

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD

UNCTAD
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

SO MUCH
DONE
SO MUCH
TO DO



UNITED NATIONS

SO MUCH
DONE
SO MUCH
TO DO



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2018

| CONTENT

4

INTRODUCTION



10

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD THE 2030 AGENDA

68

OUR COMMITMENT
TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND





80

OUR PERFORMANCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY



90

OUR PARTNERSHIPS
FOR TRANSFORMATION



104

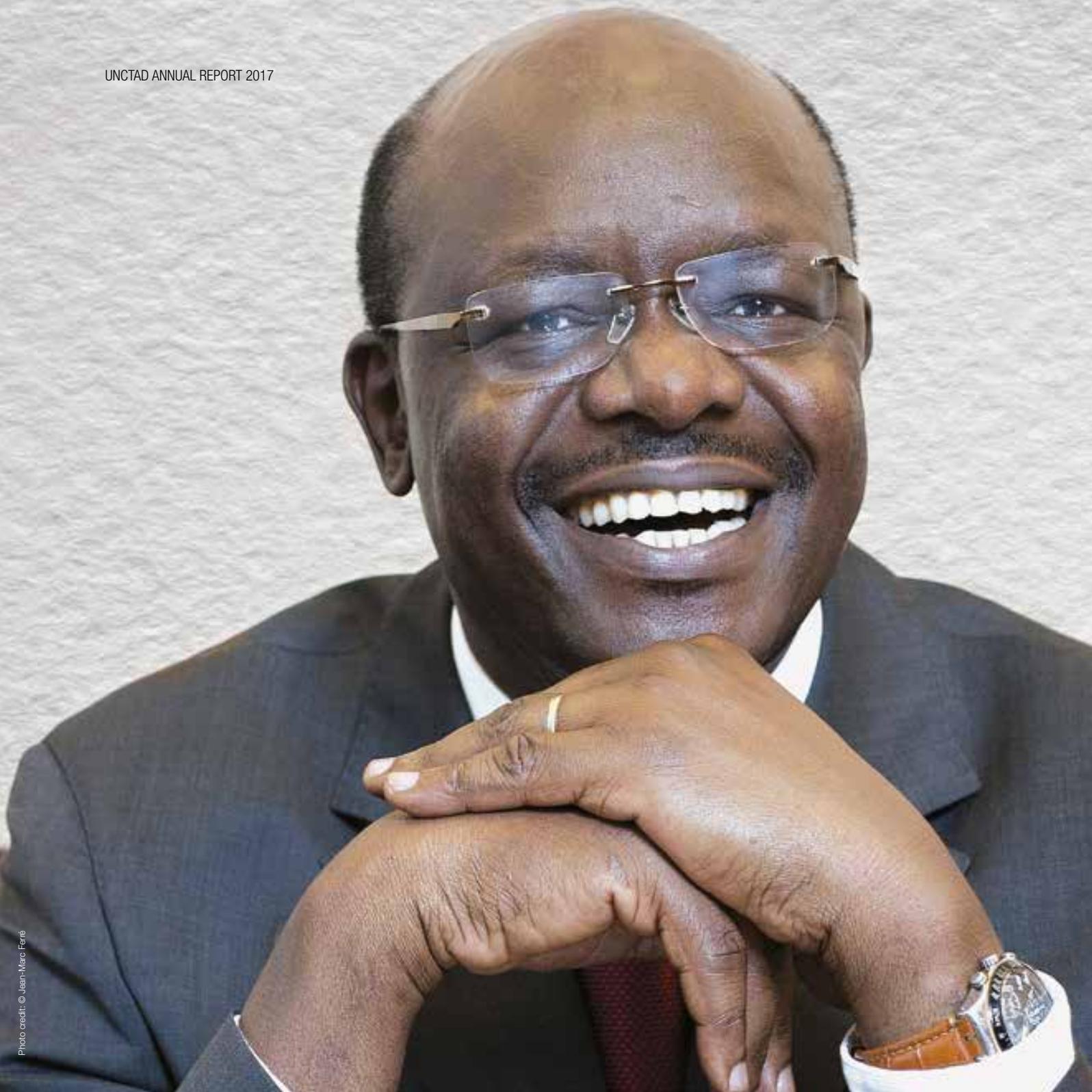
OUR PEOPLE



112

WHERE TO FIND US





| FOREWORD

The Nairobi Maafikiano, the work programme agreed by UNCTAD member States at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in July 2016, saw its first full year of implementation in 2017.

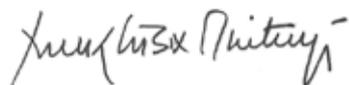
The Nairobi Maafikiano, together with the Nairobi Azimio, reoriented and strengthened the UNCTAD work programme on gainful integration of developing countries into the world economy in order to align it with the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Moving “from decision to action” to meet the triple promises of 2015 has meant that we at UNCTAD must recast our long-standing approach and activities through the prism of the new holistic and interdependent development agenda. This has meant working more closely together across the wider United Nations family, as well as across our research and analysis work, our intergovernmental consensus-building and our technical cooperation activities.

The Nairobi Maafikiano orients our unique contributions to sustainable development, financing for development and climate action across a number of cross-cutting objectives, including strengthening multilateralism for trade and development, advancing structural transformation and resilience, promoting sustainable economic growth, and supporting implementation and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

As the new development agenda is interconnected, UNCTAD work invariably touches on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals in one way or another. However, our perspective on the Sustainable Development Goals is principally focused on the economic dimension of sustainable development, especially the Goals and targets that address prosperity for all and global partnership. The new format of the *UNCTAD Annual Report 2017: So Much Done, So Much to Do* aims at more clearly linking the work we do on trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development to the results we achieve for these specific Sustainable Development Goals.

With the entire United Nations development system engaged in a transition to more effective, combined delivery on the collective promises of the 2030 Agenda, we hope that this *Annual Report 2017* can make a helpful contribution by showing where concrete UNCTAD results fit into this wider picture and deliver impact for the developing countries we serve.



Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



MAKING INTERNATIONAL TRADE FASTER, EASIER AND CHEAPER

More than 300 officials from some 70 countries gathered at the first International Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2017, organized in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the World Bank Group, the World Customs Organization and the World Trade Organization. The forum empowered the leaders of NTFCs and provided opportunities for them to access funding.



BUILDING GLOBAL MOMENTUM TO END HARMFUL FISH SUBSIDIES BY 2020

The Oceans Forum, organized by UNCTAD in Geneva in March 2017, fed recommendations that were directly channelled into two global discussion platforms which followed in 2017 – the first-ever Oceans Conference in June in New York, and the World Trade Organization's 11th Ministerial Conference in December in Buenos Aires. UNCTAD, with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, jointly committed to expand trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14 between now and 2020 and announced a new Blue BioTrade Initiative.



The third UNCTAD E-commerce Week featured more than 30 events organized by UNCTAD and 30 partners, and also hosted the first gathering of stakeholders of eTrade for all, a global public-private initiative, to help developing countries wishing to engage in and benefit from e-commerce.

The influential UNCTAD *World Investment Report, 2017* focused on investment and the digital economy, and how new technology is changing the investment landscape in developing countries.

ENABLING A DIGITAL ECONOMY THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND



On his first visit to Africa, the founder and executive chairman of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and UNCTAD special adviser Jack Ma launched a training course for entrepreneurs to study e-commerce and develop e-busineses during the Youth Connekt Summit, co-hosted by UNCTAD and the Government of Rwanda.

PARTNERING WITH JACK MA TO EMPOWER YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS





PUTTING CONSUMER PROTECTION AT THE CENTRE OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNCTAD hosted its first peer review on consumer protection (of Morocco) during the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. The development of a world consumer protection map, an interactive and easily accessible online tool that will provide an updated and comprehensive picture of consumer protection, was announced.



IDENTIFYING AFRICAN TOURISTS AS A NEW DRIVER OF DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD research showed how tourism in Africa is a flourishing industry that supports more than 21 million jobs, or 1 in 14 jobs, on the continent. International tourist arrivals and tourism revenues grew every year between 1995 and 2014 at 6% and 9% respectively. The 2017 edition of the influential UNCTAD *Economic Development in Africa Report* encouraged African countries to harness the dynamism of the tourism sector for sustainable development outcomes.



The first Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development met after being mandated by the Nairobi Maafikiano and brought various expertise and perspectives to bear on mobilizing national, international, public and private resources to promote development transformation effectively, fairly and inclusively. UNCTAD urged the international community to abandon “business as usual” and recognize that domestic resources cannot be mobilized without addressing systemic factors that allow illicit financial flows to continue.

COMBATING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND FINDING NEW WAYS TO PAY FOR DEVELOPMENT



The flagship UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report* highlighted the threat to good jobs spreading to some developing countries from automation, austerity policies and locking women out of the economy. The report recommended the adoption of digital-industrial policies to ensure that automation supports – rather than threatens – inclusive development. The report also attributed intensified job rationing by gender to the increasingly limited availability of good jobs relative to labour supply, with negative consequences for aggregate demand and, ultimately, growth.

HIGHLIGHTING AUTOMATION, AUSTERITY AND GENDER EXCLUSION AS THREATS



ALIGNMENT OF OUR WORK WITH THE NAIROBI MAAFIKIANO AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

THE NAIROBI MAAFIKIANO SUB-THEMES:

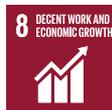
SUB-THEME 1:

Challenges and opportunities in multilateralism for trade and development



SUB-THEME 2:

Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth through trade, investment, finance and technology to achieve prosperity for all



SUB-THEME 3:

Advancing economic structural transformation and cooperation to build economic resilience and address trade and development challenges and opportunities, at all levels, within the UNCTAD mandate



SUB-THEME 4:

Contributing to the effective implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits, as related to trade and development



The 2016 Nairobi Maafikiano is the outcome document of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) which frames the agenda for our work over the next four years.

Find the full document here:



SUB-THEME 4 IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

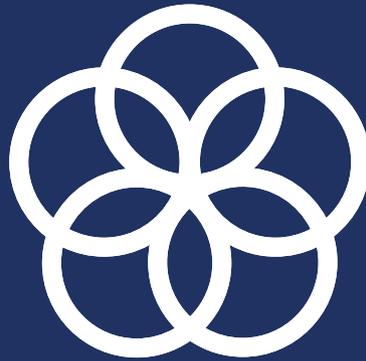






OUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD THE 2030 AGENDA

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



GOAL 17

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goal 17 calls for the international community to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”.

We support the achievement of all 19 targets that belong to Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals by taking a leading role in the inter-agency dialogue on “the means for implementation” – the hard task of working out exactly how the aspirations behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be achieved.

This work complements our role as a major institutional stakeholder of the financing for development process, which was recognized and strengthened by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a plan devised by the international community in 2015 to find ways to pay for the 2030 Agenda, and make good on longstanding financing commitments.

The mandate we were given by the international community in 2016 also reflects these priorities.

This mandate, known as the Nairobi Maafikiano after it was agreed at the fourteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the Kenyan capital, asks us to contribute to “the effective implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits, as related to trade and development”.

This chapter looks at our activities in 2017 in response to this part of our mandate, highlighting some of the work we have done to help countries achieve Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

Foreign direct investment data and analysis

Our *World Investment Report 2017* presented foreign direct investment trends and prospects at the global,

regional and national levels. The report presented policy advice on how to deal with close to 3,000 old-generation investment treaties and the theme chapter of the year showed that the digital economy is having a major impact on global patterns of investment. It provided insights to policymakers on how the digital economy impacts investment policies and how investment policy can support digital development, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2017, we released three timely Global Investment Trends Monitors with a special issue based on the annual Investment Report from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a joint report prepared by the UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat, that in 2017 examined the historical investment development of two dialogue partners of ASEAN – India and the European Union. The report was launched during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit on November 2017 in Manila.

We also contributed to ongoing work in several forums – including the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Eurostat

– to refine data collection methodology, which also feeds into capacity-building efforts for developing countries.

Investment policymaking for sustainable development

In 2017, we developed a comprehensive guide on investment measures for the Sustainable Development Goals, which maps out best practice policies and measures in support of countries' efforts to mobilize foreign direct investment for the Goals. The strategy proposal was reviewed by a panel of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. This work addresses target 15 of Goal 17 to “respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development”, and target 14 of Goal 17 to “enhance policy coherence for sustainable development”.

At the international level, we backstop the existing multi-layered and fragmented international investment agreements (IIA) regime and support its reform and convergence with sustainable development objectives.

In 2017, our assistance included IIA country reviews for eight countries, IIA model treaty comments for seven countries, and other advisory work at the request of individual countries and regional groupings. Some 150 countries to date have designed or redesigned their investment laws and/or treaty clauses using UNCTAD tools.

In October 2017, we organized a multi-year expert meeting that focused on IIAs, where more than 300 experts took stock of reform and considered viable policy options for further reform. This confirmed our role as a focal point in the United Nations system on matters related to international investment policy.

Investment promotion and facilitation

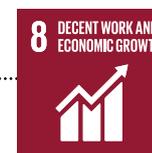
In 2017, we organized a dialogue on investment promotion priorities in least developed countries, where representatives presented their countries' capacity-building needs. The event was held in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Following the dialogue, we hosted the first meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Technical Committee on investment promotion for the least developed countries. For this event, we produced a background paper to provide sustainable development-oriented investment promotion guidelines to help these countries attract investment to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

We produced a document titled "Investment Facilitation: The Perfect Match for Investment Promotion" that presents practical examples from investment promotion agencies to illustrate the tools and techniques in the UNCTAD global action menu for investment facilitation and other policy instruments, and how they can be deployed.

To recognize achievements by agencies and similar bodies that spur private investment in developing countries, our United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals 2017 were awarded to:

- The Ethiopian Investment Commission
- The Board of Investment of Mauritius
- The outward investment promotion agency of Spain, COFIDES (Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo)



International agreements on transport infrastructure and trade logistics

In 2017, we contributed to collaborative initiatives for the effective implementation of international agreements and outcomes in the field of transport infrastructure and logistics.

We supported and provided inputs to the Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together a diverse high-level group of stakeholders to help transform the transport sector to make it more sustainable. The first outcome of this partnership is the *Global Mobility Report 2017* for which we provided substantive inputs.

We also provided support and inputs to the Law and Climate Change Toolkit International Reference Group and participated in side events on transport, energy, green and inclusive economies, sustainable shipping, climate resilience and sustainability at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany. This included a panel discussion on climate

action in global value chains – an integrated international trade and transport perspective, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation.

National trade facilitation committees

After passing the threshold of national ratifications, the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Trade Facilitation on making cross-border trade quicker, easier and cheaper, entered into force in February 2017.

The agreement and the preparations for its ratification benefited significantly from our work and we continued to provide extensive capacity-building and technical assistance to developing and least developed countries to support implementation.

In 2017, we helped more than 30 countries through more than 50 national and regional events and advisory services in support of target 10 of Goal 17 on the “promotion of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization”.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Our work in support of national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) in 2017 included holding the First International Forum for NTFCs, continued with the delivery of national training workshops to NTFCs throughout the year and concluded with the publication of our latest empirical study on NTFCs in December. The study provided an in-depth analysis of existing NTFCs, set up in compliance with article 23.2 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and supporting target 17 of Goal 17 on “effective public, public–private and civil society partnerships”.

Since the launch our empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees, almost 40 training sessions have been held in 15 countries as part of five different projects. Four countries – Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and the Sudan – completed the programme in 2017. As a result, they launched trade facilitation road maps which include key indicators to guide the country’s trade facilitation implementation in coming years. Our work reached more than 1,400 trade facilitation stakeholders (one third of them women). A total of 92% of beneficiaries said that the programme had helped them improve their

knowledge of trade facilitation and 82% of them felt in a better position to assume their roles as members of their national trade facilitation committee.

Development finance

In 2017, our document entitled “Scaling up finance for the Sustainable Development Goals: Experimenting with models of multilateral development banking” directly addressed target 3 of Goal 17 on mobilizing “additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources”.

The document was prepared for the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development convened as a result of its establishment by the Nairobi Maafikiano.

Multilateral trading system

Multilateral trade cooperation is essential for Goal 17 to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, especially target 10 “to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization”.

In 2017, we prepared the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly in September on international trade and development, assessing the status of the multilateral trading system from a development perspective, and supported substantive deliberation at the United Nations Second Committee for the adoption of a resolution.

This was followed by the UNCTAD Trade and Development Commission, which examined the issues in advance of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11), in Buenos Aires, in December 2017.

At MC11, we organized a high-level event entitled "The Multilateral Trading System: Time to Re-Energize?" to discuss viable options for transforming global trade with positive welfare benefits for societies. Noting that the multilateral trading system has recently come under growing pressure in delivering on prosperity and development promises, participants underlined the value of multilateralism and the commitment to its development dimension.

In 2017 we continued to help developing countries make informed decisions on positions to take in trade negotiations. We supported the African Group, Commonwealth countries and least developed countries to prepare for the MC11 by contributing to consultative meetings and ambassadors' retreats.

Reaching target 10 of Goal 17 "to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization" also informs our support for countries acceding to the WTO. We provided capacity-building and advisory support to more than 20 acceding countries, including Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Comoros, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, the Sudan and Turkmenistan, as well as to countries in the post-accession phase such as Liberia and Seychelles.

In November 2017 we hosted an information and experience sharing session on WTO accession for a delegation of senior Iraqi trade officials at which the Director-General for Foreign Trade Relations in the Ministry of Trade of Iraq thanked UNCTAD and

requested continued support during the next phases of accession.

Development statistics and information

In 2017 we continued to contribute to the monitoring, discussion and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing relevant, reliable and timely statistics on a range of topics including international trade, foreign direct investment and development and through analyses and capacity development geared to improving national data infrastructure.

This work directly relates to target 18 of Goal 17 to “enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

To celebrate the fiftieth edition of the *Handbook of Statistics* in 2017, the handbook was completely

revamped and modernized. A new presentation style was used, integrating detailed statistical time series available from the UNCTADstat data centre with summary tables, state-of-the-art charts, maps and modern infographics.

Our handbook is one of the few to cover such a wide range of topics – trade, foreign direct investment, macroeconomic trends, and population and demography. For the first time, the handbook also included a special chapter on maritime statistics, reflecting the importance of this sector for development.

In 2017 we published “Statistical capacity-building for sustainable development: System prerequisites”, a special research paper that contributed to the development of global data infrastructure and highlighted the importance of national data infrastructure for the development of national statistical systems.

Together with the Statistical Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, since 2015, we have been working to develop and improve the compilation of trade-in-services statistics in the region. In 2017 we developed a harmonized questionnaire and

a workshop with statisticians from the region was held in Niamey, Niger, in November, to plan the testing of this questionnaire and to ensure the technical and logistical preparations for the first pilot data collection were in place.

Supporting South–South cooperation

Target 9 of Goal 17 calls for “enhanced international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation.”

We work directly with experts and Governments in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America on the topic of South–South financial and monetary integration, and in 2017 many aspects of this project were completed.

The goal was to gather information and share experiences of South-led initiatives to promote pro-growth macroeconomic policies, including innovative new mechanisms that aim to provide long-term development

finance – essential for infrastructure and structural transformation – as well as short-term foreign liquidity through regional reserve pools and currency mechanisms.

Working closely with experts in the field, research on these themes included the experiences of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, Asia’s Chiang Mai Initiative and Latin America’s reserve fund, FLAR (Fondo Latinoamericano de Reservas). We also examined longer-term financing mechanisms, looking at ways in which South-led development banks are supporting the environment, the potential impact of Asian infrastructure funds, how national and regional development banking is changing in Africa and Latin America, and even on the role of a basic minimum income as a macroeconomic policy tool.

In 2017, in collaboration with the Government of Ecuador, the Union of South American Nations, the South African Institute of International Affairs and the University of Boston in the United States, among others, we reported the findings of research activities in the regions so far and held important discussions on the policy support still

needed so that these new and emerging institutions can realize their full potential.

In addition, the Wuhan Seminars that we organized in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce of China, held in Wuhan, brought together 60–70 policymakers from around the world to consider our analytical work and allow them to share experiences, and feed concerns back to us to continue our efforts.

E-commerce and the digital economy

Information and communications technologies are playing an increasingly important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The digitalization of economic activities and trade is directly relevant to several of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 17. Our work in this area includes several analytical, technical assistance and consensus-building activities.

Our *Information Economy Report 2017: Digitalization, Trade and Development* proposed ways in which the international community can reduce inequality, enable the

benefits of digitalization to reach all people and ensure that no one is left behind by the evolving digital economy.

The report was launched in parallel with the operationalization of a new Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-Commerce and the Digital Economy. The creation of the group was among the key outcomes of the Nairobi Maafikiano. The policy focus of the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in October 2017 was to strengthen the development dimension of e-commerce and the digital economy to enhance development gains.

While championing other successful initiatives, our eTrade for all initiative advances a collective vision of supporting developing countries on their journey to e-commerce for development. In April 2017 we launched the etradeforall.org platform, as a knowledge-sharing and information hub that facilitates access to information and resources to leverage e-commerce prospects. The platform generates on average monthly traffic of more than 2,000 visitors, with more than 67% returning visitors; 50% of users come from developing countries.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



The third UNCTAD E-commerce Week, held in April with the theme “Towards inclusive e-commerce”, contributed to the global dialogue on the need to make the development of e-commerce inclusive. We organized a range of events, including the first ministerial meeting of the Friends of E-commerce for Development, the official launch of etradeforall.org and the first board meeting of Business for eTrade Development.

Supporting African economic integration

We support target 9 of Goal 17 to “enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries” by looking at African economic development in a global context and building international consensus on the challenges facing the African countries. This helps mobilize international support measures to promote economic development in Africa.

In 2017, as negotiations in Africa progressed towards the creation of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), we intensified our support to African countries in building and strengthening their trade negotiating capacities.

Our support accelerated during the year, and African Union member States finalized a deal in December 2017 for adoption in early 2018.

We prepared technical notes and provided policy analysis and advisory support – especially on options for negotiating modalities for trade in goods and services – to the CFTA negotiating and advisory processes, as well as to the African Union Commission, African regional economic communities and individual AU member States.

We also participated in various sessions of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, the Continental Task Force and deliberations of the Technical Working Group on specialized topics such as trade in services, agriculture, goods and non-tariff measures.

We were also involved in the preparatory process for negotiations held in Nairobi in May 2016 and produced a draft protocol for cooperation on competition law enforcement.

Our partners recognized UNCTAD as a major strategic partner in their engagement in CFTA negotiations.

The former AU African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry described our contribution to CFTA Negotiating Forum as “critical” and requested that we continue to “support the CFTA in its various institutions – including but not limited to the CFTA Negotiating Forum”.

Also in 2017 we helped build peace through cross-border trade between nations in Africa’s Great Lakes region by joining the United Nations Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. UNCTAD is the latest agency to participate in a regional trust fund set up to support the framework and will use its leading role in the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity to help the framework team to further broaden their work on economic development and trade.

Developing country debt management

In 2017 we developed work critical for achieving target 4 of Goal 17 “on assisting developing countries attain debt sustainability” and “reducing the risk of debt distress”.

We introduced a new policy tool, Financial Conditions Indicators, to monitor financial conditions and distress in

emerging and frontier markets, including least developed countries and small island developing States. These financial indicators use the newest technology to address data problems and the increasing complexities of financial markets. They are designed specifically for each country, taking account of country-specific factors, and are produced in real time and at high frequency.

Our Debt Management and Financial Analysis Programme (DMFAS), which works directly with 57 countries and 85 user institutions, continued to offer in 2017 a set of proven solutions to improve countries’ capacity to manage public debt and, consequently, public resources.

Our eleventh Debt Management Conference in November provided a unique forum for the sharing of experiences and exchange of views between Governments, international organizations, academia, the private financial sector and civil society on current issues in debt management. The 2017 Conference was attended by over 109 countries, 12 international institutions, and debated financing for development, debt sustainability and responsible and inclusive financing.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



On the sidelines of the Trade and Development Board session in September, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on debt and development finance strategies was signed with the Government of Viet Nam. The MoU will serve as the basis for future cooperation in support of the development agenda of Viet Nam and to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With our support, the Government of Viet Nam has established a comprehensive debt database that has resulted in the strengthening of public financial management, information and transparency.

Assistance to increase exports and tax revenues

Target 11 of Goal 17 calls for a significant increase in the exports of developing countries, with a view to doubling the share of global exports of least developed countries by 2020.

Through regional, national and online training, we assisted the Tripartite Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern

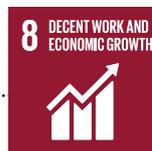
Africa, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community in improving regulatory transparency to address high trade costs posed by non-tariff measures.

In three regional and one national workshops and an online training course, we trained more than 100 policymakers in collecting data on, and the impact and policy implications of non-tariff measures (NTMs). This built upon our long-standing expertise as the lead organization in a multi-agency initiative to increase global transparency and understanding of non-tariff measures.

Data collection activities were completed in most countries, and national validation workshops were held in Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe which brought together 10 to 20 agencies in each country.

The workshops increased inter-agency coordination on non-tariff measures and contributed to meeting target 14 of Goal 17 on “enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development”.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



The NTM data is being integrated into the existing Tripartite Non-Tariff Barriers Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating Mechanism (www.tradebarriers.org) and the global TRAINS database (trains.unctad.org).

In 2017 we also continued to help the League of Arab States (LAS) Secretariat and LAS members in the preparation for and negotiations of the establishment of an Arab Custom Union, the most important integration project in the region in decades given its expected impact on member countries' economies through various channels.

Also, at the invitation of the United States Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, our programme on NTMs trained government officials from 19 government agencies to review current NTMs in the country with the aim of making them less obscure for importers and exporters while making them more effective in protecting health and the environment. The training took place in Vientiane in October 2017.

In 2017 our Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme continued to support member States in reaching target 1 of Goal 17 on "strengthening domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection".

By enabling developing country customs authorities to more efficiently collect tariff revenues, ASYCUDA assisted countries in the economic planning of government finances with revenue collection, trade facilitation and the fight against fraud.

Capacity-building for policymaking

Our paragraph 166 course addresses the analytical and policy challenges that policymakers, Geneva-based delegates and other stakeholders from developing and transition economies face in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Managing these challenges helps their countries to integrate into the rapidly globalizing economy in ways that are beneficial for all countries.

The six courses organized for Geneva-based diplomats in 2017 looked closely at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting sustainable economic development and inclusive trade.

In 2017, our paragraph 166 courses were also organized for mid-level government officials in Colombia, Mauritius and Singapore. Evaluations carried out after the courses demonstrated a high level of appreciation by participants of the courses' structure and focus on national economic policy coordination for development.

Also in 2017, our Train for Trade Programme delivered distance learning and training-of-trainers for 74 countries, resulting in the training of 580 specialists (36% women) on issues such as trade in services statistics and e-commerce (legislation and best practices) in collaboration with our statistics branch, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Statistics Division and regional Institutions such

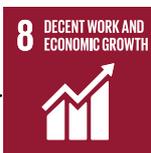
as the American Caribbean States and the Arab Monetary Fund.

Assistance to the Palestinian people

In 2017, our Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit continued to respond to the evolving, multifaceted, increasingly complex needs of the Palestinian economy, under occupation, and sustained its efforts to build the capacities of the public and private sectors required for a viable, sovereign Palestinian State. Numerous domestic and international institutions benefited from initiatives, research findings, advisory services and recommendations of the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit.

Our reports and studies, analysis and estimation of the leakage of Palestinian fiscal resources to Israel set the agenda and policy discourse. Prompted by our pioneering work in 2016, the International Monetary Fund, the

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Office of the Quartet Representative and the World Bank Group formed a task force in 2017 to study the problem and facilitate a resolution. An agreement was reached whereby Israel reimbursed \$300 million to settle part of the leaked Palestinian fiscal resources to the Israeli treasury.

The 2017 study entitled *The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Twin-Deficits or a Resource Gap?* analysed the sources of macroeconomic disequilibrium in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and offered alternative policy recommendations to move towards macroeconomic equilibrium and sustainable, inclusive growth, employment generation and poverty reduction. A second study, entitled *The Economic Costs of the Israeli Occupation for the Palestinian People and their Human Right to Development: Legal Dimensions*, elaborated the legal obligations of Israel under international law, as an occupying power, with regard to the economic costs of occupation of the Palestinian territory. ■

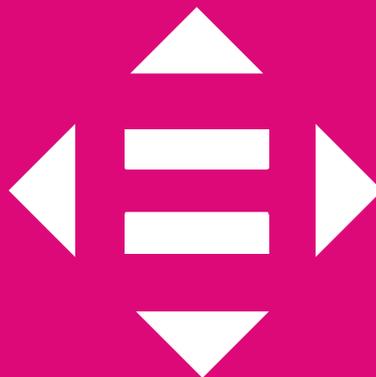


Photo credit: Natalia Creslik © World Bank

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



GOAL 10

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Goal 10 aspires to reduce inequality between groups of people and between countries so that prosperity is shared equally among all. This has been our guiding principle since UNCTAD was established in 1964. In particular, we are dedicated to “universal social, economic and political inclusion,” as envisaged by target 2 of Goal 10.

We do this by promoting an “enabling economic environment” through analytical work that leads to policy recommendations, by building capacities through our work on the ground and by providing a consensus-building forum for countries.

Our work helps developing countries meet target 5 of Goal 10 on “improving regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions” and target 6 of Goal 10 on “ensuring enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions”.

We contribute to these objectives through all of our activities, notably including helping implement target

A of Goal 10 on special and differential treatment for developing countries in the global trading system, but also through strengthening the enabling environment by encouraging foreign direct investment to States where the need is greatest, as specified by target B of Goal 10.

Our mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, tasks us with a range of work under Goal 10. This chapter looks at what was done in 2017 to fulfil both our mandate and assist countries in their efforts to meet Goal 10.

Global inclusive development

Our flagship *Trade and Development Report* in 2017 addressed the challenge of Goal 10 to “reduce inequality within and among countries” by looking at the effects on inclusive growth of:

- The “fourth industrial revolution”
- Macroeconomic aspects of gender issues
- Globalization and the rise of rentier capitalism

The report shows that hyperglobalization has fuelled a significant rise in restrictive business practices, and

that the rents such practices generate have led to rising inequality in a winner-takes-most world.

The report also shows that the countries currently most exposed to robot-based automation are those with a large and well-paying manufacturing sector, whereas robotization has had a small effect on most developing countries, where mechanization continues to be the predominant form of automation. The report also recommends having digital-industrial policies to ensure that robotics supports – rather than threatens – inclusive development.

Pro-development foreign direct investment

Our work on national and international investment policy developments, and the presentation of data and analysis of trends in foreign direct investment in our *World Investment Report 2017*, supports target B of Goal 10 to “encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest”.

The *World Investment Report* also supported target A on the “mobilization of resources” for Goal 1 on ending poverty by focusing in 2017 on investment and the digital economy. The report analysed the impact of digitalization on international production and its implications for investment, and vice versa. It concluded that investment should be a central consideration in digital development strategies, an aspect which is often neglected in development thinking.

The report also explored the core gaps in current digital development strategies from multiple perspectives, focusing on infrastructure, private capital, investment regulations and policy. It outlines how investment policy can support digital development and frames a policy guideline for investment in the digital economy that can help reduce inequalities within and among countries.

Greater corporate transparency in publicly listed firms

The standards demanded by stock exchanges of the companies they list offers a route to improving corporate

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



reporting on environmental, social and corporate governance issues. The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE) seeks to leverage this potential and provide a credible gauge of the actual contribution of publicly listed firms to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this way, the initiative contributes to target 5 of Goal 10 to “improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations”. It also contributes to target 6 of Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production to “encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle”.

Since it was launched in 2009, membership of SSE Initiative has grown to 68 exchanges – representing \$62 trillion in market capitalization from over 40,000 listed companies.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Small islands and least developed countries

A paramount development goal of small island developing States is building resilience to external factors like climate change and economic shocks. Their structural disadvantages are squarely addressed by Goal 10. To assist countries in meeting it, we actively support the plea for a new global partnership for small islands by:

- Recognizing small island developing States (SIDS) as a category to encourage international support measures
- Identifying special responses to the problems of SIDS, notably the obstacles to their resilience-building efforts

In 2017 we intensified our work to put forward proposals for SIDS treatment in line with the pledge by member States “to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States” (Samoa Pathway, 2014). We backed two important SIDS-friendly measures:

- Establishing a multi-agency integrated framework of technical assistance to SIDS

- Reforming the United Nations rule for graduation from least developed country (LDC) status by sparing the most vulnerable (all of which are SIDS) from the obligation to lose LDC treatment

Also in 2017, to support target A of Goal 10 on “the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries” (and target 12 of Goal 17 on “providing market access for least developed countries”), we provided training and research support for LDC members at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the technical issue of rules of origin, delivered through a partnership with European University Institute.



This support will be instrumental in implementing the commitments in the WTO Ministerial Decisions made in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013 and Nairobi, Kenya, in 2015 on preferential rules of origin for least developed countries.

Additionally, in 2017 we prepared a handbook on the Generalized System of Preferences scheme of Turkey, based on Ministerial Decision No. 2014/7064 on the Determination of the Origin of Goods Benefiting from a Preferential Regime for the Purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences, to provide a general explanation of the scheme for officials and users in charge of the Generalized System of Preferences. ■



Photo credit: © World Bank

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



GOAL 9

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

A functioning and resilient infrastructure is the foundation of every successful community, while industrialization remains a priority of developing nations held back by lack of access to its benefits. With a focus on responsible, sustainable and inclusive paths to industrialization, Goal 9 includes targets that directly relate to our integrated treatment of trade, investment, finance and technology.

Target 2 of Goal 9 aims to “promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries”.

Other Goal 9 targets call for, among other things, small companies to be integrated in value chains, support for industrial diversification and value addition to commodities and harnessing science, technology and innovation for development.

Our mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, mirrors these concerns by asking us to work on “advancing economic

structural transformation and cooperation to build economic resilience and address trade and development challenges and opportunities at all levels”.

This chapter describes the work we have done in 2017 in support of Goal 9 and the Nairobi Maafikiano.

Border infrastructure and customs data

Our ASYCUDA automated customs management system and its various modules – now in operation in over 90 countries – contribute to the achievement of target 1 of Goal 9, on “regional and transborder infrastructure” by greatly accelerating customs procedures to boost imports and exports and enhancing developing economies’ competitiveness.

In August 2017, for example, Bangladesh processed up to 60,000 e-documents per day – a volume that compares favourably with developed countries. In June 2017, a real-time customs data exchange system between Afghanistan and Tajikistan was made possible using ASYCUDA.

Both countries will benefit from an increase in regional trade and a decrease in smuggling and drug trafficking.

ASYCUDA and trade information transparency

Our trade portal initiative assists countries to make information available on the internet under article 1.2 of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Facilitation and target C of Goal 9 on "significantly increasing access to information and communications technology".

We also help developed countries to achieve target A of Goal 9 – to "facilitate sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support" – by improving transparency on trade and transit procedures.

We provide extensive technical assistance and capacity-building activities to developing countries on transit and corridor management, and a transit module is included in our ASYCUDA customs management system.

Affordable energy infrastructure for least developed countries

In 2017, *The Least Developed Countries Report* focused on transformational energy access to help least developed countries achieve Goal 9. It proposed an approach to modern energy founded upon "transformational energy access" and meeting energy needs for production and industrialization as well as for domestic use. It highlights the critical need for building resilient, viable and affordable energy infrastructure in least developed countries that goes above and beyond meeting Goal 7 of ensuring "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" to assure sustainable industrialization, innovation and economic diversification.

Our report heightened awareness among policymakers of the need to adopt holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable national electricity systems and infrastructure, catering to both productive and household uses.

Broad-based economic development and the reorientation of the economies of least developed countries towards more modern activities and sectors is essential for them to achieve every single Sustainable Development Goal.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Improved maritime connectivity and port management

With more than 80% of global trade by volume being carried on board ships and handled by seaports worldwide, we expanded our coverage of shipping statistics and maritime country profiles to help countries meet target A of Goal 9 on facilitating sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.

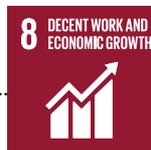
Recognizing the sector's strategic function, the global policy framework under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the role of trade – and by extension, seaborne trade – as an engine for inclusive and sustainable growth and development. The 2017 edition of the *Review of Maritime Transport* had a special chapter on maritime transport connectivity, reflecting the prominence of physical and electronic connectivity as a priority area in the trade and development policy agenda. In addition, it showed that promoting the employment of women in the maritime transport sector can help alleviate potential labour shortages in several maritime businesses – on shore and off.

The research and statistics on maritime connectivity was complemented by a novel study entitled *Rethinking Maritime Cabotage for Improved Connectivity* which introduced options on how domestic shipping services could be better linked to regional and global routes to improve a country's access to overseas markets, while at the same time optimizing domestic trade.

Our Train for Trade port management programme supports port communities in developing countries to develop efficient and competitive port management, by sharing knowledge and expertise among port operators, and strengthening talent management and human resources development in port communities.

In 2017, the programme delivered training to 27 middle managers from the port communities of Ghana, 29 senior managers from the member ports of the English-speaking network of the programme (Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines), as well as prospective port members (Cambodia, Jamaica, Malaysia and Serbia) and 24 middle managers from the port communities of the Philippines. So far, the programme has trained 3,331 port managers

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



through 90 national training and capacity-building cycles and 77 workshops for training of trainers

Sustainable industrialization in Africa

In support of Africa's regional integration agenda and with target 2 of Goal 9 on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and target 5 of Goal 9 on increasing research and upgrading industrial technologies in mind, we started a new project that aims to identify regional value chains and coordinate supportive industrial policy in Southern Africa. The first workshop was jointly organized with the Department for Trade and Industry of South Africa in Pretoria in March 2017.

As part of this, we also organized a two-day regional workshop in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on transforming Southern Africa with the country's Ministry of Industry of Trade and Investment and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Our outcome document, which was adopted by the participating countries, endorsed a series of specific policy measures, including:

- Promoting regional value chains in capital mining equipment
- Promoting regional value chains in agro-processing
- Building a platform for energy sustainability

Furthermore, we produced a report on identifying potential regional value chains in Africa in the leather sector as part of a project directly addressing Goal 9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. We consulted industry and policymakers and identified a lack of capacity in design as one of the key constraints to adding value to exports of leather products from Africa.

Based on the recommendations of this study, the Leather and Leather Products Institute of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) launched a Commonwealth–COMESA Regional Design Studio to train leather designers.

Meanwhile, we looked at ways to process cotton by-products in Africa to add value to this commodity by implementing a United Nations Development Account project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa. We held national workshops in the

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where stakeholders and policymakers in each country agreed on a national action plan to develop cotton by-products. Each plan included two or three commercial initiatives, an oversight committee and supporting policy recommendations. The commercial initiatives represent new industrial activities, technologies and jobs in each country in support of Goal 9, as well as making more efficient use of all parts of the cotton plant.

For example, the plans in all three countries include processing the stalks of the cotton plant – currently unutilized – into briquettes and pellets for fuel.

Services economy and trade

We have been pioneering the conceptualization, policy analysis and intergovernmental deliberation on services economy and trade, which forms the dominant segment of the global economy, for many years.

Our work is ever more relevant as the achievement of many Goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires well-functioning

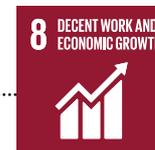
infrastructure and basic services, and universal access to them. The incidence in the Sustainable Development Goals of aspirations dependent on services makes the 2030 Agenda essentially a services agenda.

In 2017, we published two reports on the services economy (*Access to Financial Services and Digital Economy for Sustainable Development* and *Services and Structural Transformation for Development*) that explore:

- Access to financial services
- Access energy services
- Resilient transport infrastructure
- Information and communications technology services

In July 2017, we held the fifth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, a key recommendation of which was the importance of working towards sound policies, adequate regulations and strong institutions capable of enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of services sectors. We presented a new Energy Service Toolkit to serve as an invaluable tool for developing countries working to meet Goal 9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:





In 2017, we continued to provide support to countries conducting Services Policy Reviews, our tool to help countries reform their services policies and engage in services trade negotiations.

Such support was provided to Namibia, Paraguay and the Economic Community of West African States, as well as for services-related trade negotiations on a multilateral and regional basis, including for Africa's Continental Free Trade Agreement, the Tripartite Free Trade Area agreement between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern African Development Community and East African Community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Services Policy Reviews are expected to enhance the capacity of public and private stakeholders in these blocs and countries to design, monitor and implement services policies, institutions and regulatory frameworks.

In 2017, responding to African countries' requests for technical assistance on services trade policymaking,

we initiated a United Nations Development Account project on strengthening services trade policymaking for Africa's integration into regional value chains in support of the 2030 Agenda.

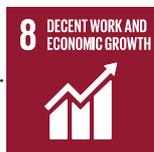
The project aims at building national and regional capacities for evidence-based services trade policymaking in support of creating and deepening national and regional services value chains in selected African countries, and directly contributes to meeting Goals 8, 9 and 17.

Facilitating resilient infrastructure development for small islands

In 2017 we expanded our important work on climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure with a focus on small island developing States (SIDS). This directly helps countries achieve target A of Goal 9 to facilitate resilient infrastructure development.

Our project entitled "Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of SIDS" drew on insights from earlier

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



research, as well as a series of expert meetings. Our work included:

- National case studies with a focus on climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for ports and airports in Jamaica and Saint Lucia
- A transferable climate-risk and vulnerability assessment framework for use by transport policymakers, planners and operators in SIDS. Three training workshops for national stakeholders in Jamaica and Saint Lucia, with around 100 participants
- Three training workshops for regional stakeholders from the port and airport authorities of 21 countries and territories in the Caribbean

We also published a report on the findings of a survey on the port industry and climate change impacts and adaptation, which highlighted important data and information gaps concerning seaports of all sizes and across regions, with implications for effective climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Sustainable freight transport strategies

In recent years, we have intensified our work on sustainable freight transport to help developing countries mainstreaming sustainability considerations into their freight transport-related policies, plans, operations, and investment decisions.

In 2017, as part of our project on building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport, we launched the Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport.

The Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport is a web-based, step-by-step methodology that helps countries and stakeholders, from both the public and private sectors, to effectively plan, design, develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies.

The framework was launched during the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation in October.

Science, technology and innovation

In 2017 our work on science, technology and innovation for development included, among other things, raising awareness about the issues during meetings of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development, the United Nations General Assembly, the Science, Technology and Innovation Multi-Stakeholder Forum and other United Nations meetings.

We also continued to actively contribute to the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and, since September 2017, have been a co-convenor of the United Nations inter-agency task team on technology.

Our role as the secretariat for the main forum in the United Nations for Member States to discuss the challenges and opportunities of science and technology – the yearly

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) – was reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly during its seventy-second session in September 2017.

By introducing the development dimension into the policy debate, the CSTD plays a central role in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technology, serve as enablers of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.

In 2017, the CSTD examined new approaches to innovation that are mission-oriented, socially inclusive and environmentally benign, and the policy measures that can support this type of innovation. Participants agreed that policymakers need not only to encourage more innovation to help countries achieve Goal 9, but, importantly, to encourage the types of innovation that contribute to eradicating poverty.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Since a key driver and consequence of poverty is food and nutrition insecurity, the CSTD explored in depth the role of new, existing and emerging technologies that address food security (Goal 2) at its 2017 session.

The debates covered genetic modification, methods for improving soil fertility, irrigation, post-harvest and agro-processing technologies, and climate-smart science, technology and innovation solutions.

Participants of the CSTD found that innovative capabilities are critical not only for ensuring access to nutritious food at all times, but also for harnessing agriculture and the food system as part of integrated strategies to reduce poverty. ■



Photo credit: 2016 Jonathan Erns © World Bank



8

**DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



GOAL 8**PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

Supporting economic growth and providing decent work for all lies at the heart of Goal 8. The Goal's targets cover achieving higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, job creation and entrepreneurship, including through sustainable tourism, reducing youth unemployment and expanding access to banking, insurance and financial services.

As mandated by the Nairobi Maafikiano, our work is squarely aimed at “promoting sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth through trade, investment, finance and technology to achieve prosperity for all”.

One key concept, pioneered by UNCTAD, is the development of “productive capacities” – that is, the productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop. The complex steps needed to make this happen form the basis of our work under Goal 8.

This chapter looks at some of the things we did in 2017 to help developing countries achieve this Goal.

Developing productive capacities

A high-level panel at the sixty-fourth session of our Trade and Development Board was dedicated to improving productive capacities. The session, which took place in September 2017, was attended by the Vice-President of Ghana and the Deputy Chair of the African Union Commission.

In line with Goal 8 targets on growth and jobs, we continued to develop measurable indices of productive capacities to assist landlocked developing countries in devising evidence-based development strategies.

We organized a national workshop in Botswana for 36 national policymakers and academics (56% women), which validated and improved our work on indicators and measuring productive capacities.

In 2017, our flagship *Trade and Development Report* addressed Goal 8 on growth and jobs by examining recent trends in financial markets and flows and addressed the vulnerabilities faced by developing countries. It emphasized rising inequality as one of the fundamental constraints on faster growth of the global economy, which, in conjunction with financial instability, poses structural limits to inclusive growth.

The report states that people should be put before profits, calling for a twenty-first century makeover to offer a “Global New Deal”. Ending austerity, clamping down on corporate rent seeking and harnessing finance to support creating jobs and investing in infrastructure will be key to such a makeover. The report also outlined specific policy measures that would put the global economy on track for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

Commodity dependence and economic diversification

Many developing countries export their extractive resources – such as oil, natural gas or minerals – as raw materials,

with little value added. These activities are often isolated from the rest of the host economy, relying on foreign inputs and supplying foreign supply chains, creating few jobs.

From 2015 to 2017, we implemented a United Nations Development Account project in Chad and the Congo to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders along the mineral value chain to take advantage of new business opportunities from the countries’ mineral resource sectors, for example, by supplying the goods and services consumed by operators or by exploiting technical skills in the mineral sector for non-mineral activities.

We held national workshops in both countries in 2017, as well as two regional workshops and a study tour, to convert the action plans and skills developed during the project into sustainable outcomes. As domestic investors and entrepreneurs, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, grasp these opportunities, they will help diversify the economies in Chad and the Congo away from raw mineral exports, generating new sources of economic growth and employment, as well as new industrial technologies and infrastructure.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Our 2017 *Commodities and Development Report* analysed the theme of commodity markets, economic growth and development. With the end of the commodity price boom from 2003 and 2012, lower prices look set to persist in the medium term presenting a grave challenge to commodity-dependent developing countries, which comprise more than two thirds of all developing countries. The report used a simulation model to project commodity prices to 2030 and reviewed 10 country case studies to illustrate how commodity dependence affects socioeconomic development.

The report recommends that Governments avoid undertaxing extractive industries to attract foreign investors, as this inevitably undermines the long-term benefits a country receives from the commodity sector. Noting that economic growth is a necessary but insufficient condition for reducing poverty and inequality, the report also recommends that resource-rich countries create social protection mechanisms that cushion vulnerable populations from the effects of volatile commodity prices, contributing to inclusive growth, eradicating poverty and food security.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Services trade and tourism in Africa

Target 9 of Goal 8 specifies the promotion of “beneficial and sustainable tourism” as a way of supporting the jobs and growth agenda. It calls for countries to “devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”.

In response, our *Economic Development in Africa Report 2017* provided insights on how to strengthen the contribution of the tourism sector to growth and development in Africa. The report argued that tourism can be an engine for inclusive growth and economic development, and that it can complement development strategies aimed at fostering economic diversification and structural transformation. As tourism is a cross-cutting economic issue, it can impact many sustainable development targets, including poverty, decent work, gender equality and infrastructure development.

Another important theme highlighted in the report is the mutually beneficial relationship between peace and tourism. Peace is fundamental for tourism. The mere appearance of instability in a region can deter

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



tourists, leading to devastating, long-lasting economic consequences.

Also, creating firm links between tourism and the agriculture and infrastructure sectors, ecotourism and the medical and cultural tourism market segments can foster diversification into higher value activities and distribute incomes more broadly. To unlock this potential, African Governments should adopt measures that support local sourcing, encourage local entities' participation in the tourism value chain and boost infrastructure development.

Entrepreneurship policymaking

Target 3 of Goal 8 highlights how entrepreneurship leads to jobs, and our Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF) has been developed to help countries draft sound entrepreneurship strategies. It has already been implemented in six countries. In the face of mass migration, we are also developing a policy guidance framework, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, that uses the EPF as a basis

to support entrepreneurial activity by and for refugees and vulnerable migrants.

In partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat we also developed a policy guide on youth entrepreneurship, which responds to targets 6 and B of Goal 8 on youth unemployment (as well as target 4 of Goal 4 “to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”). This manual has a multitude of initiatives to encourage youth entrepreneurship, notably in African countries, many of which face a youth bulge and struggle with high levels of youth unemployment.

We also supported multiple initiatives and workshops to stimulate the interest of young people in entrepreneurship as a viable career choice.

In 2017, we ran the competition Start-ups for SDGs! at the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Geneva, Switzerland, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Politecnico di Milano of Italy, Youth Business International and Impact Hub Geneva.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



The competition invited young people to pitch business ideas that contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

Entrepreneurship training

Our long-established Empretec entrepreneurship training programme strengthens enterprises, boosts their competitiveness and builds their capacity to support development efforts in their countries.

The programme has a strong orientation towards women, notably through women-specific events such as the Empretec Women in Business Awards (answering target C of Goal 5 “to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels”).

In 2017, new Empretec centres were set up in Kenya, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia, extending the programme’s foothold to 40 countries. The number of entrepreneurs trained under its auspices since inception now surpasses 400,000.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Streamlined administrative procedures and fighting anti-competitive practices

Easy access to information and streamlined administrative procedures are some of the most powerful ways of encouraging entrepreneurship, as reflected by target 3 of Goal 8.

Our business facilitation programme has deployed a series of web-based e-government systems – eRegistration and eRegulations – that help countries improve the business climate through transparency, simplification and reduction of business creation and operational requirements.

In 2017, the programme grew rapidly, with new field projects established in Benin, Cameroon and El Salvador. In addition, the Trade Portal – a new facilitation tool focusing on trade procedures – was developed as a product extension of the eRegulations system.

We developed and implemented trade portals in Bangladesh, Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. Similar portals are also being implemented in Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Kenya Trade

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



Portal was launched in December 2017 during the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Buenos Aires.

We also implemented a regional trade facilitation portal that allows the comparison of trade procedures in four East African countries. Member countries can track their progress towards simplification of trade procedures through the portal, which will be launched in 2018. In addition, we are also developing an online system displaying investment opportunities in Kenya to be launched in 2018.

We installed eRegulations systems in Montenegro and in a municipality in El Salvador and extended the scope of eRegulations systems in Bhutan and Gostivar, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to present more information on business creation and operation procedures.

Where ePortals are introduced, the effects have been marked – on average the single-window platform reduces the number of required administrative procedures, forms and documents by 80%. This has helped augment the

number of businesses created in partner countries: for example, in Cameroon, 12,000 new businesses sprung up during the 12 months after the single-window system was installed.

In the Niger and Togo, the number of small and medium-sized enterprises created was 50% higher than in the year prior to its adoption, while Côte d'Ivoire saw a noteworthy increase of 162% in the number of businesses created.

In addition to the programme's contribution to Goal 8 on jobs and growth, it also supports target 5 of Goal 16 "to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms" and target 6 of Goal 16 to "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels".

Our technical assistance also helps developing countries strengthen their competition law enforcement capacities to fight anti-competitive practices that distort the functioning of markets and create barriers to entry by new firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

In Ethiopia, our work on competition and consumer protection has contributed to the revision of the law

and enhanced law enforcement capabilities using the soft law tools developed and knowledge gained during training workshops for staff and the judiciary. Our work also allowed farmers and consumers to access timely and accurate market information, such as product prices.

Trade policy and productive capacity

We have supported countries' efforts to define a coherent and integrated approach to national trade policy formulation and implementation as they reformulate their national trade policy frameworks and strategies to better respond with a view to achieving, among other objectives, Goal 8.

We have helped to prepare trade policy frameworks for Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Bhutan, the Dominican Republic, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia.

Our publication, *Trade Policy Frameworks for Developing Countries: A Manual of Best Practices*, serves as a useful guide for interested member States in formulating or updating their trade policies.

Trade, gender, jobs and growth

Our work on trade, gender and development contributes to the achievement of Goal 8 by promoting the design and implementation of trade policies that are gender-inclusive. This work also strongly aligns with Goal 5 on “achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls”, and Goal 10 on “reducing inequalities within and among countries”.

In 2017, we continued to help countries formulating and implementing policies and measures that favour women's social and economic empowerment. We did so by carrying out capacity-building, analytical and policy advocacy activities.

Our online course on trade and gender has, to date, equipped more than 400 national stakeholders from 106 member States with the knowledge to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender.

In 2017, two versions of the online course on trade gender were delivered: the first targeted a broad range of stakeholders from developing and least developed

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



countries, and countries with economies in transition. The second was addressed to stakeholders of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, who also benefited from new teaching resources tailored to the specific needs and context of their own region.

In addition, we developed a framework instrument that helps countries to assess the impact of trade reforms on women and gender inequality before they come into force. The Trade and Gender Toolbox asks and provides an answer to the question: what would happen to women if a given trade reform were implemented? The methodology was first applied to the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the East African Community to assess the impact on women in Kenya.

We also worked with Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to leverage informal cross-border trade for women's empowerment, economic development and regional integration. With a combination of analytical and capacity-building activities, we helped cross-border traders, especially women, to develop their businesses so that they reap more than subsistence-level returns.

As most women cross-border traders are the breadwinners, empowering them has a beneficial impact on households and on the prospects of coming generations.

E-commerce and economic growth

Our Business-to-Consumer E-commerce Index 2017 supports Goal 8 on growth and jobs by allowing countries to benchmark their readiness for engaging in e-commerce. It helps to identify relative strengths and weaknesses of different elements of the e-commerce process, such as Internet use, availability of secure servers, account indicators (for payments) and postal reliability.

Meanwhile, a supportive legal environment is crucial to create trust online and to secure electronic interactions between enterprises, citizens and public authorities. The extent to which regions and countries have relevant frameworks in place, as well as whether such frameworks are effectively implemented and enforced, varies considerably.

Global estimates from the UNCTAD Cyberlaw Tracker in December 2017 showed that 77% of countries have

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



legislation on e-transactions, 72% on cybercrime, 58% on privacy and 50% on the protection of consumers online. In the case of least developed countries, the proportion is much lower with only 47% having an e-transaction law and 34% on cybercrime, while only 36% have a privacy law and 26% a law to protect their consumers online. This reduces their capacity to engage in e-commerce and online activities.

With the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines during the country's chairmanship of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), we organized a workshop where experts agreed that to seize the growth and jobs opportunities of e-commerce and various digital transformations, several policy areas should be addressed in a coordinated fashion, across ministries and in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders.

To support this event, we conducted a survey of ASEAN member States for the workshop on their e-commerce readiness and policy priorities in the areas of technology infrastructure, legal frameworks, trade logistics skills development and access to finance.

Better consumer protection to promote development

In 2017, our work on competition and consumer protection, which leads to more vibrant markets, healthier enterprises and better economic growth, led to our role opening the First Trade Conference of Cuba on these issues in Havana in May. The event supported the country's efforts to upgrade consumer rights in the marketplace while implementing its development strategies.

Our project on strengthening competition and consumer protection for the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa was formally launched in November in cooperation with the Government of Cameroon.

This project has ambitious goals in the areas of competition and consumer protection as it aims at achieving the adoption of a regional legal framework in both fields. Regional consumer protection directives, already agreed upon, will improve consumer protection in the region and empower consumers for better informed choices. This framework will pave the way for more inclusive, balanced and sustainable development in Cameroon, the Central

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and São Tome and Príncipe.

With the Government of India, we also held the First International Conference on Consumer Protection of South, South-East and East Asian Countries on the theme of empowering consumers in new markets in New Delhi in October.

The conference gathered 1,500 participants from 19 countries, including five ministers, to exchange knowledge on issues such as financial services, e-commerce, and business engagement in advancing consumer welfare.

Together with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), we held the seventh Working Group on Trade and Competition in San Salvador, in October.

The event brought together competition and trade authorities of 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries

to discuss the challenges to competition and trade posed by the digitalization of the economy as well as the impact of non-tariff measures on competition.

In July 2017, we facilitated the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This session addressed the protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers and agreed on the framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy. At the event, we launched a world consumer protection map to provide a picture of the current legal and institutional frameworks on consumer protection around the world.

Under our regional programme on competition and consumer protection for central Africa, we initiated the revision of the community competition rules for the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

In 2017, our COMPAL programme on technical assistance and capacity-building for competition and consumer

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



protection policies and laws worldwide organized two regional courses with the National Institute for the Defence of Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) of Peru on consumer education and business compliance and on investigative techniques. The courses and their replication reached more than 1,200 civil servants in the 16 COMPAL partner countries in Latin America.

COMPAL also organized a regional workshop on competition and consumer protection in the digital economy in Montevideo, Uruguay, in May, gathering the heads of competition and consumer protection authorities to discuss enforcement experiences to better protect consumers in Latin America.

Our COMPAL programme in the Middle East and North Africa, which was launched in 2015, supported the adoption of a consumer protection law in Jordan and launched a new training centre for consumer protection practitioners in Beirut in 2017. ■

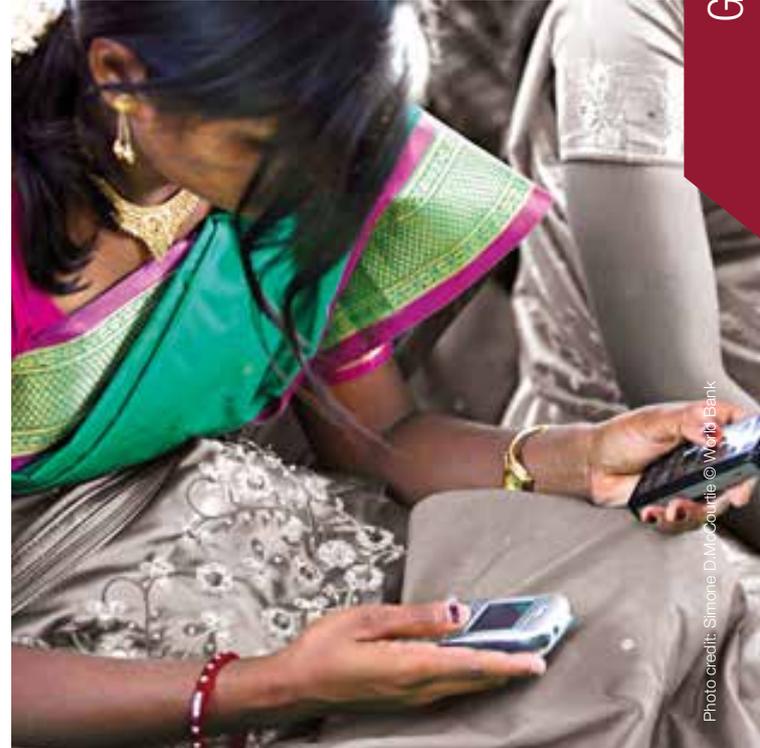


Photo credit: Simone D.M. Coutinho © World Bank

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



GOAL 12

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Goal 12 helps countries to conserve resources, reduce waste, including harmful waste, and uphold patterns of production and consumption that will protect all our futures.

Our mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, entrusts us with the responsibility of addressing “the nexus between trade, development and the environment through research and technical cooperation on environmental sustainability”.

This includes “the sharing of best practices and assistance to member States in developing sustainable natural resource management systems and appropriate responses to the impacts of climate change as they relate to trade and development”.

This chapter looks at our work in 2017 to respond to the targets of Goal 12.

Encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices

Our Accounting Development Tool (ADT) was developed to help build and spread corporate reporting best

practice – in so doing it contributes to target 6 of Goal 12 to “encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle” and “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

The ADT has already been rolled out to 13 countries. A review of the tool is under way to place greater emphasis on sustainability reporting and integration of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into corporate reporting. In 2017, the experience of countries that have implemented the tools was reviewed by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), which took place in November.

The focus of ISAR was also devoted to corporate reporting standards on environmental, social and governance and how to align these with the 2030 Agenda to bring about a mechanism to monitor progress toward the Goals. As such, ISAR has been named co-custodian in the United Nations of indicator 1 of target 6 of Goal 12, which

seeks to increase “the number of companies publishing sustainability reports”.

In 2017, training materials on accounting and reporting for small and medium-sized enterprises were developed that complement ongoing development-oriented reporting standards, which so far mostly target large and multinational firms.

Voluntary standards for sustainable production and consumption

In support of promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, as envisaged by Goal 12, UNCTAD, together with several United Nations agencies, coordinates





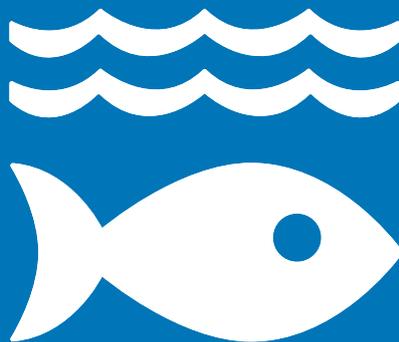
and promotes the development of sustainable product standards as members of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards.

In 2017, with the support of UNFSS, two national multi-stakeholder voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) platforms were established in Brazil and China.

These national platforms on VSS reflect the increasingly proactive stance by government, business and non-government entities to put VSS into a governmental framework that harnesses the development opportunities they offer and fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ■



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



GOAL 14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The full extent to which the health of Earth's oceans has been compromised is now emerging and Goal 14 urges countries to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

This includes target 4 on “ending harmful fisheries subsidies” and “supporting trade in fish for development” by 2020. Our mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, addresses this priority directly with an instruction to seek “to promote sustainable trade in ocean-based sectors”

This chapter looks at the specific work we did in 2017 to support target 4 of Goal 14.

Ending harmful fisheries subsidies and supporting trade in fish for development

We continued to build the capacities of least developed countries and small island developing States to upgrade and diversify their fisheries exports. We organized three workshops for policymakers and fisheries practitioners from least developed countries in Asia and Africa: two regional workshops in Mozambique and Myanmar, and

one interregional workshop in Mauritius. More than 135 experts (50% women) from eight countries – Cambodia, the Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda and Viet Nam – gained skills on upgrading the fisheries sector.

To provide member States with a clear stakeholder perspective in debates at the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017, we produced a summary document on trade-related aspects of Goal 14, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, that included the views and policy recommendations of more than 20 world-recognized experts

A practical training manual on building the capacities of least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports was validated by policymakers and practitioners in a series of national and regional workshops. A policy-oriented research publication, entitled *Fishery Exports and the Economic Development of Least Developed Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Comoros, Myanmar and Uganda*, was produced, which identified the binding

constraints on the development of the fisheries sector and provides policy recommendations.

In March 2017, we organized the first ever Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of Goal 14 to gather the views and perspective of the trade community in Geneva to contribute recommendations to the United Nations Oceans Conference in June. Under the leadership of the Government of Peru, these were formally submitted to country missions at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and many made it into the text of the Call for Action outcome document.

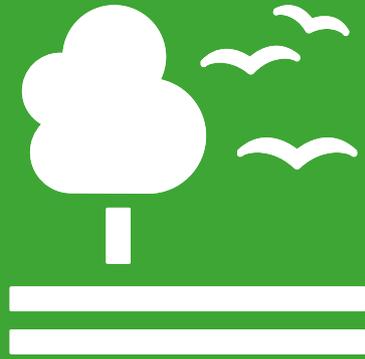
In addition, we organized three well received policy and regulatory briefings before the United Nations Ocean Conference, as well as five side events at the conference itself on food security, the Law of the Sea, fish subsidies, blue/oceans economy and blue biotrade.

Also in 2017, we held a special event with key policymakers and heads of delegations at the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to provide political impetus for an outcome on fish subsidies. A Ministerial Decision, calling for a comprehensive solution to fish subsidies by 2019, was adopted. ■



Photo credit: © World Bank

15 LIFE
ON LAND



GOAL 15

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Our work under Goal 15 on promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems intersects with our mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, in the specific domain of biotrade – sustainable trade in products derived from native biodiversity.

The mandate calls for us to help developing countries to “promote sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services to strengthen the sustainability of biodiversity and foster sustainable growth”.

Promoting sustainable biotrade

Since its launch by UNCTAD in 1996, the BioTrade Initiative has been promoting sustainable biotrade in support of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and has developed a unique portfolio of regional and country programmes. We support member States to achieve Goal

15 with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), under the BioTrade Facilitation Programme, phase III.

In 2017, the BioTrade Initiative published a report, marking its twentieth year of connecting people, the planet and markets. The report provides 37 case studies demonstrating the positive impacts of biotrade on livelihoods, conservation and market access in a variety of sectors and biodiversity-based businesses in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It also responds to stakeholders’ demand for practical information and case studies on biotrade and showcases its contribution to Goal 15 and to several other Goals, including Goals 1, 2, 5, 8, 12 and 17.

In promoting fair “access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources”, as envisaged by target 6 of Goal 15, we published a handbook for policymakers and regulators

to orient them in the development and implementation measures at the national level, consistent with the Nagoya Protocol, which is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. The handbook covers concrete policy and regulatory recommendations and an access-and-benefit-sharing/BIOTRADE checklist for policymakers.

In 2017, together with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), we provided technical assistance on traceability as a key issue for the sustainable management of CITES-listed species, contributing to target 7 of Goal 15 on ending the poaching and trafficking of protected species.

In addition, we joined with CITES, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the International Oceans Institute to explore links between Goal 15 (“life on land”) and Goal 14 (“life below water”) by holding a side event on blue biotrade at the United Nations Ocean Conference in June.

The event covered how to adapt and contextualize biotrade principles for use in the marine realm and highlighted the synergies for effective implementation of CITES provisions for marine species.

We have supported the identification of burdensome measures that affect the trade in biodiversity-based products and services in the personal care, food and phytopharmaceutical sectors.

ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO:



In 2017, we produced fact sheets about four major markets into which developing countries want to import products derived from biodiverse sources. These were Japan, Switzerland, the United States of America and the European Union. This work included the mapping of non-tariff measures (behind-the-border regulations), a company survey, results from national workshops in Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam and findings on non-tariff measures. This work helps countries to identify burdensome regulations and adequate incentives for promoting sustainable forest management, including conservation practices, as envisaged by target B of Goal 15.

In addition, research into burdensome non-tariff measures affecting the cocoa sector were presented in the first newsletter of the Latin America Cocoa Initiative led by CAF and Latin American countries. ■



Photo credit: © World Bank



A close-up photograph of a group of children. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair is smiling and pointing his right index finger directly at the camera. Behind him, a girl with a wide smile is looking towards the camera. Other children are visible in the background, some partially obscured. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting. A dark horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white and blue text.

OUR COMMITMENT
TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK ON THE GROUND

We work in all regions of the world away from our Geneva headquarters and engage with multiple partners at the national and regional levels.

AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR CUSTOMS DATA

In 2017, our Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme continued to support member States on strengthening domestic resource mobilization, including through support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other

revenue collection. By enabling developing country customs authorities to more efficiently collect tariff revenues, ASYCUDA assisted countries in the economic planning of government finances with revenue collection, trade facilitation and the fight against fraud.

Our ASYCUDA software suite is used in 43 African countries and

territories, 40 least developed countries, 20 small island developing States and 24 landlocked developing countries, making it a unique repository for the extraction of trade and customs-related data to strengthen statistical capacity and to support trade policymakers.

Initially helping countries use 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,

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

TARGET 1



as well as assisting the private sector in doing business in line with international standards and best practices.

In 2017, work on performance measurement for customs administrations continued and saw the Rwanda Revenue Authority and the Jamaica Customs Agency adopt the new module: ASYPM (ASYCUDA System for Performance Measurement).

In addition, our collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which had yielded in 2016 the integration of the IATA Cargo-XML messaging standard

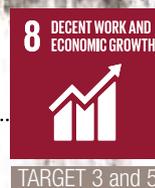
into the ASYCUDA system, saw the module piloted in Jamaica and Uganda and deployed in Jamaica.

DEBT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS SYSTEM PROGRAMME

The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) programme is one of the world's leading providers of technical cooperation and advisory services in debt management. The programme has been successful in helping Governments improve their capacity to manage debt since the early

1980s and has so far supported 106 institutions in 69 countries.

The programme's core product is its DMFAS software which can be used for the purposes of recording, monitoring and analysing debt information. DMFAS 6 is the sixth major release of the DMFAS programme software since 1982. Based on state-of-the-art web technology, DMFAS 6 is accessible from commonly used web browsers, with a customizable user interface and enhanced security. It offers all the existing functions of the previous version (5.3) and many new features for all levels of users.



In 2017, our DMFAS programme continued to demonstrate its effectiveness as an essential tool for effective debt management by providing technical training and capacity-building. DMFAS partner countries continued to enhance transparency and debt reporting with 98% fulfilling their obligations to report through the World Bank Debtor Reporting System and 65% voluntarily participating in the Quarterly External Debt Statistics database.

Thirty-six DMFAS partner countries publish a debt statistics bulletin on a regular basis, including a new one in 2017. By end the of

2017, 48 countries had reliable debt databases with respect to government and government-guaranteed external debt, and 27 countries were capturing domestic debt in the DMFAS database, with five countries having significantly improved in this area with our support.

INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEWS

Our Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) – conducted at the request of countries – provide a comprehensive map of the policies, regulations, institutional and operational requirements in a country that affect

investment. Each review is cognizant of a country's overall development strategy and IPR recommendations are tailored to encourage investment that will create jobs, reduce poverty and contribute to development.

IPRs have been delivered for 44 countries to date, of which 14 are least developed countries and four are landlocked developing countries – reaching countries and regions where needs are greatest.

In 2017, the IPRs for the Gambia and South-East Europe – the first ever regional IPR – were finalized. We began work on IPRs for Angola and Chad and continued working on IPRs for Cabo Verde and Lebanon. The

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

TARGET 8

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

TARGET 3

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TARGET C



implementation report of the IPR for Mauritius was also finalized, and we are assisting with the development of a strategic investment plan to implement the recommendations. The impact of the reviews on IPR countries has been marked, with 90% of them registering a significant increase in investment flows three years after an IPR is delivered.

WORK ON E-COMMERCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

We are helping the least developed countries prepare for the digital economy through several technical cooperation activities including assessing their e-commerce

readiness with our Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments. In 2017, we carried out assessments for Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal and Samoa.

We also provided technical assistance for the launch of surveys implemented by national statistical agencies in collaboration with the private sector on exports of digitally delivered services in Costa Rica, India and Thailand. Preliminary results were presented in November. Other countries have expressed an interest in conducting similar surveys.

The National E-commerce Strategy for Egypt was launched in December

2017 in Cairo in the presence of the President of Egypt. It was developed in cooperation with Ministry for Communications and Information Technology of Egypt. Fact-finding missions and consultations with stakeholders, a vision workshop, national surveys and focus groups fed into the strategy, including the implementation of the country's first official national survey of microenterprises. Its development benefited from partnership with the World Bank Group on e-payments, as well as United Nations inter-agency cooperation through substantive contributions from several United Nations agencies, and the private sector. The new strategy



TARGET 8



TARGET 2



report is supplemented by guidance on implementation and monitoring and an action plan to support the implementation of the strategy.

WORK TO REVIEW NATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICIES

In 2017, we supported several member States in reviewing their science, technology and innovation policies (STIPs), and delivered STIP Reviews of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Rwanda.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, we identified a strong potential for the country to develop sustainably

through science, technology and innovation, and outlined some of the policy reforms required.

Following the completion of the review, a workshop was held on technological capabilities building through international collaboration. Since then, the Islamic Republic of Iran has formed a working group to examine the recommendations of the review and see how to move forward regarding their implementation.

The STIP Review process we undertook with the Government of Rwanda reinforces the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the achievement of the national

development strategy of Rwanda. A training session for policymakers and stakeholders on innovation was held during a national STIP workshop and engaged the participation of around 60 policy experts, including 10 women. The STIP Review also provided constructive comments and suggestions for the revision of the National STI and Research Strategy of Rwanda. Following the STIP Review's delivery in October, a five-year strategy and a plan of implementation are in the works as of 2018. ■

OUR IMPACT STORIES

Specialist flour makers in Benin

Two dozen Beninese women making a unique type of cassava flour – garri – signed up to a new code of practice, supported by UNCTAD, to better market their product in November. This is part of our help to farmers, artisans and craftspeople in least developed countries to boost incomes by exploiting unique products and knowledge.

Garri may be a staple in West Africa, but *Gari Sohoui* can only be made from cassava grown in the central Collines department of Benin, and using only the special methods exclusive to the area.

Marketing the crisp, slightly acidic flour as a premium brand depends on protecting its unique geography and production techniques. The key is to assert an intellectual property right called a geographical indication, and a GI certification anchors a special product to a specific location and adds value by attesting its authenticity.

Meeting at a two-day workshop in the regional capital, Savalou, two dozen women *Gari Sohoui* producers agreed on a way of doing just that, opening the way to selling up the flour as a premium product. The women carefully reviewed a draft code of practice to ensure that the document precisely reflected traditional knowledge of how the final product, “*Gari Sohoui* from Savalou”, is made.

As well as certifying authenticity, GI status has the added benefit of protecting traditional know-how and time-honoured skills – particularly in the world’s 47 least developed countries, 33 of which are in Africa.



TARGET 3



TARGET 5





Trade and gender course for officials

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Researchers, government officials, United Nations staff and civil society representatives, including women and men from dozens of countries, have successfully participated in our eye-opening online course on trade and gender.

“The course not only has enriched my knowledge, but also provided me with many evidence-based cases on how trade influences women differently in different countries,” Galyna Meshcheryakova, a gender expert at the Canada-Ukraine Trade and Investment Support Project, said.

“The information helped very much to prepare a training course for representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine about application of gender-based analysis for commodity selection for export.”

Delivered jointly by the UNCTAD Virtual Institute and the Trade, Gender and Development Programme, the course is part of a capacity-building project on trade and gender funded by the Governments of Finland and Sweden.

“As an economist, I have never come across a programme that gives detailed analysis of the link between trade and gender. Gender issues are mostly treated under other social studies. This course was an eye-opener,” Edna Osei-Appiah, an economic research analyst at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in Ghana, said.

According to such feedback, participants are now better equipped to support gender-responsive policymaking in their respective countries.



Indigenous women smallholders in Ecuador

Up to 250 families in the canton of Cotacachi in northern Ecuador are getting a fair price for the tea, herbs and fruit they grow as part of an innovative venture run by a finalist of an UNCTAD-backed entrepreneurship competition.

When Ecuadorian entrepreneur Guillermo Jarrin started Tippytea Blends, which produces, sells and distributes a range of artisanal teas and infusions using native Andean plants, he wanted to make a fair deal with his suppliers.

“The products are organic and fair trade certified,” Guillermo says.

“It means that normally there is already an established price for these kinds of herbs: we pay more than that price because we want to guarantee the quality and, of course, we want to be more generous with these families.”

Guillermo explains how he sources the ingredients for his blends.

“This community is formed of more or less 250 families,” he says. “The thing is that they have really small lands: they have their houses and they produce in their back yards.”

Much of the growing and harvesting is performed by women.

“We work regularly with 40 or 60 families that are represented by the mother,” Guillermo says.

Guillermo, a commercial engineering graduate of the University of the Americas in Quito, decided to work with indigenous women to help protect the link between native plants and the cultural identity of the communities that harvest them for their health-giving properties.

Among the fruit Guillermo includes in his blends is *mortiño*, a berry native to Ecuador a bit like a blueberry that’s said to soothe rheumatism, reduce fever, menstrual cramps and relieve symptoms of the flu.

“We want to share this with the world,” he says. “That is what we love about our tea products, and working with these people.”



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



TARGET 3

5 GENDER EQUALITY



TARGET 5





Getting ready for e-commerce in Cambodia

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



TARGET 3

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



TARGET C

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



TARGET 8

In partnership with the Government of Cambodia, we carried out a Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment to identify the current e-commerce opportunities and challenges in the country and point to concrete actions to advance e-commerce development.

“The Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment comes with a set of robust actions to be considered by different stakeholders in Cambodia and outside to support the rapid adoption of the so-called digital revolutions,” the Minister of Commerce of Cambodia said.

He adds that the adoption of an e-commerce law, the development of mobile money platforms and the update of information and communications technology curricula are boosting the huge potential in the region.

An IT-hungry urban middle class has emerged in Cambodia in the past 10 years and 60% of the population is below the age of 25. With a population of more than 15.4 million, Cambodia is a “mobile first” market.

Most Cambodians go online via their mobile device, with 20.5 million mobile subscribers. However, most Cambodians do not have a bank account and demand for e-commerce is currently limited to products that customers cannot find through regular retail outlets.

With 90% of the online population using Facebook, there is a real opportunity for small entrepreneurs to sell products online mainly through Facebook or Instagram platforms.

“We need to ensure dialogue happens and strives, and that our private sector understands how ICT is changing the way we are doing business,” the minister said.



Schoolgirls in the United Republic of Tanzania

Schoolgirls in rural areas of the United Republic of Tanzania are getting a chance at an uninterrupted education and better reproductive health thanks to the initiative of a 30-year old graduate of our Empretec entrepreneurship programme.

Jennifer Shigoli, founder of Tanzanian cleaning and haircare products company Malkia Investments, started a reusable sanitary pads business in Dar es Salaam when she realized that many girls couldn't afford conventional disposable sanitary pads and were improvising unhealthy ways to cope with periods – and missing school because of it.

About 1 in 10 girls in sub-Saharan Africa misses school during their menstrual cycle, according to UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

“The teachers confirmed that there was a very big issue,” Jennifer said. “These young girls could not afford proper menstrual products, so they resort to staying at home during their periods and resume school after. They lose from two to five days every month!”

Jennifer, who credits Empretec with helping her plan for the future of her business, was horrified when she found out what some girls were using instead of sanitary pads.

“Most of them were using rags,” she says. “Other girls were using cow dung. Some were even using chicken feathers – all unhygienic. This has a huge effect on their health and their reproductive systems.”

Jennifer said that such poor menstrual hygiene has a ripple effect that can cause infectious diseases and other health problems.

Using rags isn't comfortable, she realized – they're not absorbent enough and they don't allow girls to live freely. So, she set about developing an affordable product that would provide the same protection as leading disposable menstrual pads on the market and generate jobs.

“I'm very proud to say that every pad is made by women in the United Republic of Tanzania,” she says. “For those local women that are making the pads for the girls, there is more than just the product – there is a connection!” Jennifer said. “They are making them in the knowledge that we are doing this for a cause.”



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



TARGET 1

5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



TARGET 3





A smiling woman with her hair in a red beanie, wearing a green patterned top and a purple patterned skirt, sits on a wooden crate filled with oranges. She is in a tropical setting with large banana leaves and a body of water in the background. The text "OUR PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY" is overlaid on the image.

OUR PERFORMANCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

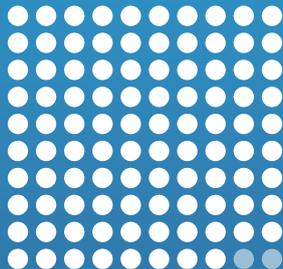
Technical
cooperation
expenditures
2017

\$40
Million

Regular
budget
2017

\$71
Million

2,289 of programmed outputs
implemented



98%

of the total work programme

95%

of the performance indicators
achieved

| HIGHLIGHTS

In response to the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the United Nations began system-wide consultations for comprehensive reforms to strengthen peace and security, the development system and management to meet today's complex and interlinked challenges. We have aligned our expected results for key programmes to the Sustainable Development Goals and are among the first in the United Nations system to have done so.

In December 2017, we presented a strategic paper, *From Actions to Results: Implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano in a Changing Environment*, which addresses directions for strengthening the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for trade and development within the United Nations system in the context of a changing multilateral environment. To achieve this, we intend to refocus our work to wider task-based and outcome-based approaches that enhance programme delivery.

In addition, internal structures such as the Project Review Committee and Publications Committee were revitalized in 2017 for greater transparency and accountability. The Publications Committee ensured a more strategic, institution-wide approach to work planning with respect to our research and analysis pillar, and the Project Review Committee focused on implementing and reviewing the pilot results-based management framework.

We also participate in the ongoing management reform led by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Important efforts are under way to revamp structures and processes in a manner that better supports programme delivery. These include generating management information to enable better decision-making, simplifying administrative procedures and concentrating activities on value addition and assuring compliance.

In 2018, we will work on the extension of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system of the United Nations Secretariat (Umoja) to support various budget and management functions, as well as fundraising activities.



MANAGING FOR RESULTS

In 2017, several initiatives were undertaken to strengthen results-based management (RBM) practices across the organization, including:

- Introducing a new RBM framework for technical cooperation projects and programmes: The framework was piloted, evaluated and fine-tuned in 2017 and resulted in a more consistent approach across UNCTAD in implementing technical cooperation and higher quality project plans.
- Adopting performance monitoring indicators for research and analysis work, for example, monitoring on a monthly basis reaction to research products in the media and online. We also introduced a revised annual survey to better understand how readers assess the quality and usefulness of publications, as well as systematic monitoring of how UNCTAD policy recommendations were taken up by countries.

■ Building institutional RBM capacity and a results-based culture across the organization: In addition to guidelines, checklists and other support documents, UNCTAD developed an in-house RBM training programme for staff.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

As part of monitoring and reporting, we collected, analysed and reported data in the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) on the progress and achievements in delivering our work programme for the 2016–2017 biennium.

A total of 2,289 of programmed outputs were successfully implemented, representing 98% of the total work programme, with a total regular budget for 2016–2017 of \$139 million (\$71 million regular budget for 2017 alone). Furthermore, in response to member States' requests, 120 outputs were implemented in addition to those planned in the biennium within available UNCTAD resources.

We achieved or exceeded 95% of the performance indicators used to measure achievement of expected accomplishments for the 2016–2017 biennium.

All statements of results were successfully submitted as required to the biennial Programme Performance Report which will be presented by the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2018.

MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

We are committed to evaluation as a key enabler in a culture of accountability. As a member of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), we contribute to the full implementation of evaluation norms and standards.

At the organizational level, UNCTAD is subject to a robust system of internal and external oversight, including by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). In recent years, we have consistently met the benchmarks for implementation of oversight recommendations, averaging 90% of implementation.

The internal UNCTAD evaluation function reports directly to the UNCTAD Secretary-General, as per UNEG standards. The internal evaluation function is also overseen programmatically by the Trade and Development Board.

In 2017, an independent corporate evaluation of sub-programme 4 on technology and logistics was completed to assess its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability for the period 2012–2016. The evaluation came to several conclusions, and identified good practices and lessons learned which were presented at the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, under the Trade and Development Board. This evaluation was conducted by two independent evaluators and two representatives of UNCTAD member States: Barbados and Canada – representing a unique evaluation format implemented by UNCTAD to increase accountability, engagement and transparency to its member States.

The following external evaluations were also completed, supported by the United Nations Development Account: (a) 1213K - Capacity-building for the Formulation and Implementation of MDGs-oriented Trade Policies and (b) 1213AR - Strengthening capacities of African countries in boosting intra-African trade through support for establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

During the high-level political forum, the overarching General Assembly mechanism for Agenda 2030 policy coordination which took place in July 2017 in New York, we engaged with member States and other stakeholders at a side event organized by the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit and our New York office. The event, entitled “SDG’s learning, practice and exchange on evaluation and the SDG follow-up and review mechanism”, provided an excellent opportunity to share experiences and perspectives on components of evaluation and the Sustainable Development Goals which include the role of statistics, data, tracking systems, capacity-building and gender-responsive national evaluation capacities.

Find our evaluation reports at:



GENDER MAINSTREAMING

In his capacity as an International Gender Champion, UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi continued his commitment to gender equality in 2017.

We are also implementing the United Nations Secretary-General’s system-wide strategy on gender parity in staffing across all levels by 2028, launched in September 2017.

We are committed to building the capacities of our staff, and a four-day training session on gender mainstreaming in publications and technical cooperation projects was organized in February 2017 with the International Labour Organization Training Centre in Turin, Italy. A half-day training course on gender and economics was organized in March 2017 for our senior staff.

Our network of gender focal points developed a checklist for mainstreaming gender in technical cooperation projects. The checklist – initially implemented on a pilot basis but mandatory since July 2017 – is supporting project managers in the design and implementation of gender-responsive projects.

Our organization participates in the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), which ensures greater coherence and accountability through common performance standards for gender-related work of all UN entities. We look forward to implementing UN-SWAP 2.0 in 2018, which will be an update of the existing framework based on lessons learnt from the first five years of SWAP implementation. ■

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



MAIN OBJECTIVE:

To assist developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable and equitable growth and development.

SUB-PROGRAMME

1



GLOBALIZATION, INTERDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To promote economic policies and strategies at all levels for sustained growth, inclusive and sustainable development, full employment and decent work for all, and poverty eradication in developing countries, especially least developed countries.



INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Objective: To ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for the enhancement of productive capacity-building, industrialization and economic diversification, and job creation in all developing countries, in particular those in Africa and least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and other middle-income countries, according to their needs, and countries with economies in transition.



SUB-PROGRAMME

2



TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

Objective: To strengthen science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies for inclusive development; to support inclusive growth and development through efficient, resilient and sustainable trade logistics services and transit transport systems; and to promote training and capacity-building programmes for local institutions with a view to enhancing the economic development and competitiveness of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

SUB-PROGRAMME

3

SUB-PROGRAMME

5

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMODITIES

COMPONENT 1: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

Objective: To ensure the effective, qualitative and beneficial participation of all countries in international trade in order to build more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

COMPONENT 2: COMMODITIES

Objective: To harness development gains and to deal with the trade and development problems of the commodity economy and of commodity dependence.

SUB-PROGRAMME

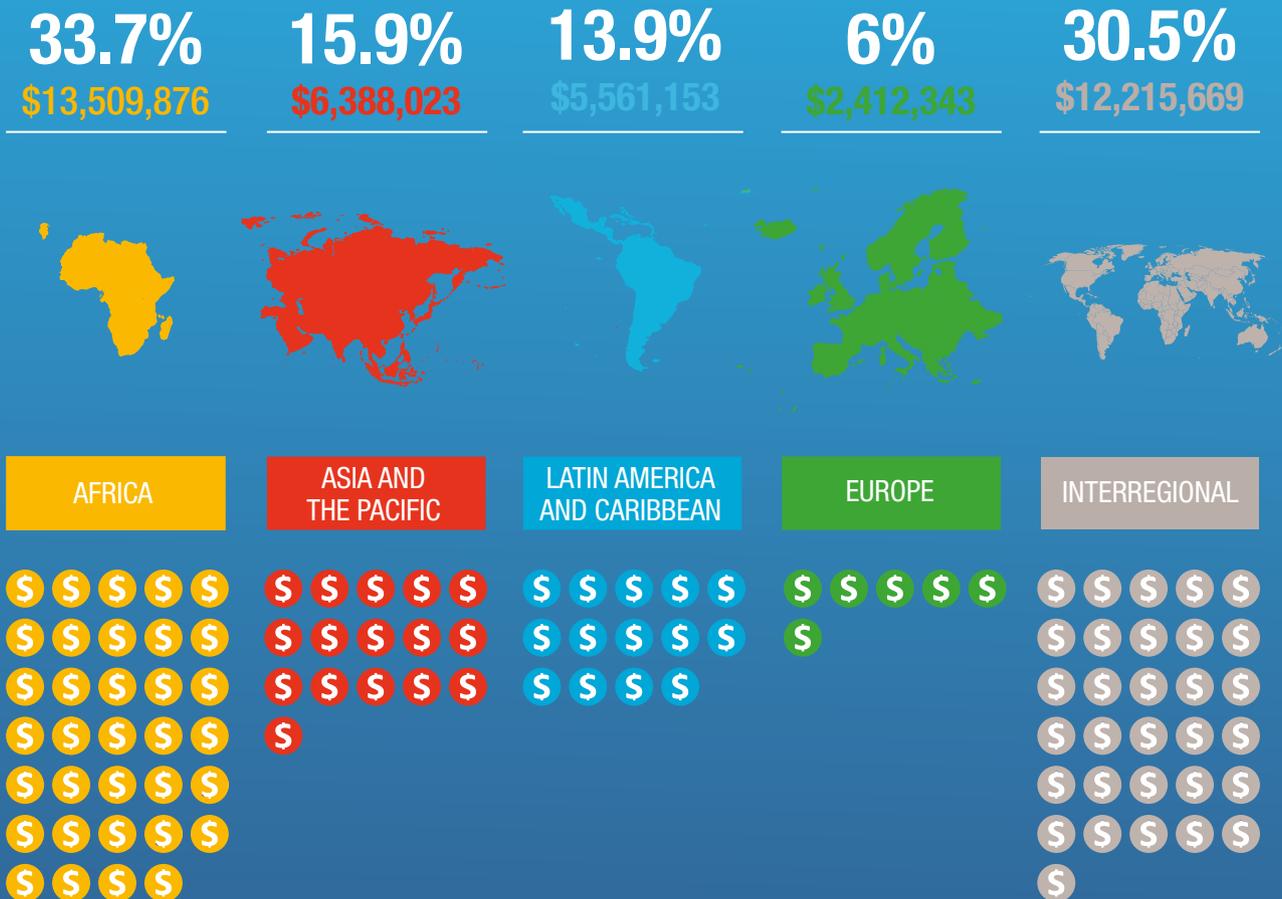
4

AFRICA, LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Objective: To promote development of national policies and international support measures to build productive capacities for economic development and poverty reduction in Africa, least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) and to progressively and beneficially integrate them into the global economy.

OUR PROJECTS AND GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Distribution of project expenditures by region, 2017



ASYCUDA and DMFAS programmes
accounted for

59.2%

of the total technical cooperation
delivery of UNCTAD in 2017

OUR PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

122

NATIONAL
PROJECTS

217
PROJECTS

24

DEVELOPMENT
ACCOUNT

13

REGIONAL

58

INTERREGIONAL

See UNCTAD Toolbox:







OUR PARTNERSHIPS
FOR TRANSFORMATION

OUR SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN 2017

Partnering with the World Trade Organisation to deliver two online courses on Trade in Services Statistics through the TrainForTrade Programme in 2017.



UNCTAD
+
WTO

Partnering to help strengthen analytical capabilities to evaluate public policies by organizing the sixth Regional Meeting on Public Policy Analysis with Computable General Equilibrium Models in November 2017.



UNCTAD
+
UNITED NATIONS
ECLAC

UNCTAD
+
UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP

Partnering to deliver a regional course on key issues on the International Economic Agenda for government officials.



UNCTAD
+
WORLD
ECONOMIC
SITUATION AND
PROSPECTS
REPORT

Partnering with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations regional economic and social commissions and the United Nations World Tourism Organization on the United Nations flagship publication on expected trends in the global economy.



UNCTAD
+
14 ACTIVE
DEVELOPMENT
ACCOUNT
PROJECTS

Partnering with UN regional and social commissions, United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on priority areas of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



UNCTAD
+
FAO AND
UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

Partnering to assist member States in implementing effective, inclusive policies for sustainable trade in fish as envisioned by Sustainable Development Goal 14, underlined at the Oceans Conference in New York in 2017.



UNCTAD
+
YOUTHCONNEKT
AFRICA

Partnering with UNDP and the Government of Rwanda to organize a summit for young African entrepreneurs in Kigali in 2017, featuring the participation of UNCTAD Special Adviser Jack Ma.



UNCTAD
+
OCHA

Partnering with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on ASYREC (Automated System for Relief Consignments) which was a finalist in the 2017 United Nations Secretary-General's Awards in the "Innovation and Creativity" category.



UNCTAD
+
34 UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE
FRAMEWORKS

Partnering with FAO, ITC, ILO, UNCITRAL, UNDP, United Nations Environment Programme, UNIDO, UNOPS, United Nations regional economic and social commissions, and the World Trade Organization within the Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity.



UNCTAD
+
SUSTAINABLE
STOCK
EXCHANGES
INITIATIVE

Partnering with the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and the Principles for Responsible Investment Initiative to promote responsible investment for sustainable development.



UNCTAD
+
GLOBAL
INITIATIVE ON
DECENT JOBS
FOR YOUTH

Partnering with ILO, ITC, UNCDF and UNIDO on the global campaign that explores the value of entrepreneurship and self-employment to boost youth's transitions towards decent work.



UNCTAD
+
ILO

In line with the existing MoU with the ILO, the research work on The Least Developed Countries Report 2017 on transformational energy access considered work done by the ILO on the employment contribution of different choices of electricity generation technologies.



UNCTAD
+
STATISTICS
PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with other UN agencies and local partners (UNIDO, UNRC, UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF and statistical offices, planning commissions and the Tanzania Evaluation Association), UNCTAD provided a capacity development programme on the measurement and evaluation of the Goals to government officials and stakeholders from civil society in Tanzania. The capacity development programme was conducted as part of the global initiative 'Delivering Results Together' operated under the United Nations Development Group.



| OTHER SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS IN 2017

UNCTAD
+
AFRICAN
UNION

Particular emphasis was devoted to assisting the African Union, its member states, and the African regional economic communities (RECs) in the negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), with substantive support provided by an UNCTAD expert team in trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to staff members of the African Union.



UNCTAD
+
WORLD BANK
+
IMF

The UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) programme continued to be a key partner of the Debt Management Facility managed by the World Bank by participating in joint support missions as experts in its area of comparative advantage, namely downstream debt management. The programme also worked in close collaboration with the International Monetary Fund as well as with regional partners such as the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI).



UNCTAD
+
THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT

In 2017, UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi and his Commonwealth counterpart Patricia Scotland signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance their cooperation through to 2020 on the organization of the annual Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of Goal 14.



UNCTAD
+
ALIBABA BUSINESS
SCHOOL

Alibaba Business School and UNCTAD partnered on the organization of the inaugural class of African entrepreneurs to China for a two-week intensive course on e-commerce that brought together 24 Africa-based entrepreneurs as part of the eFounders Initiative.





UNCTAD
+
ASEAN

UNCTAD partnered with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on a joint publication *ASEAN Investment Report 2017*. This annual report is prepared under a technical cooperation arrangement between the ASEAN secretariat and UNCTAD and is supported by the Government of Australia. It was launched during an ASEAN summit held in Manila, from 10 to 14 November 2017.



UNCTAD
+
CITES

UNCTAD has been closely collaborating with CITES secretariat with technical documents and workshops on traceability issues that track the species through the supply chain, from the origin all the way to the final consumers.



UNCTAD
+
COMESA

An eight-week online course was organized for 80 participants from 19 countries, including government officials, researchers, civil society representatives and staff members of the Common Market for East and Southern African (COMESA) secretariat focusing on the various links between trade and gender. The online course was the result of a collaboration between UNCTAD and the COMESA Division on Gender and Social Affairs.



UNCTAD
+
MARINETRAFFIC

UNCTAD signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MarineTraffic, a global ship tracking intelligence company, in an effort to provide more accurate analysis of global trade and shipping trends.



JACK MA, OUR SPECIAL ADVISER FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESS

“I have spent my career working with entrepreneurs and know the positive social and economic impact when people are given the opportunity to participate in the global economy,” said Jack Ma, Chinese visionary, e-commerce pioneer and philanthropist, when he was appointed Special Adviser of UNCTAD for young entrepreneurs and small business.

Throughout the year, Mr. Ma honoured his commitment to UNCTAD by participating in a number of events and a trip to Africa to unlock the full potential of African entrepreneurs and bridge the digital divide.

During the high-level session of the UNCTAD E-commerce Week in April, Mr. Ma called for ways to make cross-border e-commerce more inclusive and accessible for developing countries so that they may grow and participate in the larger economy. He said: “Such policies at the governmental level make it possible for small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive, which is critical as they typically make up a large part of the economy in developing countries.”

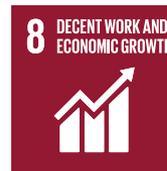
Three months later, Mr. Ma made his first trip to Africa to promote entrepreneurship as a path to economic growth. “When you invest in young people, you invest in the future,”



he said, when speaking with members of the public and private sectors in Kenya and Rwanda. During the Youth Connekt Summit, co-organized with the Government of Rwanda, he made a pledge to create a training programme to unleash the potential of 500 African entrepreneurs, with a total of 1,000 entrepreneurs from developing countries.

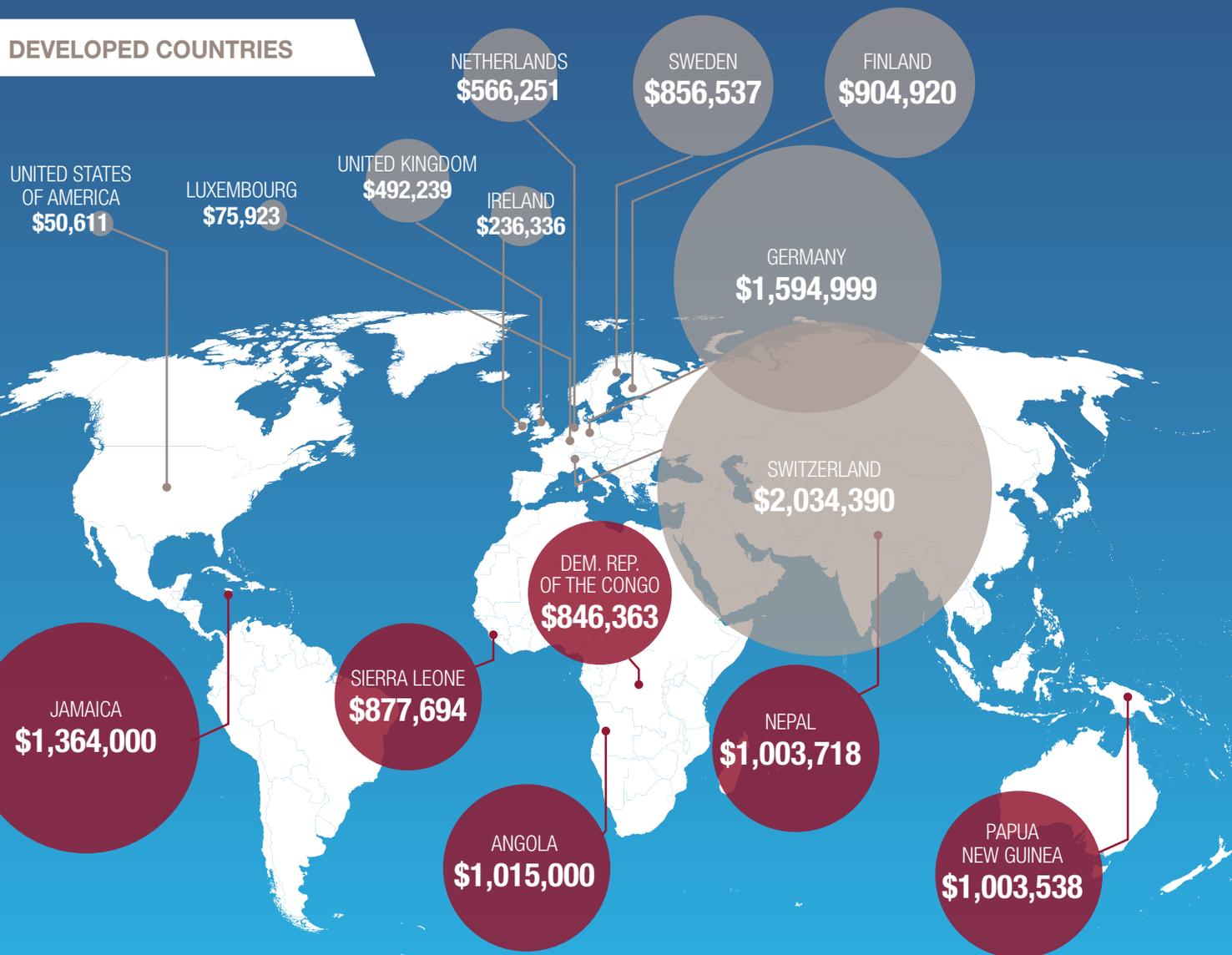
In November, Mr. Ma interacted with 24 African entrepreneurs from seven countries who attended the inaugural programme of the eFounders Initiative at the Alibaba campus in Hangzhou, China, where he shared his experience and key lessons.

Apart from his role with UNCTAD, Mr. Ma was also named a Sustainable Development Goals advocate by the United Nations in January 2016. ■



OUR DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

TOTAL
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2017
\$35,122,564

OTHER SOURCES

37.8%

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

19.4%

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

42.8%

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

\$9,232,556

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

\$6,812,207

OTHER SOURCES

\$1,004,038

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

\$15,017,349

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

\$3,016,414

THE VOICE OF OUR MEMBER STATES

**INTERVIEW WITH TUDOR ULIANOVSKI,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, AND
PRESIDENT OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR ITS
SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION, 2017–2018.**



Q: Congratulations on your recent appointment as Foreign Minister after serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations in Geneva. You are also President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. How is it juggling these roles?

A: It is not easy, but I do think this is a unique opportunity to send the message that with the right political will and leverage from a ministerial position, our work can better resonate with the international community and drive processes faster with more focused outcomes.

As President of the Trade and Development Board, I am a strong believer in UNCTAD, especially in this world today. It's important for UNCTAD to be great again. It is a member-driven organization and I encourage member States to be as active as possible.

At the same time, I would like to acknowledge the full support that I receive from the secretariat which is extremely important and useful for my presidency. And, also from the Moldovan mission team here in Geneva, I'd just like to say very quick words of gratitude to the leadership of UNCTAD. I still have a good, direct, permanent dialogue with the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General. I'm encouraged to see their commitment to the organization and to the work that UNCTAD has done, is doing, and will be doing.

Q: What is your assessment of UNCTAD work during the period of your presidency?

This is something that I am really involved and engaged in, having in mind the entire United Nations reform process.

I think that the role of UNCTAD as a venue for sharing of ideas for bringing expertise is extremely, if not crucially, important at this moment in time.

Other agencies are more focused on implementation and, with all due respect, they are limited by their mandate. UNCTAD is a cross-cutting agency, a think-tank, that today has the task, even the obligation, in my opinion, to provide recommendations and expertise to colleagues from other agencies so that they can better understand where we are.

Perhaps I can give the example of e-commerce in the context of the work of the Trade and Development Board and the idea of revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery based on the Nairobi Maafiakano mandate and following the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. E-commerce is a topic member States are less keen to approach in other venues because they are perhaps not ready to take decisions. In UNCTAD, those members can come to the table and discuss issues of e-commerce – or investment, infrastructure, or financing for development.

I would also like to underline the importance to UNCTAD of ensuring better synergy between Geneva and New York. As the President of Trade and Development Board, I have had agreement from all member States to move its executive session from September to June. This is extremely useful because it allows for outcomes to be presented quickly to United Nations colleagues from the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the leadership of the United Nations in New York, before the September sessions.

Q: How do you see UNCTAD work assisting member States to meet the Sustainable Development Goals?

I think that UNCTAD has a competitive advantage because its work is cross-cutting and has an impact on every Sustainable Development Goal. Member States can be more proactive by asking UNCTAD to analyse how one member or another is implementing the 2030 Agenda, for example, on poverty reduction. This is perhaps a very general goal but is in fact very concrete if you have an evidence-based study. This is where I think UNCTAD can be beneficial to a Government – not only to one ministry, say, the ministry of agriculture but also the ministry for IT, for the economy, for transport.

Also, I think it is extremely important for UNCTAD to deliver a message to the world – having in mind that there is increased rhetoric against globalization – that this is a negative trend due to a lack of proper information, proper awareness-raising, about the benefits of liberalizing trade.

Here, UNCTAD can be a non-controversial conference that will provide the entire picture and show all the advantages. In this way, UNCTAD will be able to steer the process of moving us closer to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Being fully realistic, I understand the shortcomings, but I think that it's important for UNCTAD to be there.

Today, as never before, the role of UNCTAD is extremely important: to be proactive in the United Nations system but also in its relationship with national governments. ■

Find the whole interview here:



Q&A WITH JULIE EMOND, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA



JULIE EMOND

Q: How important is the work of UNCTAD to Canada?

A: Canada supports UNCTAD to ensure that developing countries benefit from trade, investment and development opportunities. We have been engaged substantively, mostly through the consensus-building pillar of UNCTAD, which is fundamental to the good work of the secretariat. Also, following UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi's leadership, we have been supporting the long-term reform undertaken, which is now taking new roots with the United Nations Statistics Division reform agenda. In the last few years, we indeed paid particular attention not only to the "what", but to the "how", as this can make the difference when aiming at achieving sustainable results.

Q: Tell us about your experience as part of the external evaluation team of UNCTAD sub-programme 4 on technology and logistics.

A: An evaluation like the one I participated in was probably the best way to deep dive into the work of UNCTAD. Before being in Geneva, I spent close to 15 years as a project officer for the development programme of Canada. I hired consultants to conduct independent evaluations, but was never part of the team, so this evaluation was a unique opportunity as a member State to see how it's done and contribute to this work. Talking to stakeholders, here and in

the field, was a great way to identify where improvements could be made, but also to see what is being done right, and observe the relevance of the sub-programme for those benefiting from it.

Q: Based on your evaluation experience, what do you think UNCTAD should prioritize to help countries meet the Sustainable Development Goals?

A: For me, it's about the "how". The evaluation revealed that most of the pieces were there, including in-house expertise but also a strong ability to partner with the right people to respond to the priorities of developing countries. What could make it even better and stronger is if UNCTAD was going the extra mile to connect those pieces and develop integrated, programmatic frameworks able to capture all the activities that UNCTAD does in an area of work, but also able to align these activities with long-term programmatic results and the SDGs. Following the evaluation, we have seen the e-commerce and digital economy team taking this recommendation on board and generating its own programme framework, which is a giant leap in the right direction that I hope will inspire others. ■

**Q&A WITH SHANI GRIFFITH-JACK,
FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF
BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**



SHANI GRIFFITH-JACK

Q: How important is the work of UNCTAD to Barbados?

A: UNCTAD, particularly within its intellectual work under its research and analysis pillar, is a source and guide for the international interface of Barbados. This has been the Barbados view from the inception of this organization. Over the past 20 years, there has been an emergence of a range of challenges and issues which impacts on the trade and development circumstances of developing countries, particularly for small island developing States such as Barbados. UNCTAD therefore remains relevant and constitutes an indispensable reference for Barbados as it seeks to define its relationship with the global community in the area of trade and development.

Q: Tell us about your experience as part of the external evaluation team of UNCTAD sub-programme 4 on technology and logistics.

A: It was an honour for me to have been a part of the external evaluation team for UNCTAD sub-programme 4 on technology and logistics. I was impressed by the collaborative spirit and the different perspectives that were brought to bear on our deliberations and ultimately the report prepared and submitted by the team. Each member of the team brought different skill sets which were valued and utilized in the evaluation exercise. The cooperative interaction between the UNCTAD secretariat,

member States and other stakeholders was overwhelming and enhanced the contributions to the overall evaluation.

Q: Based on your evaluation experience, what do you think UNCTAD should prioritize to help countries meet the Sustainable Development Goals?

For most countries, including Barbados, the Sustainable Development Goals are viewed as the global template for development. What is necessary therefore, is assistance in defining national programmes in relation to the global programme. We need to be cognizant that there are marked differences in the circumstances of countries even within the developing country group, and that implementation of the SDGs would need to be facilitated by paying particular attention to the specific needs and characteristics of each country.

One of the strengths of UNCTAD has been its ability to forge partnerships based the needs of beneficiary countries, its comparative advantage and that of other organizations. This, coupled with a shift towards systematic programme approach to the delivery of its technical assistance activities; and the mobilization of the resources for the implementation of national programmes, should be UNCTAD priorities in assisting countries to attain the Goals. ■





OUR
PEOPLE

| OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP



Daniel Owoko
Chief of Staff,
Office of the Secretary-General



Adnan Issa
Chief, Resources
Management Service



Miguel Bautista
Chief, Intergovernmental
Support Service



Paul Akiwumi
Director, Division for Africa,
Least Developed Countries and
Special Programmes



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General



Isabelle Durant
Deputy Secretary-General



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



Shamika Sirimanne
Director, Division on Technology and Logistics
Officer-in-Charge,
Division on International Trade and Commodities



James Zhan
Director, Division on
Investment and Enterprise

| MEET THE PEOPLE OF UNCTAD

**Cecile Barayre**

Division on Technology and Logistics



I help developing countries, especially least developed countries, get ready to participate in the digital economy in support of target 11 of Goal 8 on “technical assistance” and target 9 of Goal 17 on “targeted capacity-building”.

**Hamed El Kady**

Division on Investment and Enterprise



I review the body of treaties that governs international investment relations between countries and provide recommendations on how to design treaties that allow more policy space and that are conducive to sustainable development and inclusive growth, in support of target B of Goal 1, target B of Goal 16, and targets 14 and 15 of Goal 17.

**Miho Shirotori**

Division on International Trade and Commodities



I conduct research, monitor the trade-related targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, and implement technical assistance projects all with a view to maximizing synergies between trade growth and inclusive and sustainable development in developing countries.

**Steve MacFeely**

Division on Globalization and Development Strategies



I lead our work on gathering unrivalled statistical data allowing researchers and policymakers to make informed decisions on sustainable development topics like finance, technology, and investment in support of 2030 Agenda, in particular target 18 of Goal 17 on “the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data” and target 19 of Goal 17 on supporting “statistical capacity-building in developing countries”.

**Junior Roy Davis**

Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes



My work includes leading the team that writes our *Economic Development in Africa Report* which supports African countries’ in their efforts to meet both the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 1, 8, 9, 10, and 17.

**Yanchun Zhan**

Division on International Trade and Commodities



I lead a team to work with Governments, the private sector and other important stakeholders which have an interest in reducing developing countries’ dependency on commodities and diversify their economies in support of target B of Goal 9 on “industrial diversification and value addition to commodities”.

OUR OFFICES OUTSIDE HEADQUARTERS

UNCTAD OFFICE IN NEW YORK

In 2017 our New York office continued to provide support to member States, representing UNCTAD in intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings, reaching out to United Nations agencies and other stakeholders including the media, and launching flagship reports to create awareness of our mandate, analysis and technical assistance activities.

A crucial part of our work in New York included follow up to ongoing United Nations reforms, including by contributing to the coordination and timely submission of survey inputs and reports mandated by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review on coherence, effectiveness and funding of United Nations development entities.

Our New York office redoubled efforts to increase the UNCTAD footprint in a series of new forums and inter-agency groups including:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Inter-Agency Task Team on Technology
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development
- Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

Through the efforts of New York colleagues, substantive contributions to thematic chapters of the Financing for Development report and associated preparatory meetings with member States and other stakeholders were made and, in September 2017, UNCTAD, with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, became the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Technology.

In 2017, the New York office also participated in and followed up on key forums including the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, the Science Technology and Innovation Forum, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, the high-level political forum and the Oceans Conference.

In the second half of 2017, New York activities were focused on the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, in which we supported a total of 14 resolutions. At the Second Committee, the New York Office served five resolutions on:

- International trade and development
- External debt sustainability and development
- Commodities
- Science, technology and innovation for development
- Information and communications technologies for development

With the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the office organized one of the three side events of the Second Committee in October focusing on how inclusive innovation can support the 2030 Agenda, and a special event, organized with the International Labour Organization, on major transformations in labour markets. ■



UNCTAD REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA IN ADDIS ABABA

Our regional office for Africa, opened in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, supports the African Union Commission, Africa's regional economic communities and member States. In 2017, the office supported UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi in his high-level advocacy work with top policymakers in Africa with key meetings in Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda, among others.

The office also played an important role in strengthening our support for the design of the African Union's Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). This agreement, a key priority for the African Union's development blueprint for 2063, will break down barriers in intra-African trade. After phase I of the negotiations was completed, heads of state and government were due to sign the CFTA in March 2018, after which we stand ready to support phase II negotiations.

Our Addis Ababa colleagues also worked with the African Union and its member States to formulate inclusive and sustainable development strategies and policies, and continued their support for regional approaches to diversification strategies, notably in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS Regional Services Policy Review) and the East African Community (Five-Year Trade and Development Strategy).

Also in 2017, our Addis Ababa colleagues played a crucial role in strengthening technical cooperation and capacity-building support for small and medium size enterprises by expanding our network of Empretec Training Centres. They also supported the launch of the first YouthConnektAfrica Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, with the United Nations Development Programme, the Government of Rwanda, and UNCTAD Special Adviser Jack Ma.

In 2017, our Addis Ababa colleagues launched the Addis Ababa Trade and Development Dialogue Series and created strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector and civil society across Africa. ■



| WHERE TO FIND US

Follow us:



<http://unctad.org>

If you represent a Government or United Nations mission, contact:

iss@unctad.org
+41 22 917 2222

If you are a journalist and wish to receive our media material, please register online or contact our press office:

unctadpress@unctad.org
+41 22 917 5828

If you represent a civil society organization, contact:

cso@unctad.org
+41 22 917 5552

To arrange a student visit, contact:

unctadinfo@unctad.org

VISIT US

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Palais des Nations, 8-14,
Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

T: +41 22 917 1234

F: +41 22 917 0057





unctad.org

