



DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION:

Facts and Figures



2008



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CONFERENCE ON TRADE
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This second issue of UNCTAD's "*Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures*" is more than an update of the 2004 edition. With economic globalization challenging much of our traditional wisdom, the 2008 edition is meant to increase the analytical emphasis and to offer some explanation for new and emerging economic trends.

In recent years it is remarkable how quick and how fundamental the role of developing economies in the global economy has changed. The biggest and the fastest-growing developing countries nowadays are considered to stabilize the world economy due to their dynamism and their openness. Developing countries accounted for 37 per cent of world merchandise exports in 2006 on a rising trend. Moreover, as many developing countries have achieved current account surpluses they have become important providers of capital for the rest of the world.

As I said in my report to UNCTAD XII, which will take place in Accra in spring 2008: A "second generation" of globalization is thus emerging. A distinctive characteristic of this phase of globalization is economic multipolarity, in which the South plays a significant role. Today, no negotiation of an international economic agreement is conceivable without the presence of China, India, Brazil and South Africa at the table. The new economic weight of some developing countries creates significant opportunities for the rest of the developing world. It also highlights the need for policy diversity rather than uniformity.

The brief synopsis of data and information covered by this new volume of *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures* very well illustrates UNCTAD's independent research in the areas of its core mandate, namely the integrated treatment of trade, development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and its endeavours in the area of statistics. It is my hope that this snapshot of globalization will increase readers' desire TO LEARN MORE about the topics tackled by *the Trade and Development Report* and the other major publications of UNCTAD.



Supachai Panitchpakdi

Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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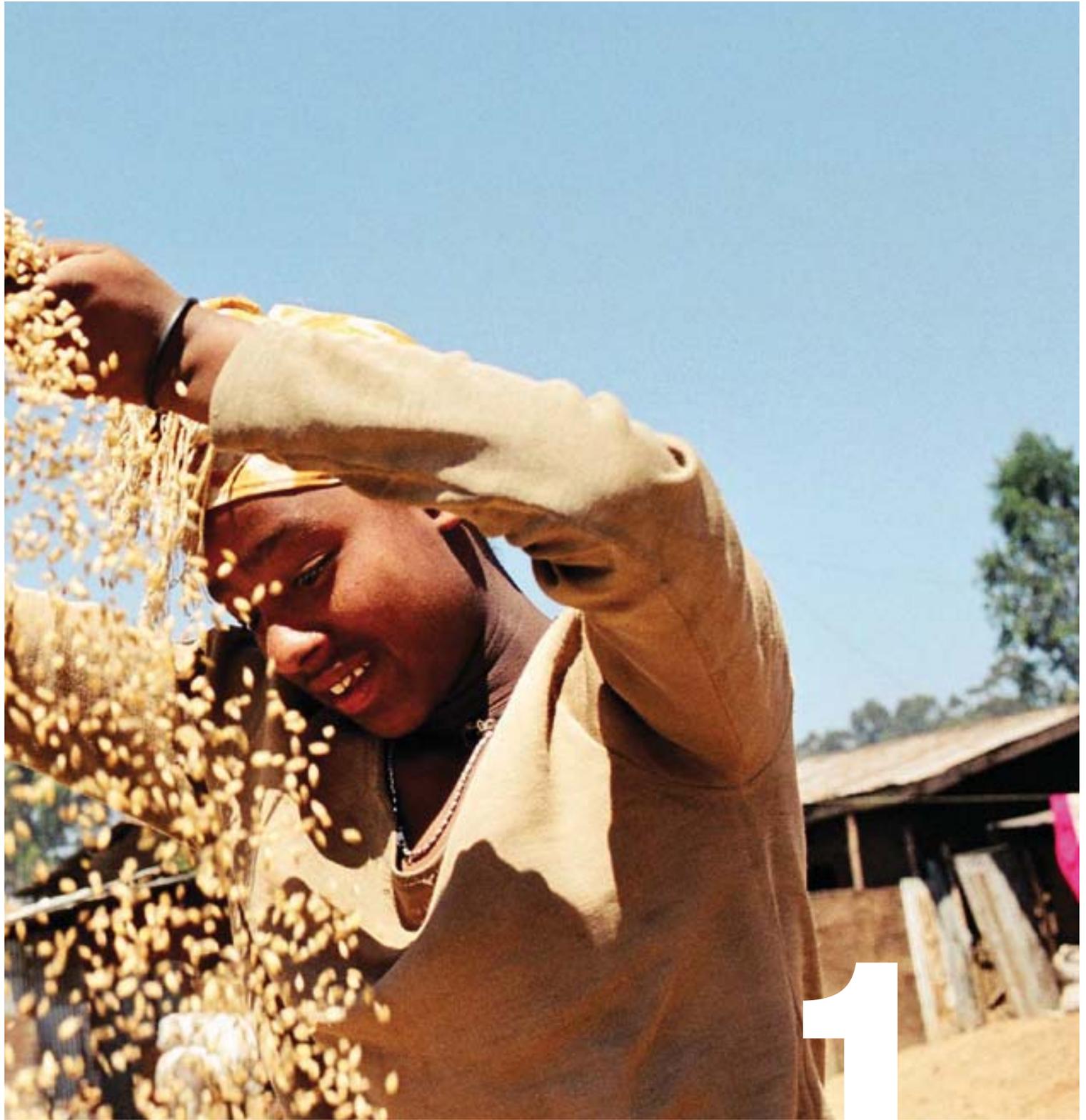
Numerous international organizations contributed to *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2008*, especially by providing statistical data and other information. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

Explanations and symbols:

- Because of rounding, details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to totals.
- “Dollars” and “\$” refer to United States dollars.
- A zero (0) means that the amount is nil or negligible.
- The symbol underscore (_) indicates that the item is not applicable.
- Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not separately reported.
- Use of a hyphen (-) between years (e.g. 1965-1970) signifies the full period involved, including the initial and final years.

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