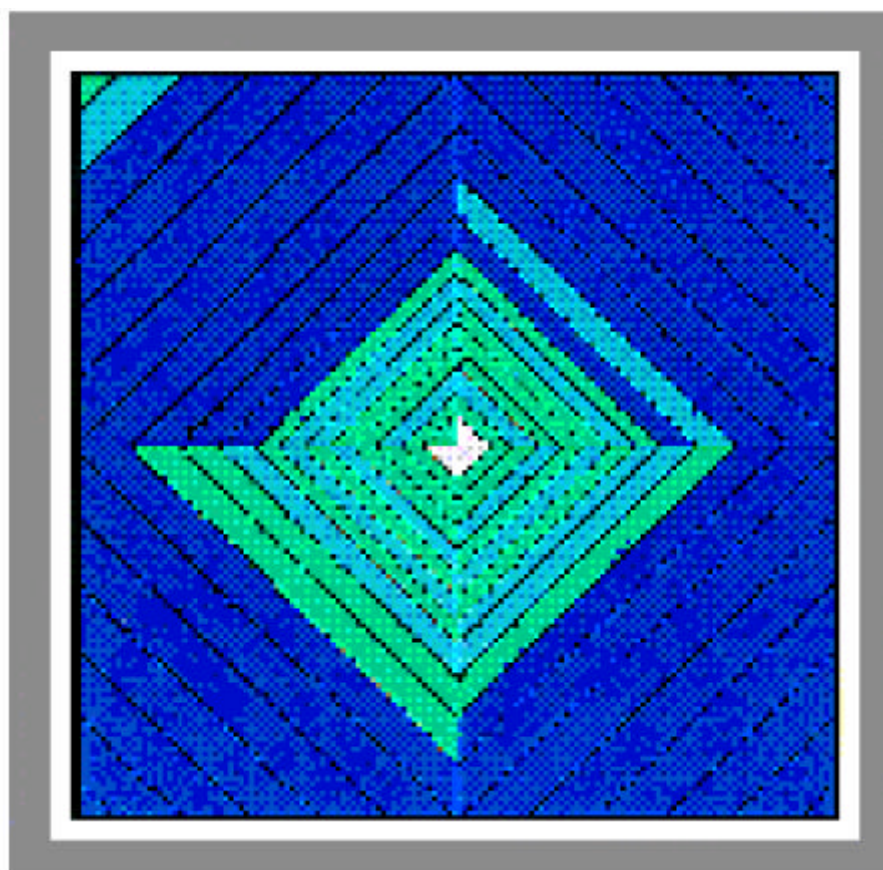


UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 1997



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 1997

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Report by the secretariat of the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



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FOREWORD

The 1997 *Trade and Development Report* examines trends in the international economy with particular reference to developing countries, comparing current and past performances and assessing prospects for future development. It sheds light on the pressing policy issues facing developing countries and the wider international community.

Drawing upon themes set at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as on the work of the United Nations Regional Commissions and of the Specialized Agencies, this year's report focuses on the growing income gaps among and within countries.

Achieving more equitable growth remains a central aim of the work of the United Nations on development. This *Report* illuminates the key role played by investment in achieving rapid growth, as well as the contribution that appropriate government policies can make. A partnership between the United Nations, national governments and civil society can, and will, achieve the twin objectives of faster growth and greater income equality.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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