



# International Trade

## Programme of work - 2008-2009 biennium

*São Paulo Consensus*

*“Trade is not an end in  
itself, but a means to  
growth and development”*

*SPC, para 63*

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# Outline

1. Comparison of outputs for the 2006-2007 and the 2008-2009 biennia
2. Results-based management and indicators of achievements
3. Priority areas for 2008-2009



# Comparison of output totals for the 2006-2007 and the 2008-2009 biennia

- There is a continuous rise in the demand for UNCTAD's analytical work, technical assistance support and consensus building
- Strengthened research and analysis, in line with MTR recommendations
- New and reformulated activities are planned
  - in response to the Sao Paulo Consensus (more than 20 specific mandates in SPC)
  - Mid-Term Review, demands from beneficiary countries, etc.
- Several other activities have been rationalized

# Results-based management

- **Objective(s) of the subprogramme:**

- To assure developmental gains from international trade, the trading system and trade negotiations in goods and services and to enhance the commodity sector's contribution to the development process for the effective and beneficial integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the global economy

- **Expected accomplishments:**

1. Formulating and implementing appropriate trade policies and strategies, and improved international trading environment
2. Strengthened analytical and statistical tools for trade and trade-related decision-making in developing countries for enhanced understanding of interactions between trade, competitiveness and development.
3. Enhanced capacity of developing countries to integrate commodity production and trade into development and partnerships
4. Improved capability of developing countries to identify and address anticompetitive practices and consumer protection issues
5. Strengthened capacity of developing countries to pursue both trade and trade policy objectives and sustainable development objectives in a mutually supportive fashion

# Results-based management

- Three types of performance measures, based on clear objectives and relevant methodologies
- Numerical targets based on past performance and anticipated resources for the next biennium
- Most performance measures and targets aimed to capture our impact at country-level
  - E.g. number of countries adopting a competition law, making progress on integrating commodities strategies in line with UNCTAD research and advice, etc
- On analytical databases and research – measures of dissemination impact and numbers of individual users
  - E.g. users of WITS, TRAINS, etc.
- On trade and environment – number of policy actions taken by individual countries or international community

# Indicators of achievement (1)

- Increased number of developing countries, including non-WTO members, actively participating in the international trading system
- 2004-2005 (actual): 30 developing countries
- 2006-2007 (estimate): 35 developing countries
- 2008-2009 (target): 38 developing countries

# Indicators of achievement (2a)

- Increased number of users of the Trade Analysis and Information Analysis System, either through the internet or the World Integrated Trade Solution, and the Agriculture Trade Policy Simulation Model
  - 2004-2005 (actual):30000 users
  - 2006-2007 (estimate):35000 users
  - 2008-2009 (target):37000 users

# Indicators of achievement (2b)

- Increased number of countries and factors covered by the Trade and Development Index
  - 2006-2007 (estimate): 120 countries
  - 2008-2009 (target): 125 countries

# Indicators of achievement (3)

- Increased number of countries in which improvements have been achieved in integrating commodity production, processing and trade into development in line with UNCTAD research and analyses, and policy deliberations and technical assistance.
  - 2004-2005 (actual):15 countries
  - 2006-2007 (estimate):20 countries
  - 2008-2009 (target):25 countries

# Indicators of achievement (4)

- Increased number of countries making progress in competition or consumer-protection legislation, specifically through the preparation, adoption or revision of legal instruments or through measures aimed at enforcing their implementation
  - 2004-2005 (actual):10 countries
  - 2006-2007 (estimate):11 countries
  - 2008-2009 (target):12 countries

# Indicators of achievement (5)

- Increased number of result-oriented actions taken by developing countries and the international community to enable developing countries to take advantage of trade and investment opportunities while promoting their sustainable development objectives in international discussions or through specific policy measures for them at the national, regional and international levels
  - 2004-2005 (actual):60 actions
  - 2006-2007 (estimate):90 actions
  - 2008-2009 (target):92 actions

# New areas of work and emphasis

- Given the SPC mandates and the Strategic Framework, a number of ongoing areas of work are continued
- There are also new areas of emphasis, based on:
  - Implementation of existing Sao Paulo mandates (e.g. paras 95-109)
  - priorities identified by MTR (e.g. para 18(a-m), 46(d and e))
  - various international developments, e.g. Aid for Trade
  - demands from beneficiary countries

# MTR priority areas (I)

- Cross-cutting recommendations
  - Coordination of UN-wide activities on trade and development (para 18a)
    - EC-ESA Working Group on Trade
  - South-South Trade (paras 18j and 46f)
  - Strengthen analysis and research (paras 26-30) – almost one third of our current overall workload and this will increase in the next biennium
  - Technical cooperation on productive capacity, competitiveness and market access (MTR para 46g)
  - Para 166 courses (SPC 109 and MTR para 38k)
  - Aid for Trade (MTR paras 18m, 38g and 46e, item iii))

# MTR priority areas (II)

- Specific areas of work prioritized:
  - Commodity issues – around 140 activities planned (SPC para 100 and MTR para 18b and c)
  - Competition law and policy, in particular peer review, analysis and TA activities - overall almost 100 activities (SPC paras 95 and 104, MTR para 18d)
  - Trade negotiations – around 200 activities planned (SPC paras 95, 96, 98, 99, 108 and MTR paras 18(e and l), 46e)
  - Trade and Environment – renewed impetus (e.g. biofuels, EGS), some 140 activities planned (SPC para 103 and MTR para 18k)
  - Analysis, Research and Databases – some 37'000 users will benefit from these tools by the end of 2009 (SPC para 95, 96, 105 and MTR paras 18f-j, m and 46e-g)

# MTR priority areas (III)

- New areas of work
  - Strengthening the participation of developing countries in new and dynamic sectors of world trade (SPC para 95 and MTR para 18f)
  - The programme on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) including support for the Group of Eminent Persons on Non-Tariff Barriers (SPC para 95 and MTR para 18g)
  - Adjustment to trade reform (SPC para 95, MTR para 18i)

# New approaches and thematic areas of emphasis

- Greater inter -agency collaboration and cooperation: We have led the formation of the multi-agency team on NTBs with a view to maximizing the use of UN system strengths resources in dealing with this important but complex issue.
- Public-private partnerships: The UNCTAD-Philips initiative is an example of how we moved from analytical work on new and dynamic sector to supply capacity building support by collaborating with an industry leader.
- Strengthening our networking, in line with the MTR results:
  - setting up an Advisory Board on Trade and Development Index.
  - organizing networking of RTAs by planning to hold a high-level segment at the forthcoming Trade Commission; establishing relationship with the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) with a view to giving widest possible circulation to our documents

# New approaches and thematic areas of emphasis (ii)

- Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries - systematic work and stakeholder dialogue on private sector standards, such as EurepGAP
- Standard harmonization - drafting regional standards for organic agriculture
- Renewed focus on country level work: the proposed trade adjustment review will focus on specific countries
- Innovation and refinement of databases and analytical tools, e.g. South-South trade database and upgrade of WITS in collaboration with World Bank
- Elaborating on emerging ideas and initiatives: Aid for Trade

# New approaches and thematic areas of emphasis (iii)

- Competition policy:
  - Voluntary peer reviews; competition and intellectual property rights; Criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of competition authorities; competition policy, poverty alleviation and MDGs;
  - the role of competition law in promoting growth and development, particularly the competitiveness of private sector enterprises
- On commodities – promoting intraregional cooperation and trading opportunities, especially in Africa; partnerships with NGOs helping small farmers; energy issues; support to G-NEXID
- Post-WTO accession issues – regulatory issues, policy developments
- Adjustment to WTO agreements
- Regional integration - South-South (inter-continental agreements), North-South (EPAs)
- Services capacities buildings – new portfolio of countries regions and sectoral approaches

# Concluding remarks

- Past performance and accomplishments fully supports our future work
  - Performance measures fully met in previous biennia and on track for the current biennium
  - 2006-2007 work programme: 51% already implemented at the end of 2006
  - The subprogramme accounts for 36% of total UNCTAD programmed substantive outputs in 2008-09 biennium
  - TA expenditure has doubled from 2002 (\$4.4 million) to 2005 (\$8.88 million), accounting for one third of UNCTAD TA
- External factors may affect our performance
- Committed to full implementation of SPC and MTR results, and looking forward to UNCTAD XII