

**GLOBALIZATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENT:**  
the international  
trade perspective



UNITED NATIONS

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**GLOBALIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT:  
THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PERSPECTIVE**



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This publication provides analyses on some of the emerging trade and development opportunities and challenges for all countries, and developing countries in particular, in the context of rapid globalization. It builds on the Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD XII entitled *Globalization for development: Opportunities and challenges (TD/415)*.

UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities prepared the publication.

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## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AfT	Aid for trade
AGOA	African growth and Opportunity Act of USA
ANZCERTA	Australia-New Zealand Closer economic Relations Trade Agreement
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CARICOM	Caribbean Common Market and Economy
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EBA	Everything-but-arms initiative of the EU
ECDC	Economic cooperation among developing countries
EHFSRs	Environmental, health and food-safety requirements
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign direct investment
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services (WTO)
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross domestic product
GDG	Green house gas
GSP	Generalized system of preferences
GSTP	Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
ICT	Information and communication technology
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MTS	Multilateral trading system
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
NAMA	Non agricultural market access
NTBs	Non-tariff barriers
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PVS	Private voluntary standards
RTAs	Regional trade agreements
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDT	Special and differential treatment
SMEs	Small and medium scale enterprises
TDI	Trade and Development Index
TNCs	Transnational corporations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

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## SUMMARY

### A. TRADE-DRIVEN GLOBALIZATION AND QUALITATIVE INTEGRATION

Globalization is increasing the integration of national markets and the interdependence of countries worldwide for a wide range of goods, services, and commodities. In the past 30 years, international trade flows have expanded dramatically and, generally, at a rate faster than global output, with a doubling of the value of trade in a 10-year period since the mid-1990s. In 2006, the dollar value of world merchandise exports reached US\$11.98 trillion (as compared to about US\$5.17 trillion in 1995), and that of commercial services exports rose to US\$2.71 trillion, thus raising total world trade to over US\$14 trillion.

Several factors have played an important role in the recent expansion of trade, the growing integration of economies, and the increasing contribution of trade to development. These include the liberalization of tariffs and other barriers to trade; foreign direct investment through trade and investment negotiations and agreements; autonomous unilateral structural reforms; technological innovations in transport and communications; international solidarity through supportive measures (like trade preferences); and the strategic use of policies, experimentation and innovation. Trade-driven globalization is also manifested in the changing geography of the world economy today. Its key features include the emergence of a dynamic South as an additional (to the North) motor for world trade and new investment, and an expansion in South-South trade in goods, services and commodities.

Assuring development gains from international trade in the context of trade-driven globalization necessitates improving the *quantitative benchmarks* of integration in international trade through increased trade performance, increasing shares in world trade and in GDP. More importantly, a major improvement in the *qualitative benchmarks* of integration – such as increased competitiveness and enhanced productive capacity, adequate and modern infrastructure (physical and social), trade facilitation, human resource development, diversification, higher value addition of production and exports, employment generation, a sound financial and investment climate, competition culture, technological advances, and more environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly production, consumption and trade patterns – will also be required.

Accelerated economic growth and increased returns from trade should be channelized into achieving human and social development including food security, energy security, rural development, universal access to essential services, gender equity, and poverty reduction. All of these noble objectives are embodied in internationally agreed development goals, including in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. Reducing inequalities and democratizing the trade and development gains within and across countries should

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