



# SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMIES



### GLOBAL CONTEXT

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 work 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.

UNCTAD work 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, the principles of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Nagoya Protocol, 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 and fostering environmental protection, thereby improving living standards.



### PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

- The Climate Change Programme brings Governments, industry and civil society together to address the economic aspects of climate change and its trade and sustainable development implications in several sectors of the economy, such as transportation, energy use, electricity generation and agriculture.
- The BioTrade Initiative works at the national, regional and global levels with partners along the following three strategic lines: enabling a policy framework for biotrade; value chain enhancement; and market creation and development for biodiversity products and services. As one means of enhancing the value chain, UNCTAD has developed a biotrade value chain methodology to support the growth of biodiversity-based sectors. The aim is to enhance the production of value added products and services derived from biodiversity, for both domestic and international markets.
- National green export reviews: The reviews support a country-led process to assess national potential and build action plans to advance the development of green sectors. Adopted by national stakeholders, these actions can generate new employment and export opportunities and advances, while promoting sustainable development.
- The Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies Programme supports developing countries in seizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources. It promotes the sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors by analysing, developing and adopting evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies and enhancing national implementation capacities.
- The Circular Economy Programme contributes to eliminating waste to protect the environment and conserve natural resources. Through the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution project, UNCTAD is assisting developing countries in their transition to a circular economy by improving the utilization of resources, adopting technology-based solutions and cleaner production methods, diversifying exports and reducing the levels of environmental pollution generated by manufacturing.



### RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- UNCTAD works closely with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address countries' concerns about the negative effects of climate change response measures, as well as to explore ways to enable trade to be part of the global solution to address climate change.
- Over the past two decades, BioTrade Initiative activities have benefited about 5 million people by directly

