



# UNCTAD ANNUAL REPORT 2007

*Thinking  
development,  
advancing  
solutions*



UNITED NATIONS

## UNCTAD AT A GLANCE

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Geneva-based United Nations organization to initiate a carbon-neutral initiative
<b>3</b>	Pillars of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consensus-building</li> <li>• research and analysis</li> <li>• technical cooperation</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	Main programmes of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• globalization and development strategies</li> <li>• investment, technology and enterprise development</li> <li>• international trade in goods and services and commodities</li> <li>• services infrastructure and trade efficiency</li> <li>• Africa, least developed countries and special programmes</li> </ul>
<b>43</b>	Years of promoting the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy
<b>48%</b>	Female staff
<b>193</b>	Member States
<b>200</b>	Partnerships forged with civil society organizations
<b>310</b>	Technical cooperation projects currently being implemented in 83 countries
<b>456</b>	Dedicated staff members, with professional staff drawn from 99 countries
<b>\$40m</b>	In voluntary contributions for operational activities, of which \$7.7m was contributed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition
<b>\$56m</b>	Total regular budget for 2007, from the regular budget of the United Nations

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## FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY- GENERAL OF UNCTAD

This last year has been a very busy one for the organization, particularly as the preparations for the twelfth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), to be held in Ghana in April 2008, are gearing up in earnest. Member States identified the theme for the conference – Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development – and I presented my report to UNCTAD XII in July. In October, we sounded the starting bell for the formal intergovernmental preparatory process, with negotiations on the Conference outcome text now in full swing.

The Conference takes place after a period of global economic expansion that has brought unprecedented benefits to a growing number of developing countries, allowing some of them to become major players in the world economy. This emergence of the new South is a welcome reminder of the potential of globalization to contribute to development. However, halfway to the 2015 target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, many of the poorest and most disadvantaged countries have not benefited from increased global liberalization and integration. In addition, high energy and food prices, growing concern over the economic impacts of climate change, global financial imbalances

and volatility, and slow progress in the multilateral trade negotiations are generating a number of new challenges for policymakers.

In this complex environment, UNCTAD has continued to analyse global developments so as to advance innovative policy solutions and provide targeted technical assistance to developing countries. In 2007, our research highlighted the great potential of regional cooperation for harnessing South–South trade and identified the policies needed for developing countries to benefit more from investment in the extractive industries. We also worked on finding new ways to strengthen productive capacities in the least developed countries to allow them to enhance the benefits of international trade, by focusing on the role of knowledge and innovation.

Our intergovernmental dialogues examined policies in such areas as trade in services, commodities, investment and competition policy. The value of our intergovernmental work was recognized by the G8 at its summit in Heiligendamm in June; in the summit declaration UNCTAD was invited to work closely with the OECD in helping industrialized and developing countries to identify best practices for creating an institutional environment conducive to increased foreign investment

and sustainable development. The General Assembly of the United Nations has also commended UNCTAD for its analytical work on the concept of policy space, as first articulated in 2004 in the UNCTAD XI São Paulo Consensus.

We also took steps to strengthen the coordinated delivery of our technical assistance. In line with United Nations system-wide efforts to “deliver as one”, UNCTAD has taken the lead in establishing a United Nations cluster on trade and productive capacities, in which several United Nations agencies will develop joint projects at country level. In addition, we have engaged with member States by presenting a more coherent programmatic plan for UNCTAD’s technical cooperation activities, while a newly established in-house project review committee monitors project design and resource mobilization efforts and promotes streamlined administrative procedures.

As we look to 2008, I am convinced that UNCTAD XII will not only make a further contribution to development, but also result in a stronger UNCTAD. By identifying the policies needed, fostering global consensus and catalysing action, we can help extend the benefits of globalization as broadly as possible and equip developing countries to meet its challenges.



*Supachai Panitchpakdi*  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "S. Panitchpakdi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.







Palais des Nations, Geneva

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 to provide developing countries with an institutional framework to address their development concerns and help them boost economic growth through trade. Today's increasingly globalizing and interdependent world presents developing countries, particularly the least developed, and countries with economies in transition with new challenges. At the same time it offers them new opportunities to benefit from the global marketplace, which could be used to reduce poverty and improve living standards for all people in a sustainable manner. We at UNCTAD seek innovative ways and practical means to help them achieve this goal.

### Three dimensions to our work

We conduct research and analysis of current trends and issues related to trade and development, offering a fresh look at development challenges and opportunities in the light of evolving global developments. Our aim is to identify policy alternatives and help policymakers find pragmatic policy responses to meet these challenges and to use new emerging opportunities effectively.

We help countries and the international community to build policy consensus around proactive approaches to global trade, investment and finance for development through our intergovernmental meetings, expert meetings and participation in other international forums.

We offer technical assistance to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition better integrate into the globalizing economy, seize new and expanding opportunities and overcome major obstacles. We are the only United Nations body that deals with development issues in this integrated manner, taking account of the interlinkages and interactions between trade, investment, finance, technology and sustainable development.

### Contributing to global development goals

Our activities aim to help achieve the goals set by major global conferences and initiatives, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of



Fifty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board

Small Island Developing States and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society. In addition, we have been helping developing countries participate proactively in the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in furthering the implementation of the goals contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

### Working with our member States

Delegates from our 193 member States participate in the annual meeting of our governing body, the Trade and Development Board, which discusses emerging issues and oversees the work of the organization. Three commissions assist the Board: the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. These commissions also convene meetings of leading experts to examine and offer technical advice on a range of policy issues under consideration.

As a development-oriented institution, UNCTAD works closely with the Group of 77 (G-77) and China. Established at the same time as UNCTAD, the G-77, now comprising 131 developing countries, collaborates with us to advance the



Delegates at a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII

international economic agenda in favour of development.

At our intergovernmental meetings, the countries of the G-77, developed countries and countries with economies in transition engage in a constructive dialogue to find solutions to key trade and development issues.

### Working with other partners

Over the years, we have increased our partnership activities with international institutions, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the business community to make our work more effective. For example, our Virtual Institute works with a number of universities; we offer training courses in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions; and we provide assistance to least developed countries (LDCs) through the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to LDCs, jointly with WTO, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, such as professional associations, religious groups, trade unions and chambers of commerce, as well as academics, increasingly participate in our meetings as

UNCTAD has launched a carbon-neutral initiative in response to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call to make the United Nations climate-neutral. An in-house audit to determine UNCTAD's carbon footprint has been completed, and a carbon mitigation strategy will now be developed: a carbon offset project will be announced by UNCTAD's Secretary-General at UNCTAD XII.

[www.unctad.org/climatechange](http://www.unctad.org/climatechange)

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and Mr. Joe Baidoe-Ansah, Minister of Trade, Industry and Private Sector Development of Ghana, signing the Host Country Agreement, Accra



observers. In 2007, four additional organizations were granted observer status with UNCTAD and 14 more were accredited to the 2007 Trade and Development Board hearing with civil society.

#### São Paulo Consensus

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a global conference held every four years in different developing regions of the world to assess current global issues and concerns, discuss policy options at the national and international levels and set the course for the organization's work for the next four years.

The last conference, UNCTAD XI, was held in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2004. Its outcome, the São Paulo Consensus, recognized that it was for "each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space". It identified the need for UNCTAD to respond in a timely manner to the rapid changes in the international economic environment, in particular, the "new geography" of South-South trade and investment flows. It stressed the need for greater coherence between internationally agreed rules, practices and processes on the one hand, and

the implementation of national development policies and strategies on the other. It revived the issue of commodities, urging "a pragmatic approach aimed at bringing both focus and priority to breaking the cycle of poverty in which many commodity producers and commodity-dependent countries are now locked". The policy consensus and mandates established at this conference formed the basis of our work from 2004 to 2007.

#### Preparing for UNCTAD XII

The report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD XII, released in July 2007, highlighted a number of traditional and emerging issues where UNCTAD could have a significant impact thanks to its considerable expertise in these areas. The issues included: the growing importance of South-South trade and investment; the changing reality in the commodity and energy sectors, which has thrown up new opportunities and challenges for economic growth and poverty alleviation; the trade and development implications of climate change; growing competition in the marketplace, which requires constant upgrading of countries' technological capabilities and greater use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance development; emerging barriers to



Special briefing for New York-based delegations on UNCTAD XII, with President J.A. Kulor of Ghana next to United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro (far left)



UNCTAD staff at a meeting in preparation for UNCTAD XII

trade and investment, particularly the increasing resort to a variety of non-tariff barriers; and "aid for trade" as an essential complement to international trade liberalization.

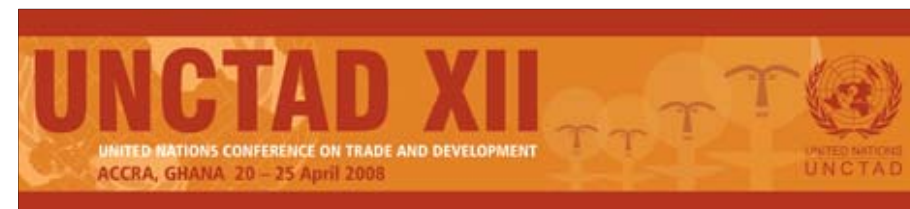
Preparations for UNCTAD XII saw a flurry of activity in 2007. A preparatory committee was established to start formulating an outcome text through a consensus-building process. A series of pre-Conference events included: the "Global initiative on commodities" meeting in Brasília; a preparatory meeting of experts from LDCs in Arusha; meetings in Geneva on the development implications of tourism and on the use of ICTs for economic development; the India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference and Exhibition in New Delhi; and a biofuels workshop in Rio de Janeiro.

The theme of UNCTAD XII will be "Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development". Discussions will focus on four sub-themes: (1) enhancing coherence at all levels for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in global policymaking, including the contribution of regional approaches; (2) key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy; (3) enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment;

mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development; and (4) strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness.

A high-level segment will discuss the theme "Trade and development for Africa's prosperity: action and direction". Another major event in Accra will be the World Investment Forum. It will provide an unprecedented opportunity for senior policy-makers, investors and investment promotion agencies to meet and interact through a series of conference, networking and social events. And because developing countries have much to offer the world in terms of creativity and culture, Creative Africa will showcase African arts, crafts, fashion, music and dance, including an exhibition and performances by leading African artists. The Civil Society Forum will discuss priority issues relevant to the theme and sub-themes and present a position statement to the Conference.

[www.unctadxii.org](http://www.unctadxii.org)









[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_10078](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_10078)

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### Development Report, 2007: Cooperation for Development

Global growth momentum built up over the past years in developing countries, including many of the opportunities for sustained growth and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, according to the *Trade and Development Report, 2007*. Notwithstanding this positive outlook, however, the world economy is still faced by serious current-account imbalances and volatile capital flows that distort exchange rates and exacerbate these imbalances. The report argues for a policy framework that would exercise the same kind of discipline on tariffs and export subsidies to ensure a safe and sustainable growth. It suggests that until such an environment can be established, developing countries need to manage their exchange rates.

A number of regional and bilateral trade agreements between developed and developing countries in recent years, often referred to as "new regionalism", may offer greater market access and lead to increased foreign direct investment (FDI). However, such agreements can also limit national policy space. In addition, there is an urgent need for multilateral trade rules to advance, but with a stronger development focus to be integrated into international trade rules.

Cooperation among developing countries can be an important factor for diversification, industrialization and structural change and can help ease integration into the global economy. This, regional cooperation must extend beyond trade to policy areas that strengthen the potential for structural change, including monetary and financial arrangements, trade logistics, large infrastructure and generation projects, and industrial policies.

[www.unctad.org/tdr](http://www.unctad.org/tdr)



Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, speaking at the seminar on "Development strategies in a globalizing world", held in Wuhan, China



Participants at the seminar on "Development strategies in a globalizing world"

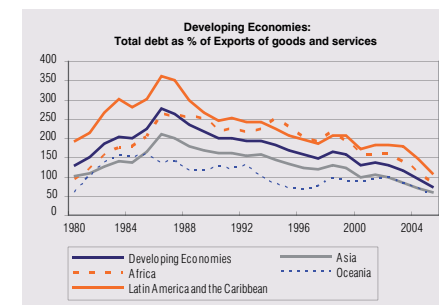
### Training for policymakers on issues raised in recent editions of the Trade and Development Report

Over 50 senior policymakers from 27 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania attended a two-week high-level training programme in Wuhan, China, on national development strategies in a globalizing world. The seminar contributed to a better understanding of current issues, challenges and opportunities of globalization. It was organized and funded by the Chinese Government.

### Addressing the challenges of debt and development finance

UNCTAD's regular research on trends in external debt and on debt sustainability and debt management, as well as on the structure of public debt in developing countries, underpins the debate at the General Assembly of the United Nations on developments in external debt problems of developing countries. The outcome of the General Assembly's deliberations on these subjects builds on the results of research covering the role of new borrowing strategies and new debt instruments, progress in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and developments in Paris Club debt-rescheduling, the debt sustainability framework for low- and middle-income countries, potential vulnerabilities arising from the increasingly important role of structured finance, and the role of credit-rating agencies and their effect on the market for developing countries' debt. Similarly, the secretariat provides the Trade and Development Board with an analysis of the burning issues in the world economy, such as the financial turmoil that has affected several developed countries since the summer of 2007. The policy briefs initiated by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD also address this set of issues. They have helped member States to incorporate in

their analysis of the world economy the latest critical factors that impact on growth and development.



Developing countries' debt indicators have been steadily improving: total debt as a percentage of exports has continued to decrease.