### **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

## World Investment Report 2000

Cross-border Mergers and Acquisitions and Development



#### Note

UNCTAD serves as the focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for all matters related to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations. In the past, the Programme on Transnational Corporations was carried out by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (1975-1992) and the Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (1992-1993). In 1993, the Programme was transferred to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. UNCTAD seeks to further the understanding of the nature of transnational corporations and their contribution to development and to create an enabling environment for international investment and enterprise development. UNCTAD's work is carried out through intergovernmental deliberations, technical assistance activities, seminars, workshops and conferences.

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Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported. Rows in tables have been omitted in those cases where no data are available for any of the elements in the row;

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Reference to "dollars" (\$) means United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

Annual rates of growth or change, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

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#### **Preface**

The contribution of foreign direct investment to development is now widely recognized. There is a perception, however, that this contribution may be affected by the way investment enters a country. It may come in the form of a new enterprise or the expansion of an existing enterprise; it may also come through a merger or an acquisition. Acquisitions, in particular, arouse concerns, especially over employment, ownership and market structure. And the concerns become urgent when the host economy is a developing one.

Given the recent explosion in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, UNCTAD's 10th *World Investment Report* is a highly timely and important document. This phenomenon calls for just the sort of careful and dispassionate analysis that has become the hallmark of the WIRs.

Cross-border mergers and acquisitions are a part of economic life in a liberalizing and globalizing world. But accepting a more open market in the interests of growth and development does not mean relaxing the requirements of public vigilance. On the contrary, a freer market — and particularly the emerging global market for enterprises — calls for greater vigilance as well as stronger and better governance. To this end, *World Investment Report 2000* provides us with a valuable resource.

Kofi A. Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York, July 2000

### Acknowledgements

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Sanjaya Lall was the principal consultant and adviser to Part Two of *WIR2000*. Experts from both within and outside the United Nations provided inputs. Major inputs were received from Daniel Chudnovsky, Jaime Crispi, Andrés López and Bernard Yeung. Inputs were also received from Douglas van der Berghe, Peter Brimble, Teresa Chudy, Joel Davidow, Christian Dery, David M. Eisenberg, Celso Garrido, David Hall, Mongi Hamdi, Gabriela Llobet, Emanuele Lobina, Chris McIntyre, Stilpon Nestor, Terutomo Ozawa, Carlos Romero, Jörg Simon, Rob van Tulder, Carlos Vidotto and Ted Zahavich.

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# Table of contents

		I I	Page							
Pre	refaceiii									
Ov	ervi	<b>w</b>	<b>(V</b>							
		PART ONE TRENDS								
I.		Global Trends: The Expanding International Production System								
	A.	The growth of international production remains unabated	. 3							
	B.	Countries continue to liberalize FDI regimes	. 6							
	C.	Enterprises seek to become more international	. 8							
	D.	M&As take the lead	10							
	E.	International production expands in scope and depth	15							
	F.	Challenges	18							
	Not	tes	28							
II.	Reg	Regional Trends								
	A.	Developed countries	29							
		1. United States 2. European Union 3. Japan 3.	35							

			Page
	В.	Developing countries	40
		1. Africa	40
		2. Asia and the Pacific	
		3. Latin America and the Caribbean	57
	C.	Central and Eastern Europe	64
	No	tes	70
ш	Th	e Largest Transnational Corporations	71
		c migest manismational corporations	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
	A.	The 100 largest TNCs worldwide	70
		1. Highlights	70
		2. Transnationality	78
	B.	The largest 50 TNCs from developing economies	81
	C.	The largest 25 TNCs from Central Europe	88
	No	tes	93
		PART TWO CROSS-BORDER MERGERS AND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	NS
IV.	Tre	ends in Cross-border M&As	99
	A.	Definitions and classifications	99
	В.	Trends and characteristics	106
		1. Global trends	106
		2. Regional trends	
		a. Developed countries	114
		b. Developing countries	
		c. Central and Eastern Europe	123
		3. Sector and industry trends	123
		4. Privatization and cross-border M&As	
	No	tes	135

			Page
V.	Per	formance, Motivations and Outlook	137
	A.	Corporate performance of M&As	137
	В.	Why do firms engage in cross-border M&As?	140
		1. Motivations for conducting M&As	140
		2. Changes in the economic environment	
		a. Technology	145
		b. Changes in the policy and regulatory environment	
		(i) Policies on FDI and cross-border M&As	146
		(ii) Other changes in the regulatory environment	
		c. Changes in capital markets	152
	C.	A secular trend	153
	D.	An intriguing historical parallel	155
		<ol> <li>Factors behind the United States wave at the turn of the past century</li> <li>Parallels with the current wave</li> </ol>	
		2. I didies with the current wave	100
	Not	es	157
VI.		I and Development: Does Mode of	
	Ent	ry Matter?	159
	Intr	oduction	159
	A.	External financial resources and investment	164
		1. External financial resources	164
		2. Investment	
		3. Summary	171
	B.	Technology	172
		1. Technology transfer and upgrading	174
		2. Technology diffusion	176
		3. Technology generation	176
		4. Summary	179
	C.	Employment and skills	180
		1. Employment quantity	180
		2. Employment quality	
		3. Skills	
		4. Summary	188

			Page
D	D. Ex	port competitiveness and trade	189
	1.	Building export competitiveness	189
	2.	Reliance on imports versus local sources	
	3.	Summary	192
E	. Ma	arket structure and competition	192
	1.	Market structure	
	2.	Competitive behaviour	
	3.	Summary	195
F.	. Su	mmary and conclusions	196
N	Notes		207
Refer	ences		211
		Annexes	
Anne	х А.	Additional text tables	224
Annex	хВ.	Statistical annex	265
Coloct	ed III	NCTAD publications on transpational	
		NCTAD publications on transnational us and foreign direct investment	222
corpo	latioi	is and roreign uncer investment	
Quest	tionna	aire	339
		PART ONE	
		Boxes	
I.1 I.2		velopments in national FDI frameworks during 1999s in 1999	
1.6	DIIS	) III IUUU	0

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