. This also suggests that public investment itself should target increasing human capital and providing infrastructure for development and vice versa. The importance of developing a relevant industrial policy is key to the concept of developing and implementing policies for economic growth. The curricula also illustrate science and technology impact innovation in agriculture, energy and other areas, and play an important role in providing value added to products that have domestic and international appeal. Remaining competitive, whether in promoting domestic activity or in export-oriented sectors, for example, is crucial to ensuring long-term economic growth. The curricula also focus on the importance of logistics to facilitate trade to ensure sustainable exports and imports. Trade negotiations, whether at the multilateral, regional or bilateral levels, that directly generate benefits for trade and investment and bring development gains are an essential part of the course.

626. In 2018, both face-to-face instruction and distance learning have been delivered as part of UNCTAD regional courses. An e-learning module on the history of UNCTAD continued to be utilized to prepare selected participants ahead of the regional course. The module is divided into four parts, covering comprehensive knowledge on the UNCTAD history, its three pillars of work and structure, the role of UNCTAD and other international organizations and UNCTAD achievements and contributions. The module includes quizzes and a final assessment. Selected participants must successfully pass the final assessment as a prerequisite to the face-to-face sessions later scheduled in the respective host countries. This module enhances participants' knowledge on UNCTAD and its mandate, including contributions and achievements.

627. Additionally, in 2018, the curricula were developed to include digital economy, further strengthening the integrated and interrelated approach of UNCTAD substantive topics delivered during the two-week regional courses.

628. **Outputs.** In 2018, two regional courses were coordinated and delivered for Eastern Europe (Belgrade, 25 June–6 July 2018) and the Middle East and North Africa (Cairo, 25 November–6 December 2018). A total of 43 policymakers and academics, from 19 countries, completed the courses, representing Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia (at the time of the course, the country was still called the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, and Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Tunisia. Among all participants, 60 per cent were women.

629. The multi-year venue continued to be an innovative way of raising support, gaining experiences from various economies, and enhancing bilateral cooperation at the country level. The contribution of national experts in shedding light on the national and regional experience is of significance to the programme's curricula in enhancing knowledge and boosting human capital among policymakers. In 2018, four proposals were submitted from African countries for hosting the Africa economies course from 2019-2023. As a result, the Advisory Body of P166 met in September 2018 and established the University of Nairobi as the multi-venue for African countries: 2019, 2021, and 2023. Multi-year venues are a key indicator of the support that member States afford to the flagship course, support provided to the United Nations Secretariat, both in terms of financial and human resources.

630. In 2018, the multi-venue for the two regional courses were:

- (a) University of Belgrade, courses from 2014 to 2018 for the economies of Eastern Europe;
- (b) The Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, courses from 2018 to 2022 for the Middle East and North Africa.

631. The short courses continued to update Geneva-based delegates on the most recent research and developments on the international economic agenda, from the UNCTAD lens. In cooperation with several UNCTAD divisions, six short editions were offered in the spring and fall of 2018 on the following:

- (a) Assessing the e-trade readiness of the least developed countries for the promotion of investment policymaking for sustainable development (2 March);
- (b) Assessing the progress of the least developed countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (13 April);
- (c) Recent developments in international trade and their implications for the policymaking process (4 May);
- (d) Trade regulations in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development (14 September);
- (e) Maritime transport and trade facilitation: Challenges, opportunities and public-private coordination (12 October);
- (f) Shaping an inclusive and gender-responsive trade policy (2 November).

632. Considering each short course, a total of 229 delegates from 180 permanent missions participated in these editions. Out of the total number, 80 participants were women, representing a 35 per cent of overall participants, which is a 7 per cent increase in female representation from the previous year.

633. The short courses provide a platform where UNCTAD experts are given the opportunity to present their recent research to delegates, while the comments and questions from delegates provide relevant input and potential research topics to UNCTAD work. This informed dialogue between UNCTAD researchers and Geneva-based representatives of member States, bridges the knowledge gap and ensures information-sharing. These sessions are on average well attended and provide a forum for delegates and UNCTAD research experts to debate and exchange views.

634. **Results and impacts.** Following the completion of the training, most participants from the courses in Belgrade and Cairo indicated that the course led to improved

knowledge on international economic issues and development aspects at the national, regional and international levels. They have noted a deepened understanding of the importance of the role of international trade in improving economic development, including the links between international economic, social and financial issues. The approach to link theory, policy and practice in economic policy development was highly rated. Its approach to trade, development and investment at the regional and international levels was also useful for the participants.

635. The evaluations of the regional courses continued to illustrate that participants and their sending departments appreciated the debates on development-related topics and the integrated approach of the programme to ensuring that economic gains benefit development. This is inherent in the design of the curriculum, which treats development from the multiple perspectives of trade, finance, investment and technology. It highlights that the debates and design and implementation of appropriate economic policies can contribute to growth and the development process in general.

636. One participant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia (at the time of the course, the country was still called the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) who attended the thirty-ninth regional course held in Belgrade indicated that “the course was very well organized and presented a big opportunity for participants to enhance their knowledge on the global economy, trade, industry, and linkages between multilateral, regional and local economies”.

637. Another participant from the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Sudan who attended the fortieth regional course indicated: “The overall course content was excellent. The experts were very helpful, knowledgeable and have gained more useful information in the field of the design of national trade policies in attracting foreign direct investment that will develop the trade in our countries. I also learned from the experiences of other countries. That will play an important role in developing trade in the various sectors of our economies.”

638. In a nutshell, most participants praised the lessons learned from the experiences of other countries and how economic gains can be achieved. Most participants expressed that the curricula had surpassed expectations, by providing overall knowledge on international economic issues and development. They also stated that they learned about global economic issues, why economic changes take place and how economies are impacted. More importantly, how to tackle economic related issues through policy making was well understood. The case studies presented in Belgrade and Cairo were particularly helpful to most participants from Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa who found that the experiences and lessons learned could be adjusted and utilised to improve their countries’ economic trajectory, trade policy, institutional framework design and sustainable development.

639. Following courses held previously, and in an aftermath assessment, several participants reported that they were already using the knowledge and tools acquired in their daily work, such as, improvement of economic policy, trade negotiations, policy formulation, strategic planning, attracting FDI, employment creation as well as providing advisory services. Many also reported a better understanding of the essential role of trade agreements and the role they play in trade negotiations. Overall, participants complimented the curricula’s ability to promote debate and highlighted the policy development role-playing exercises as an example of how knowledge could be shared among policymakers, both at the national and regional levels.

640. Additionally, many noted that the knowledge gained helped them achieve a better understanding of contemporary economic issues and how to cope with the challenges of the new multilateral trading system. Several participants indicated their ability to employ analytical tools in the decision-making process in pursuit of relevant development policies to address economic challenges. Many also mentioned the linkages among international trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation as key pillars of the development strategy.