UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNICTA



GUIDE for Delegates







UNCTAD in the United Nations System



UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Machinery at a Glance



Communications and External Relations



UNCTAD's Work with Civil Society



Practical Information for Delegates



UNCTAD in the United Nations System



REFLECTION DIALOGUE ACTION

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was established by the General Assembly in 1964, is the United Nations body responsible for dealing with development issues as they relate to international trade – a main driver of sustainable development.

The goals of UNCTAD are to maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries, and to assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis.

The UNCTAD Secretary-General is appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General in consultation with regional groups and with formal endorsement by the General Assembly. The position rotates between the groups representing Africa, Asia and Latin America.

UNCTAD currently has 195 member States. Consensus is at the centre of the way UNCTAD operates. Its budget is determined by the General Assembly, and its subsidiary Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Fifth Committee, which also has responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters.



UNCTAD's mode of operation can be summed up in three words – **reflection**, **dialogue** and **action** – which illustrate its key functions delivered through three synergetic pillars of work:



REFLECTION in the form of **research**, **policy analysis and data collection** on development issues is at the core of its work. Its ahead-of-the curve analyses form the basis for recommendations to economic policymakers. The aim of this work is to help policymakers make informed decisions and take effective steps to establish a fair global economic system and to generate durable, sustainable economic progress for all. Embodied in its publications and documents, these analyses also support debate carried out during meetings of government representatives and of experts, and help these officials to prepare for meetings.

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DIALOGUE through the **intergovernmental machinery**. UNCTAD is a forum where representatives of all countries can freely debate and discuss how to establish a better balance in the global economy. This allows them to build trust, to assess development challenges and opportunities arising from changing economic conditions, and to reach consensus on key issues.

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ACTION based on its research and on the consensus decisions taken by member States, UNCTAD carries out direct **technical assistance** to help developing countries. It pays special attention to the needs of least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, with the goal of helping them to participate effectively and fairly in the global economy and thereby improve the well-being of their populations. UNCTAD regularly cooperates with other organizations and donor countries in delivering technical assistance.



UNCTAD's work programme is established at ministerial conferences which take place every four years. On those occasions, the organization's activities are adjusted to reflect developing countries' needs and the changing nature of the global economy.

The current programme of work is framed by the Nairobi Maafikiano, approved in July 2016 at UNCTAD XIV held in Nairobi, the most recent quadrennial ministerial conference. In its paragraph 11, the Nairobi Maafikiano reaffirms the activities outlined in the Doha Mandate, adopted at the previous ministerial conference, UNCTAD XIII, held in 2012 in Qatar.

As part of its work, UNCTAD holds discussions with civil society, including at public symposiums where members of the general public express their views and interact with country representatives.

UNCTAD also stages a World Investment Forum, every two years, which is the pre-eminent global platform for investment and development. The Forum devises strategies and solutions for global investment and development challenges. It facilitates multi-stakeholder collective action to stimulate investment in development. The Forum offers a unique opportunity to influence investment-related policymaking, shape the global investment environment, and to network with global leaders in business and politics.

UNCTAD also brings together major players in the area of e-commerce through the UNCTAD e-commerce Week; and in the area of commodities through the Global Commodities Forum.









BUDGET

For the 2018–2019 biennium, UNCTAD has an annual regular budget of about **US\$65 million**. In addition, extrabudgetary contributions help to fund UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes. In 2018, such **extrabudgetary funding totalled some US\$34 million** and **supported implementation of 253 projects**.

For more information on the UNCTAD budget, please see the United Nations Secretariat Budget Fascicle, which is currently:

http://undocs.org/A/74/6(SECT.12)





UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Machinery at a Glance

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