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**ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:
Negotiating Objectives and
Development Priorities**



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This publication is the result of a collaborative effort based on the experience of UNCTAD in assisting developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations, and more specifically, in assisting them in the negotiations on trade in services.

The studies included in this volume are largely updated versions of papers presented at two Expert Meetings organized by UNCTAD's Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) on "Energy Services in International Trade: Development Implications", held in July 2001, and on "Strengthening Capacities in Developing Countries to Develop their Environmental Services Sector", held in July 1998. The Meetings were organized by Simonetta Zarrilli, under the supervision of Murray Gibbs and David Diaz. Jolita Butkeviciene, Alberto Gabriele, Emily Mburu, Rolf Traeger, Faten Azar, Sophie Munda, Josie Maximo, Fabien Dumesnil, Aurangzeb Butt and Irene Musselli provided valuable support to this work.

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A crucial element which made it possible to have an interesting, educative and thought-provoking debate during the meetings was the presence of high-level experts - from government, the private sector and academia - who shared their knowledge and experience with the

participants. To all of them the UNCTAD secretariat wishes to express its most sincere thanks.

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The views expressed in the chapters prepared by staff members are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official UNCTAD position on the issues concerned.

Foreword

The papers included in this publication emerged primarily from two Expert Meetings organized by UNCTAD on “Energy Services in International Trade: Development Implications”, in July 2001, and on “Strengthening Capacities in Developing Countries to Develop their Environmental Services Sector”, in July 1998.

The member States of UNCTAD have made use of the mechanism of expert meetings, established at UNCTAD IX in 1996, to examine a number of service sectors, including health, tourism, air transport, construction and audiovisual services.

The meeting on energy services was a considerable success in that it attracted significant interest by exposing a variety of aspects of a sector undergoing a dramatic transformation, one which is of relevance to the economic growth and development of all countries, whether developed or developing, both energy exporters and energy importers. The sector is moreover the subject of current negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The meeting discussed how increasing demand for investment, the introduction of new technologies and the liberalization of markets have created a new dynamism in this sector. On the other hand, it also highlighted the plight of 2 billion people in developing countries who still have no access to commercial energy sources and the impact of this lack of access on the development prospects of many countries, especially the least developed countries. The meeting also learned from the successful experiences in some energy-producing countries in developing domestic capacities in the energy services sector as a central element in their development strategies.

Energy issues form part of current and forthcoming trade negotiations, whether those on the accession to the WTO, the new

Work Programme launched at Doha in November 2001, or regional and subregional trade agreements. The current negotiations on energy services mark the first time that energy issues have been formally negotiated within the GATT/WTO framework of multilateral trade rights and obligations. However, the implications of the Doha agenda for energy policies as part of a development strategy transcend the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS): the negotiations in such areas as subsidies and countervailing measures, anti-dumping, trade and environment, market access, investment and competition policy are all relevant for energy policies. Energy is also a major element in the current negotiations on accession to the WTO, since non-members of the WTO account for almost half of world petroleum exports and a considerably greater proportion of energy reserves.

The Expert Meeting on environmental services was one of the first intergovernmental gatherings devoted to this emerging services sector. As was the case for energy services, during the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round limited attention was paid to the environmental services sector, considering that little international trade was taking place in the sector at that time: Governments were providing most environmental services, and private operators were not allowed or not willing to enter the market. During the Round, negotiations and classification efforts concentrated on those services that offered immediate prospects for international trade. Sectors like environment and energy, which did not at the time appear to be particularly promising candidates for liberalization, were neglected.

The situation for environmental services, however, has changed significantly since the end of the Uruguay Round. The sector went through deregulation and privatization and is now offering lucrative business opportunities for the private sector. The environmental industry experienced dramatic growth in industrialized countries

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