

Division on Investment and Enterprise

1. The Division on Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD is a global center of excellence, dealing with issues related to investment and enterprise development within the United Nations system. Building on three and a half decades of experience, the Division has strength and international expertise in research and policy analysis, intergovernmental consensus-building and technical assistance to developing countries. The Division consists of 4 branches and 11 substantive sections/units, and comprises about 100 staff.

2. The Division provides substantive servicing to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (IGE on ISAR) and other intergovernmental expert meetings. The Division has two flagship products to which the whole Division contributes. These are the World Investment Report and the World Investment Forum. The Division also delivers seven core sets of outputs (Investment Information System, Investment Trends and Policy Monitors, Investment Policy Reviews, International Investment Agreements, Investment Facilitation Compact, Entrepreneurship, and International Standards for Accounting and Reporting), as well as some other projects (e.g. on intellectual property and development, insurance and e-tourism).

3. **Investment Trends and Issues Branch:** The core responsibility of the branch is to monitor and assess global and regional trends in FDI and TNC operations, and to analyze salient emerging development issues arising. It is composed of two sections:

- (i) *Trends and Data Section:* Maintains the databases on FDI and TNC operations, and provides technical assistance to developing countries on FDI statistics; analyzes trends in and prospects for FDI flows and TNC operations, examines the related issues, and reports thereon periodically (Investment Trends Monitor). The section also prepares the World Investment Report (trends part).
- (ii) *Investment Issues Section:* Prepares the World Investment Report (key development issues part); conducts in-depth analytical research on major and emerging investment issues and their impact on development; prepares the Transnational Corporations journal; and provides backstopping to the largest TNCs' network and academic FDI network.

4. **Investment Policies Branch:** The core responsibility of the branch is to contribute to investment policy-making at national and international level, with a view to creating investment policy environments conducive to attracting and benefiting from FDI for development. Its functions are carried out by three sections:

- (i) *Policy Research Section:* Maintains the national FDI policy databases and provides analyses and regular reports on the latest investment policy developments (Investment Policy Monitor); prepares the World Investment Report (national policies part); and provides backstopping to the national investment policy-makers network.
- (ii) *Investment Agreements Section:* Serves as a global focal point for backstopping the international investment regime, including provision of a consensus-building forum for issues related to International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and their development dimension; undertakes research on salient issues, and provides technical assistance to developing countries; maintains IIA databases

and publishes periodic reports on the latest developments of IIA; and prepares the World Investment Report (international policies part).

- (iii) *Investment Policy Review Section*: Undertakes Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs), with the aim of providing an independent evaluation of the national policy, regulatory and institutional framework for FDI; proposes ways and means to attract and benefit from foreign investment to governments and assist them in implementing the recommendations of the reviews; and provides a compendium of best policy practices to assist investment policy-making in developing and transition economies.

5. **Investment Capacity-building Branch**: The core responsibility of the Branch is to contribute to enhancing developing countries' capacities to promote investment and develop an operational climate that maximizes the contribution of FDI to development objectives. It is also involved in the follow-up actions arising from IPR recommendations. The branch comprises two sections and one unit:

- (i) *Investment Promotion Section*: Contributes to investment promotion and retention strategies of investment promotion agencies, and enhances their capacities through the provision of pragmatic tools, advisory services and training workshops; and maintains the networks of investment promotion agencies and business associations.
- (ii) *Business Facilitation Section*: Assists developing countries with tailored e-government applications that enhance transparency and efficiency in administrative procedures relevant to conducting business; produces investment guides to promote FDI to developing countries and regions; and is responsible for UNCTAD's i-Portal, an on-line administrative interface between government and investors.
- (iii) *Intellectual Property Unit*: Examines the development dimensions of intellectual property rights and the linkage between investment and intellectual property rights; assists LDCs in improving their access to medicine through building their supply capacity.

6. **Enterprise Development Branch**: The core responsibility of the branch is to foster entrepreneurship through creating and enabling a policy environment, and building capacity for entrepreneurs' training; it is also tasked with assisting developing countries adopt international accounting and reporting standards, and promote corporate governance and social responsibility. Its functions are carried out by two sections and one unit:

- (i) *Entrepreneurship Section*: Provides analysis on the policy framework conducive to entrepreneurship, including business linkages and women entrepreneurship; and builds entrepreneurial capacity through the Empretec programme and e-tourism.
- (ii) *Accounting and Corporate Governance Section*: Works to enhance the ability of developing countries to utilize international accounting and reporting standards and improve transparency; and analyzes voluntary enterprise policies on corporate social responsibility in order to promote best practices.
- (iii) *Insurance Unit*: Provides policy analysis and capacity-building on prudential regulatory frameworks, and the establishment of competitive insurance markets.