



Activity Report 2013

DITC

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DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES



UNITED NATIONS

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Contents

Note	ii
I. PROMOTING PROSPERITY FOR ALL THROUGH TRADE: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE	1
II. BUILDING CONSENSUS ON MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE	3
A. United Nations General Assembly	3
B. Trade and development board	3
C. Trade and development commission.....	4
D. Intergovernmental expert meetings	4
E. Ad hoc expert meetings	5
F. Working party on the strategic framework and the programme budget	6
G. Post 2015 United Nations development agenda.....	7
H. Other major international conferences and events.....	7
III. IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ISSUES IN TRADE THROUGH RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DATA	11
A. Policy analyses and research undertaken.....	11
B. Analytical tools and enhanced software	13
IV. TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING....	15
A. Trade policy, trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy	15
1. The international trading system, World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations and regional trade agreements	15
2. Support on World Trade Organization accession.....	16
3. Trade policy formulation and implementation.....	16
4. Services, trade and development.....	17
6. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) and other preferences.....	18
B: Trade analysis capacities and information systems.....	19
C. Competition policy and consumer protection	20
1. Competition policy	21
2. Consumer protection	23
3. Voluntary peer reviews	24
D: Trade, environment and development	24
1. BioTrade Initiative.....	25
2. BioFuels Initiative and renewable energies	27
3. Climate Change and the green economy	28
4. Organic agriculture.....	29
5. Creative economy.....	29
E. Trade and gender.....	31
V. PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES: COOPERATING AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	32

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN OVERVIEW OF DITC ACTIVITIES IN 2013

UNCTAD is the focal point of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) is responsible for subprogramme 3 on international trade, established by the United Nations General Assembly under Section 12 (Trade and Development) of the United Nations programme budget and which draws on the Doha Mandate of UNCTAD XIII. The present report summarizes the Division's outputs delivered in 2013 under the three pillars of UNCTAD's work (consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance and capacity building), and through partnerships, in areas within its competence. It does not purport to exhaustively cover all activities undertaken by DITC. A self-assessment of the results attained and lessons learnt is also provided, which is taken into account in the future to improve the quality, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of programme implementation. The present report is the latest in a series of such reports dating back to 2004.

Members of the DITC team



I. PROMOTING PROSPERITY FOR ALL THROUGH TRADE: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) strives to bring about prosperity for all through international trade by helping developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs), and countries with economies in transition use international trade as a tool for their inclusive and sustainable development and equitable and beneficial integration to the global economy. In interaction with Member States and other stakeholders, and through global partnership initiatives, the Division generates, disseminates and supports implementation of ideas, knowledge and practical solutions to maximize equitable and inclusive access to the benefits of globalization including job creation, poverty alleviation and access to basic services. Such efforts are undertaken in the light of UNCTAD's universality, accumulated knowledge and expertise in international trade, status as the UN focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and broad mandates accorded by successive UNCTAD Conferences, including UNCTAD XIII held at Doha (21-26 April 2012) and other relevant international conferences.

The Division implements its mission and mandates fully integrating UNCTAD's three pillars. Intergovernmental meetings are organized and/or serviced by the Division that provide a platform and forum for deliberations and experience-sharing on key national and interna-

tional trade and trade-related issues and proposed best practices that contribute to building an enabling environment for international trade to flourish. These deliberations, inter alia, draw on empirical data emerging from regularly updated trade-related analytical tools and statistical information, analyses of country/regional/thematic/sectoral experiences and policy-oriented reports prepared by the Division. The results of intergovernmental discussions and analyses are fed into the Division's demand-driven technical cooperation and capacity-building which assists countries and regional grouping in formulating and implementing policies and legislation, and developing human, institutional and regulatory capacities and know-how as well as productive capacities.

The Division's work on international trade in goods and services is organized into the following five thematic areas: the development dimension of trade policy and trade negotiations, international trade and the trading system; trade policy research, analysis and information and data; trade, gender and development; competition policy and law and consumer welfare; and mutually supportive trade, environment and sustainable development approaches. Key aspects of the Division's work include:

- a) Monitoring and assessing trends in the international trading system from a development perspective;
- b) Serving as a centre of excellence on trade data and statistics, including on non-tariff measures (NTMs) and their trade and development impact, and quantifying the positive interaction between trade and development;
- c) Supporting enhanced participation of developing countries in global services trade and the impact on development;

- d) Conducting analysis and research and provide capacity building assistance in helping developing countries and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement competition and consumer protection policies, promote the sharing of best practices, and carry out peer reviews with regard to the implementation of such policies;
 - e) Conducting analysis, foster international dialogue and consensus-building, and provide capacity-building on the links among trade, environment and sustainable development in such areas as biotrade, biofuels, climate change, and sustainable consumption and production patterns including organic agriculture;
 - f) Examining the links between gender equality, women's empowerment, and trade and development;
 - g) Assessing the impact of trade on employment and inclusive and sustainable development, with special focus on the poor and youth;
 - h) Assisting countries in assessing and enhancing the contribution of the creative economy to sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
 - i) Supporting trade capacity-building in developing countries, particularly LDCs, as well as through aid for trade in developing supply capacities, and promoting economic diversification and structural transformation;
 - j) Supporting international trade negotiations, including on WTO accession;
 - k) Analyzing and providing assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on regional trade arrangements and how they can be used to optimize development gains;
 - l) Promoting South-South trade, including through support for the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP);
 - m) Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, in the area of international trade;
 - n) Promoting effective utilization of trade preferences including the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); and
 - o) Facilitating intergovernmental deliberations and consensus-building in UNCTAD, the UN General Assembly, the UN Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (held every five years), and other international fora including on the post 2015 UN development agenda and sustainable development goals.
- Since January 2013, UNCTAD's work programme on trade, gender and development became an integral part of the Division. It plays a key role in ensuring that gender concerns are incorporated in a meaningful way in macroeconomic policies, including trade policy. The work is carried out by the Trade, Gender and Development Section of the Division. The team that was formed under the Office of the Secretary General in 2010 to conduct this work was moved to the Division to better respond to the strengthened mandate on trade and gender in the Doha Mandate (paragraph 56(n)).
- The UN programme budget allocation for staff and non-staff resources (covering consultants, ad hoc expert groups, staff travel and external printing) to the Division under the subprogramme 3 (component 1) on international trade for 2012–2013 biennium is provided in the table below.

Table 1. Regular budget allocation for staff and non-staff resources: Subprogramme 3, component 1

Category	Resources (thousands of US\$)		Posts	
	2012-2013	2014-2015	2012-2013	2014-2015
A. Regular budget				
Post	24 689.2	23 832.3	70	67
Non-post	591.0	675.0	-	-
Total	25 280.2	24 507.3	70	67

Source: A/68/6 (Sect. 12)

II. BUILDING CONSENSUS ON MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE

Outputs and impact under the intergovernmental pillar in 2013

A. United Nations General Assembly

Each year, the UN General Assembly discusses progress and key issues in international trade and development and adopts a resolution delineating its views on these issues. The Division prepares the UN Secretary-General's report on "International Trade and Development (A/68/205.)" to inform its deliberation.

In 2013, the report stressed that international trade should play a central role in international efforts towards the development agenda beyond 2015 for inclusive and sustainable development. Trade is essential for inclusive growth and job creation, contributing to a more diversified economy and sustained development in all countries. Transformational shifts in the global economy in the twenty-first century have presented both challenges and opportunities for trade to play this role. These need to be addressed by conscious policy efforts, as the successful transmission of gains from trade integration to broad-based inclusive development is not an automatic process. Trade policy needs to be complemented by a wide range of flanking policies within a coherent and integrated strategic development framework at the national and international levels, and should aim to enhance the link between trade, productive investment and employment creation. Strengthening the multilateral trading system in the presence of proliferating regional trade agreements and reinvigorating its development dimension in the light of the new economic realities is critical to creating an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable development. The United Nations system, particularly its "Geneva hub", can and should play a catalytic role in strengthening the multilateral trading system. The report was highly appreciated by the Member States as providing comprehensive and quality analysis on emerging trade trends and policy issues affecting developing countries.

The Division contributed to the deliberations of the 68th session of the General Assembly (the Second Committee) in New York (23-25 October 2013) and provided substantive support to members' consid-

eration and adoption of a General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/199), which, *inter alia*, stressed the need for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome from the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference.

Moreover, on the occasion of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, UNCTAD participated in a joint briefing by UNEP, WIPO, UNESCO, UNCTAD and CBD Secretariat to the Second Committee on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The briefing, held in New York (30 October 2013), provided a platform to present the BioTrade Initiative as a practical tool in implementing the objectives of the CBD by promoting trade and investment in biodiversity-based sectors and enhancing livelihoods of communities based on sustainable use of their biodiversity. The briefing was highly appreciated by Member States who requested for a second similar inter-agency briefing.

B. Trade And Development Board

The 60th session of the Trade and Development Board (Geneva, September 2013) conducted, under its agenda item 7, a comprehensive review of the "Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective". The Division organized and serviced the discussions under the item and prepared the background note (TD/B/60/2). The deliberations were opened by the new Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and special addresses were delivered by the new Director-General of the WTO and the new Executive Director of the International Trade Centre. A large number of ambassadors and high-level officials participated in the interactive debate. Participants commended the secretariat's background note as providing valuable and useful analysis generating new ideas on development-oriented trade policy reforms, integration of developing countries into global value chains, reduction of trade-restricting non-tariff measures, and promotion of trade rules and disciplines that are environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.

Participants reaffirmed, as reflected in the President's Summary (TD/B/60/11), the importance of international trade as a catalyst for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development. International trade in goods and services should be mainstreamed into the design of the post-2015 agenda as a prominent part of a stand-alone post-2015 sustainable development goal or as an enabler of other possible thematic goals. The multilateral trading system was a key global public

good, and a positive outcome was considered important from the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference. There is need to adjust, adapt and/or modernize trade rules and disciplines in the light of new trade realities and global challenges, so as to better harness new opportunities and address new threats. It was necessary to achieve greater coherence among trade and development policies at the national and international levels. UNCTAD was requested to continuously monitor and assess the evolving trading system and trade policy to inform Member States and help them shape best-fit national and international policies. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD announced his intention to initiate a Geneva trade hub open working group to take stock of the progress of the post-2015 deliberations in New York and elsewhere, and advance ideas on how trade could be effectively integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. Many participants applauded the Secretary-General's initiative.

C. Trade and Development Commission

The Division, together with the Division on Technology and Logistics, organized, serviced and contributed to the substantive deliberations at the fifth session of the Trade and Development Commission in Geneva (17-21 June 2013). The Division prepared the background note entitled "The impact of trade on employment and poverty reduction" (TD/B/C.I/29) which served as the basis for the Commission's discussion on the relationship between trade, employment and poverty reduction as well as services contribution to economy-wide competitiveness and growth. Participants commended UNCTAD's background note for its high quality and comprehensive analysis. UNCTAD was requested to support developing countries in developing comprehensive, integrated and coherent national develop-

ment strategies and further study the relationship among trade, employment and poverty reduction. The Commission also took note of reports of multi-year and single-year expert meetings including that of the Multi-year expert meeting on services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/3).

D. Intergovernmental expert meetings

1. Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

The Division organized the thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy (IGE) in Geneva (8-10 July 2013). More than 300 representatives from 82 countries and 8 intergovernmental organizations, including the heads of competition authorities, and representatives of consumers and businesses, attended the high-level discussions. The IGE discussed the following topics: (a) The Impact of Cartels on the Poor, (b) Prioritization and resource allocation as a tool for agency effectiveness, (c) Modalities and procedures for international cooperation in competition cases involving more than one country, and (d) Capacity-building and the UNCTAD voluntary peer review as a capacity-building tool. The IGE also conducted Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition Law and Policy of Nicaragua, Pakistan and Ukraine. The Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its thirteenth session is available in UNCTAD document TD/B/C.I/CLP/25.

As background documentation for the IGE, papers, reports and presentations were provided by UNCTAD, competition experts and competition authorities as well as OECD. The following reports were prepared

Trade and Development Commission, fifth session, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-21 June 2013



Trade and Development Commission, fifth session, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-21 June 2013



by the Division and facilitated the discussions and reviews:

- Prioritization and resource allocation as a tool for agency effectiveness (TD/B/C.I/CLP/20).
- Modalities and procedures for international cooperation in competition cases involving more than one country (TD/B/C.I/CLP/21).
- Capacity-building and the UNCTAD voluntary peer review as a capacity-building tool (TD/B/C.I/CLP/22).
- The impact of cartels on the poor (TD/B/C.I/CLP/24/Rev.1).
- Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/2 and Overview).
- Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Ukraine (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/3 and Overview).
- Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Pakistan (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/4 and Overview).

Immediately following the IGE meeting, an ad hoc expert meeting on consumer protection was held as indicated below. Moreover, the IGE meeting was preceded by the 4th meeting of UNCTAD's Research Partnership Platform as discussed in the partnership chapter.

2. Multi-year expert meeting on trade, services and development

During the four year cycle between 2008 and 2012, the Division organized each year a session of the multi-year expert meeting on "Services, development and trade: Regulatory and institutional dimensions". Following UNCTAD XIII in 2012, Member States restructured the meeting into the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development. The Division organized its first session in Geneva (25–26 February 2013) and prepared the background note for the meeting entitled "Trade, services and development: the regulatory and institutional challenges (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/2)", which was highly appreciated by the participants as providing useful analysis and case studies in informing the deliberations. Bringing together a wide-range of government officials and regulators, representatives of the private sector, researchers and NGOs involved in the regulation and supervision of infrastructure services, the meeting deliberations helped identify options for overcoming challenges to regulatory and institutional frameworks in better enhancing productive capacity, and promoting greater efficiency and competitiveness

in infrastructure services for developing countries. Participants noted that the multi-year expert meeting provided a useful platform for exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned with regard to Infrastructure Services Sectors, and called upon UNCTAD to further deepen its work in this area.

E. Ad hoc expert meetings

An ad hoc expert group meeting on "Domestic Requirements and Support Measures in Green Sectors: Economic and Environmental Effectiveness and Implications for Trade" was organized by the Division in Geneva (13-14 June 2013). The meeting took place at a time when the "green economy" concept, subsequent to the Rio+20 Conference, started to move from theory to practice, with a range of developed and developing countries placing local content at the heart of their green economy strategies, and their green economy plans at the heart of their industrial policies. The meeting discussed evidence – anecdotal, conceptual and quantitative – of the economic and environmental effectiveness of performance requirements and support measures in green sectors and their actual or potential implications for trade flows and policies. It offered a comprehensive *tour d'horizon*: from a common metric for defining the effectiveness of localization – to quantitative assessment of the effects of local content requirements on trade since 2008 – to green jobs and competitive spillovers – to "working the patent" requirements – to the value and risks of transparency – to new approaches to flexibilities. These provided a serious substantive basis for moving ahead thinking and acting on these issues. A background note for the meeting on "Local content requirements and the green econ-

Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Domestic Requirements and Support Measures in Green Sectors: Economic and Environmental Effectiveness and Implications for Trade, Geneva, Switzerland, 13-14 June 2013



omy" (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/7), prepared by the Division facilitated the deliberations.

The second ad hoc Expert Meeting on Consumer Protection: Deliberations on the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection was convened by the Division in Geneva (11-12 July 2013) on the occasion of the 13th session of the IGE. Following the first ad hoc expert meeting in 2012 on "Consumer Protection: The interface between competition and consumer policies", it was recommended that UNCTAD should begin a consultation process on the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP). UNCTAD asked Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to participate in this important project. The second meeting in 2013 served to review the implementation by Member States of the UNGCP. The deliberations drew upon a report prepared by the Division, namely the Implementation Report on the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (1985-2013) (TD/B/C.I/CLP/23). Experts identified several areas for incorporation into any future revision of the UNGCP, particularly those where substantive progress has been made in other organizations, such as the OECD, and where there is consensus among UN members, particularly, e-commerce and financial services. Further, experts identified other issues that merit further discussion before inclusion: data protection, misleading advertising, energy, cross-border trade, transport, universal services, access to knowledge, tourism, class actions, and housing. Experts also called for an implementation and control mechanism of the UNGCP.

An ad hoc expert group meeting on the "International Trading System and Inclusive Development" was convened by the Division in Geneva (19-20 November 2013) focusing on innovative and practical ways forward for enhancing the contribution of the international trading system to inclusive and sustainable development, especially in view of rising significance of new-generation regionalism, including "mega" regional trade agreements (e.g., Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement), as well as increased participation of developing countries in North-South and South-South regional trade agreements. The importance of positive outcome from the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in December 2013 was highlighted both in paving the way for future conclusion of the overall Doha Round, as well as in

reinvigorating the global partnership for development with a view to the post-2015 sustainable development and poverty eradication goals.

An ad hoc expert meeting on the "Contribution of the Services Economy and of Services Trade to Development" was convened by the Division in Geneva (25-26 November 2013). The meeting deliberated on the manner in which services economy and trade promote development and poverty reduction, as well as development implications of multilateral, plurilateral and regional services liberalization and cooperative arrangements, including post-Bali Doha Round services and Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) negotiations, as well as innovative approaches for strengthening policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks on infrastructure services in the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting deliberations highlighted that while a major outcome was not expected in the GATS negotiations several services-related initiatives such as possible plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement and "mega RTAs" may have a significant impact on GATS architecture and services market access opportunities.

An ad hoc expert meeting on the "Enhancing the role of International Trade in the post-2015 Development agenda" was convened by the Division in Geneva (9-10 December 2013). Experts discussed how trade and trade policy can influence the full variety of development outcomes, through income and non-income channels. Beyond supporting an open, rules-based multilateral trading system, participants identified as a priority area, through the post-2015 agenda, ways in which trade can be leveraged to promote economic, social, and human development.

F. Working party on the strategic framework and the programme budget

The Division contributed to the 65th session of the Working Party in Geneva (2-4 September 2013) that reviewed UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities and their financing. The Division presented its capacity building work in the area of trade policy and trade negotiations including on services and WTO negotiations; trade analysis and information systems; trade and gender; competition and consumer policies; and trade, environment and sustainable development. Members of the Working Party appreciated the work of the Division. The Division also contributed to the 66th session of the Working Party (2-4 December 2013) and assisted members of the Working Party in their

First Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, Geneva, Switzerland, 29 November 2013



review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016-2017 in the section relating to international trade.

G. Post 2015 United Nations development agenda

The UN Member States, in view of the expiry of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, started a process to review results attained under the UN MDGs and to construct a new UN development framework for the post-2015 period. This process gathered further steam in 2013 in response to a key outcome of the Rio+20 Conference calling on Member States to define sustainable development goals (SDGs). In support of these negotiations by Member States on the post 2015 development agenda and on SDGs, the UN system, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, has initiated a coherent and coordinated approach to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and related processes agreed to in Rio+20 Summit. Various coordination mechanisms have been set up to assemble, synthesize and provide innovative suggestions. Such coordination mechanisms include the UN Development Group MDG Task Force and the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was launched in January 2012.

The Division, as part of UNCTAD-wide efforts, participates in the post-2015 development agenda discussions in areas related to international trade and sustainable development. It provided inputs on the contribution of international trade to the UN System Task Team Working Group on “Strengthening the global partnership for development to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda, including financing for sustainable development”. In 2013, the Division contributed in a number of ways. It supported the post-2015 thematic consultations on energy, led by UN Energy. Preparations were undertaken and

discussions took place in February and March 2013. It also facilitated Member States deliberations on the subject at the annual Trade and Development meeting, the UN General Assembly deliberations on international trade and several of the ad hoc expert group meetings (these were discussed previously).

The Division also supported the launching of the UNCTAD Secretary-General’s First Geneva Dialogue on the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda (29 November 2013) wherein high level officials from the public and private sector discussed international trade and interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development can make to poverty eradication and sustainable development within the a new UN development agenda. A special address to the dialogue was delivered by Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Post 2015 Development Planning.

H. Other major international conferences and events

The Global Services Forum (GSF), organized by the Division, was first launched at the occasion of UNCTAD XIII as a unique high-level global platform dedicated to services and development. A second Global Services Forum: Beijing Summit was organized by the Division in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China and the Beijing Municipality in Beijing, People’s Republic of China, (28-29 May 2013) under the theme of “services as a new frontier for sustainable development”. The Forum was organized concurrently with the second China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) with the participation of government and business leaders, coalitions and associations of services industries and together stakeholders involved trade in services. The CIFTIS-GSF Leaders’ Summit featured addresses by Premier Li Keqiang, other Heads of State and a written message from the United Nations Secretary-General

Global Services Forum, Beijing, China, 28-29 May 2013



Ban Ki-moon read by UNCTAD's Secretary-General. The "Beijing Communiqué" adopted by the leaders highlighted the transformative importance of services in promoting growth and job creation, and that of integrating developing countries positively into the global services economy and trade so as to enable a new services-driven development path.

The Division participated in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in Bangkok, Thailand (3-14 March 2013). UNCTAD and the CITES secretariat have been closely cooperating in ensuring sustainable and regulated trade of CITES-listed species. In an innovative initiative, UNCTAD and CITES co-commissioned a scoping study to identify options for the development of a traceability system for the international supply chain of snake skins, focusing on pythons from Southeast Asia. The traceability of reptiles skins, within the context of a significant international snakes skin trade, has been an area of particular concern to the CITES Parties. In this regard in the margins of COP 16, UNCTAD and the CITES secretariat jointly organized a



roundtable on traceability systems "Sustainable trade: exploring reliable traceability systems for managing international trade of python skins" (12 March 2013). The event provided a platform to present the outline of the scoping study and obtain views on issues to examine and include in the study. In the course of 2013 several follow up consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders to review the findings of the study. It was finalized and contained in a report entitled "Traceability Systems for a Sustainable International Trade in South-East Asian Python Skins" (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/6). The findings of the report will be fed into CITES intergovernmental meetings in the lead up to the next CITES COP which would then take a decision on a traceability system for snakes skins.

The Division participated in the Hangzhou International Congress on Culture: Key to Sustainable Development in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China (14 to 17 May 2013). The event, organized by UNESCO and the People's Republic of China, discussed how culture and creativity is contributing to sustainable development goals and how it can be integrated into the post-2015 UN development agenda as one of the goals. On that occasion, the Division contributed to discussions with participants and agencies cooperating with UNESCO and UNDP on the preparation of the special edition of the "Creative Economy Report". The report was subsequently released in 2014.

Building upon the success of the first BioTrade Congress, initiated by the Division during the Rio+20 Summit, the second BioTrade Congress: Integrating REDD+ into BioTrade strategies was organised in Geneva, Switzerland (11 to 13 December 2013). The Congress focused on how climate change and mechanisms such as reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Bangkok, Thailand, 3-14 March 2013



of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) can be integrated with BioTrade. REDD+ offers financial incentives for developing countries to conserve (and not cut) and sustainably use their forest and biodiversity, while reducing emissions from forested lands and investing in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. The Congress provided a platform for sharing of experiences, cooperation and additional business opportunities, including on a South-South basis that could be seized by Governments, BioTrade partners and practitioners. A training manual prepared by the Division on the subject matter was also discussed. Over 100 representatives from the public and private sectors and civil society from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin and North America, and Oceania participated and shared their practical experiences in BioTrade and/or REDD+.

The Division contributed substantively to deliberations on trade policy matters undertaken at various major international conferences, including the following:

- a) Twelfth Session of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in New York (27 February-1 March 2013). The discussion focused on the substantive and political developments, challenges and opportunities for the Post-2015 Development Framework. UNCTAD, in its role of task manager of the Task Force on Gender and Trade, reported on the activities conducted during 2012.
- b) OECD's International Business Dialogue 2013: Barriers to 21st Century Commerce, Paris, France (4-5 March 2013).
- c) High level Seminar on Policy Implications of Changes in the Global Trade Landscape, Florence, Italy (17-19 March 2013), organized by the International Trade Observatory, European University Institute and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- d) 12th Meeting of the EU-China Roundtable, Brussels, Belgium (11-12 April 2013).
- e) Meeting on Aid for Trade for Arab countries, (22-24 April 2013).
- f) The 30th session of the Committee of Participants of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries in Geneva (7 May 2013).
- g) Conference "Women in Customs, Trade and Leadership" organized by the World Customs Organization in Brussels (1 July 2013). The Division contributed a presentation on Women's Economic Empowerment and Trade Facilitation to the discussion on the role of trade in enhancing women's economic empowerment and on the challenges faced by women traders in the developing world.
- h) UN General Assembly's High-Level dialogue on migration and development in New York (3-4 October 2013).
- i) Inter-sessional meeting of UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in Paris, France (November 2013). The aim was to exchange experiences and views on the challenges of implementing the MDGs and accelerating their progress as well as to share proposals on how to influence the most critical processes leading up to the agreement of the post-2015 development agenda. On the same occasion, the Division delivered a presentation during the joint biennial workshop of the OECD-DAC gender network (GENDERNET) and IANWGE on women's economic empowerment titled "The Gender Dimension of Trade and Relevance for the post-2015 framework". Concrete proposals were advanced by the Division on possible targets and indicators that could be considered for a specific goal on gender equality and for the broader post-2015 agenda, including poverty eradication and economic development.
- j) Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia (3-6 December 2013). The Division participated in the conference along with the Secretary-General and provided substantive support to his meetings including in the Islamic Development Bank Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Member countries (2 December 2013), a joint Commonwealth-UNCTAD event on "Reflection on global trade from Doha to Bali and beyond" (3 December, Bali, Indonesia), EIF Ministerial event "EIF Post-2015: A partnership roadmap for concrete results delivery" (4 December), Ministerial Meeting of land-locked developing countries (5 December 2013), and Bali Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (5 December 2013).

High level Seminar on Policy Implications of Changes in the Global Trade Landscape, Florence, Italy, 17-19 March 2013



1. Assessment and lessons learnt from the inter-governmental pillar

Through its intergovernmental pillar of work, the Division contributed to raising awareness among Member States on persistent and emerging issues affecting developing countries in the international trade and development, and facilitated identification of ways and means to help them harness development gains from trade in goods and services. It reaffirms UNCTAD's role as a central knowledge platform and soft-law making enabler on trade and development through better data collection, policy analysis and country reviews and frank policy dialogue to promote consensus, generate a wealth of knowledge and conduct experience sharing and lessons to identify best-fit national and institutional frameworks and enabling international conditions. Particular attention was paid to supporting Member States on the post-2015 UN development agenda and sustainable development goals, by examining ways of integrating trade as a key

enabler of global goals

To a large degree, discussions and building of consensus among Governments in intergovernmental meetings and in other international events, supported by analytical and technical inputs from UNCTAD and involving participation of various partner agencies, have paid heightened attention to how international trade can enhance economic growth and development, create jobs and reduce poverty, especially among vulnerable sectors such as women, while at the same time foster more competitive, sustainable and inclusive development paths including through environmentally and climate friendly approaches. This has become a cutting-edge policy conundrum facing the international community in crafting the post 2015 development agenda and twining it with the sustainable development goals agenda. This overarching theme will continue to inform the Division's support to policy deliberations and building of consensus in 2014 and beyond.

III. IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ISSUES IN TRADE THROUGH RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DATA

Outputs and impact under the analytical pillar in 2013

A. Policy analyses and research undertaken

The Division published thematic, sectoral and regional/country-specific studies, often at the request of countries' concerned, with a view to supporting developing countries in their ongoing efforts to formulate and implement national trade and development policy and strategies. Many of these studies were fed into national/regional consultative processes and some were presented and discussed in UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings as well as international conferences and events.

The Division continued the "DITC 60 minutes talk" which it introduced in 2012 to encourage internal divisional peer review of ongoing research and analytical output. One such talk is held normally every month. In 2013, 8 talks took place on the following topics: Global value chains (16 January), The direct and relative preferential effects of market access (1 February), From Cut, Copy Paste to Imagery: a Technical Trip Around the Block (1 March), Green Product Space: Identifying competitive green export sectors of countries (5 April), COMPAL at ten: impact of its ten years in Latin America (2003-2013) (3 May), Key Trends in International Trade (17 May), Assisting developing countries in the area of services policies and services trade negotiations (5 July), the UNCTAD Research

Partnership Platform (4 October) and value chains in the Peruvian agro-food industry (16 October).

Two new publications on international trade flows and the participation of developing countries were released in 2013. One report on "Key trends in international merchandise trade" (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2013/1), provides information on key trends in world trade in goods over the recent medium-term

period. It is planned as a regular monitoring exercise to provide data and analysis on broad and disaggregated international trade flows (by sector, product group and region) and on some of the commonly used indices related to international trade including diversification, intra-industry trade, and sophistication of exports. The second report on "Key statistics and trends in trade policy" (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2013/2), provides a snapshot on policies affecting international trade over the recent and medium-term period. It is also intended as a regular monitoring exercise providing data and analysis on statistics related to tariffs, preferential margins, tariff policy space, preferential trade agreements, non-tariff measures, trade defense measures, and exchange rates.

The Division conducted policy-oriented research and analysis on key issues in trade policy, international trade and international trading system, South-South trade, as well as new and emerging issues, of particular interest to developing countries including the following:

- Trade policy framework of Jamaica (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/9).
- African, Caribbean and Pacific States' participation in international trade (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TNCD/2011/2).
- Handbook on preferential tariff scheme of Korea (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.75).
- GSP Handbook of Switzerland (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.28/rev.3).
- Handbook on the rules of origin for the scheme of the EU (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.25/rev.3/Add.1).
- Non-tariff Measures to trade: Economic and Policy Issues for developing countries (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2012/1).
- The economics behind non-tariff measures: Theoretical insights and empirical evidence (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/58).
- Market access, export performance and survival: Evidence from Peruvian firms (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/59).
- Turkish enterprise-level response to foreign trade liberalization: The removal of agreements on textiles and clothing quotas (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/60).
- Tariff preferences as a determinant for exports from Sub-Saharan Africa



(UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/61).

- Cooperation in the tariff waters of the World Trade Organization (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/62).
- South-South Trade Monitor No. 2 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TAB/2013/1).

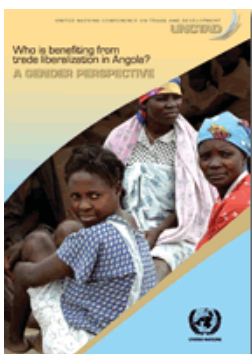
In the area of services, trade and development, the following reports were produced:

- Services Policy Review: Uganda-II (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/12).
- Services Policy Review: Rwanda (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/6).
- National Services Policy Review: Lesotho (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1).



- Services Policy Review: Peru (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/11).
- Services Policy Review: Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/13).
- UNCTAD findings on Services, Development and trade (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/8).
- A methodology for reviewing policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for services (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/1).

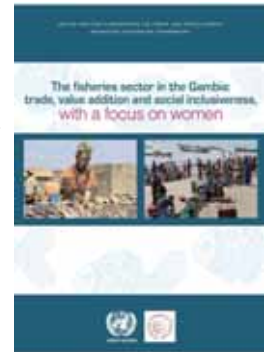
Trade and gender analyses became a key feature of the Division's work in 2013. In particular, the Division is supporting developing countries in enhancing their capacities to mainstream gender in trade policy through a portfolio of country case studies and a series of dedicated national seminars on trade and gender. In respect of country case studies, the following were published:



- 'Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Angola? A gender perspective' (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/3): The study seeks to explore the impacts of Angola's integration into the world economy mainly as an oil exporter, and in particular, to analyse whether there is a gender bias in the effects of trade. The study was published in English as well as in Portuguese, to facilitate greater local diffusion. A fact-finding mission was conducted in Angola in May 2013 to gather real-life information for the finalization of the case study.
- 'Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Rwanda? A gender perspective': A study on the linkages between trade and gender in Rwanda is currently being finalized. A fact-finding mission was held in Kigali in November 2013 to gather first-hand information and gain more in-depth

and accurate insights into the gender effects of trade policies in Rwanda. It also provided an opportunity to share the preliminary findings of the study with national stakeholders, including government officials and civil society representatives.

- 'The fishery sector in the Gambia: trade, value addition and social inclusiveness, with a focus on women' (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/4): The Gambia was the beneficiary of a Revised Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) carried out by the Division jointly with the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes. As part of the DTIS revision, the Division produced an analytical report on women's role in the fishery sector in the Gambia. The study shows that the expansion of the export-oriented fish processing industry is likely to generate significant employment opportunities for women. It provides ideas for improving income-earning opportunities for women that could materialize through technical assistance activities.



In addition, the Division, in collaboration with UNCTAD's Virtual Institute, has developed the first part of a 'teaching package on trade and gender'. As part of the package, the Division has produced five introductory multimedia presentations on the issues of trade and gender, which will be part of the online teaching resource, and a pilot version of a teaching manual. The manual is composed by two volumes: the substantive/qualitative part focuses on the pathways of interaction between trade and gender, while the technical part explores the methodological approaches that can be used to analyse the trade-gender linkages. The package is addressed to university lecturers from developing and transition countries and is designed to enable them to integrate trade and gender issues into their teaching. Other actors including policymakers and negotiators, as well as gender specialists and the UN staff in the Headquarters and Country Offices may also benefit from the teaching material.

The Division continued to contribute to policy development regarding topical issues on the trade, environment and sustainable development interface with the preparation of the following reports:

- Trends in Global Biofuels Markets (UNCTAD/

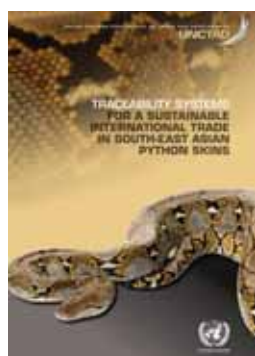


WEB/DITC/ TED/2013/1);

- Traceability Systems for a Sustainable International Trade in South-East Asian Python Skins (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/6);
- BioTrade Impact Assessment System (BTIAS) Baseline Report 2010 (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/3); and
- Local content requirements and the green economy (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/7).

The Division also contributed to a number of joint publications and research initiatives with other UN and international organizations. These included the following research outputs:

- **World Tariff Profiles 2013** (ISBN 978-92-870-3886-9, November 2013): A joint WTO/UNCTAD/ITC publication.
- **Millennium Development Goals Report 2013** (ISBN 978-92-1-101284-2 (Sales No. E.13.I.9, July 2013).
- **MDG Gap Task Force Report 2013: The Global Partnership for Development: The Challenge We Face** (ISBN 978-92-1-101278-1 (Sales No. E.13.I.5, September 2013).
- **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014** (ISBN 978-92-1-109168-7 (Sales No. E.14.II.C.2), January 2014): Report published jointly with DESA and UN Regional Commissions.
- **Shared harvest: Agriculture, Trade and Employment** (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/2).



The Division further contributed to the work of the “Friends of the Chair group on Internationalization”, chaired by Canada, jointly with the UN Statistical Division and other international organizations and Member States. The group is developing a concept to improve measurement of economic globalization and reports to the UN Statistical Commission in 2014. Current trade data are found inadequate to answer certain policy questions and to measure “internationalization” of economies due to changes such as increasing services trade, fragmentation of production, global value chains, and importance of FDI.

B. Analytical tools and enhanced software

UNCTAD’s trade analysis tools, like TRAINS-WITS

(maintained jointly with World Bank), have helped policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders in identifying and analyzing market access barriers, trade opportunities and promoting more informed participation in trade negotiations at multilateral and regional levels. TRAINS-WITS is one of the world’s largest and most frequently consulted trade database with about 43,000 active users. In 2013, a new partial equilibrium model that allows assessing the effects of trade policy changes was introduced in TRAINS-WITS. The database was updated with recent non-tariff measure (NTM) data from 18 countries (Latin-American and African countries). The NTMs database is being collected and made available under the inter-agency Transparency in Trade Initiative (TNT) described in the chapter on partnerships. Tariff data for 95 countries were updated. New country profile pages have been developed in 2012 for WITS and will be made public in 2013.

The South-South Trade Information System provides trade data for countries that do not report to UN Comtrade and is thus a comprehensive trade matrix. Final data and estimates for 2012 have been completed. Based on the data, the Division produced the South-South Trade Monitor No. 2 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TAB/2013/1).

The Division is building a dataset for bilateral maritime connectivity. A discussion of the dataset is provided in its report in document UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/63.

The Division represents UNCTAD at the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) board and ensures that the analysis possibilities of trade policy questions related to developing countries are enhanced.

1. Assessment and lessons learnt from the analytical pillar

Analytical reports prepared by the Division on international trade and development issues responded to specific policy or technical matters requiring the attention of countries in considering options for advancing their beneficial participation in international trade and development. In that regard, these reports were of direct use to policy-makers and other stakeholders that availed of them. In particular, these reports helped to distill information and knowledge on topic issues such as multilateral trade negotiations, national trade policy, services policies, tariff and non-tariff measures, trade and gender policies, trade flows and participation of developing countries, emerging trade issues including

agriculture and development, competition law and consumer protection and trade and sustainable development. Some of the analyses provided useful

inputs for Governments in considering the contribution of international trade to sustained and inclusive development.

IV. TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Outputs and impact under the technical cooperation pillar in 2013

Based primarily on extra budgetary resources, and drawing upon a large pool of partners and networks, the Division implements a large number of technical assistance and capacity-building activities for developing countries, especially LDCs and African countries, as well as countries with economies in transition to assist them in fostering trade and harnessing its development benefits. It also contributes to capacity building activities led by other Divisions of UNCTAD including on the Paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action training courses, and the Virtual Institute.

The Division implements four of the seventeen UNCTAD technical cooperation thematic clusters namely: (1) Capacity building on trade policy, trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy, (2) Trade analyses capacities and information systems, (3) Trade, environment and development and (4) Competition policy and consumer protection. It also implements capacity building activities on trade and gender as of 2013.

A. Trade Policy, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy

1. The international trading system, World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations and regional trade agreements

The Division assisted Geneva- and capital-based trade negotiators and policymakers from developing countries, such as LDCs and the African Group, in their participation in the multilateral trade negotiations. Analytical and advisory support was extended to trade negotiators and policymakers in individual developing countries, contributing to their greater preparedness and technical capacities with regard to technical issues on agriculture, NAMA, services and other topics of trade policy and negotiations, including in the preparatory processes leading to the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference, 3-6 December 2013, Bali, Indonesia. For instance, the Division took part in a regional meeting for Africa on multilateral trade negotiations including services negotiations (12-14 October 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). The Division, together with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, participated in the WTO Bali Ministerial Conference and

provided substantive support to Ministerial, high-level and technical preparatory consultative events of regional groupings, as well as to individual developing countries, contributing to their greater preparedness and informed participation in the negotiations. At Bali for instance, the Division took part in and contributed to the following events:

- 1) The Islamic Development Bank Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Member countries (2 December 2013).
- 2) A joint Commonwealth-UNCTAD event on "Reflection on global trade from Doha to Bali and beyond" (3 December 2013).
- 3) Ministerial Meeting of landlocked developing countries (5 December 2013).
- 4) EIF Ministerial event "EIF Post: 2015: A partnership roadmap for concrete results delivery" (4 December 2013).
- 5) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and European Parliament even on the Ministerial Conference (5 December 2013).

The Division also contributed to the WTO Symposium in Geneva (1-3 October 2013) on the topic of "Expanding Trade through Innovation and the Digital Economy". It participated in the event and made inputs at the Commonwealth event on "Technology and Trade: Issues for LDCs, SVEs and Sub-Saharan Africa".

At the regional level, the Division extended targeted substantive support to ACP States and regional groupings aimed at raising awareness and enhancing understanding on developmental implications of economic partnership agreement (EPA) negotiations with the EU, strengthening national and regional capacities to design and implement policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks required to maximize the development potential of EPAs and regional integration processes, including by boosting intra-African trade by fast-tracking the formation of pan-African continental FTA. On a regular basis, the Division provided analytical support to Geneva-based trade negotiators of ACP States, either individually or collectively, through their membership to AU, LDCs, LLDCs, small and vulnerable economies in various areas of Doha negotiations with implications to EPA negotiations. This is being implemented in close coordination with the ACP Secretariat Office in Geneva. Substantive contribution was made to various events, including national consultative workshops and seminars, technical meetings organized by the ACP Secretariat, the

African Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat, to discuss EPAs-related technical issues. For instance, the Division contributed to the African Union's EPA negotiations Coordinating Meeting in Libreville, Gabon (24-25 July 2013,).

The Division also contributed to implementation of activities organized by other Divisions of UNCTAD, including courses provided under the Paragraph 166 training and the Virtual Institute. These included regional courses held in 2013 for Asia and the Pacific (November 2013, Singapore), for Latin America and the Caribbean (Medellin, Colombia) and for Africa (Mauritius). The Division organized a training seminar on dispute settlement for judges from the People's Republic of China in cooperation with City University, Hong Kong, China in Geneva 18 December 2013) to foster a better understanding among judges of dispute settlement in international trade, investment and intellectual property.

2. Support on World Trade Organization accession

Support to countries in the process of acceding to the WTO is a major area of work of the Division. It provides trade-related technical assistance to all acceding countries negotiating or preparing their accession process, including LDCs that are in the process of accession (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Sudan, Yemen, Sao Tome and Principe and Comoros) as well as recently acceded countries. The support activities, addressing different phases of the accession process - before, during and after accession - are highly resource-intensive and draw on the three pillars of UNCTAD's work creating synergy. Support was aimed at assisting the acceding countries in adjusting their trade policy regime to render it consistent with WTO agreements while taking into account their development objectives and strategies, increasing the awareness of the acceding country's negotiating team and stakeholders of the multifaceted issues in the accession process, enhancing their expertise of the WTO rules and disciplines, and building their trade policy and negotiating capacities to participate effectively in the accession negotiations.. Hands-on assistance was provided on the preparation of the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime and other accession-related documents, as well as the preparation of written responses to questions posed by members. Simulation exercises are also conducted to prepare the negotiating team for meetings of their Working Party and with their trading partners.

Advisory services, field missions and capacity-building activities conducted in the course of 2013 included the following:

- a) Training workshop on WTO accession issues for Iraqi officials in Ankara, Turkey (25 February-1 March 2013).
- b) Advisory missions and workshops for Iraqi officials on WTO accession issues in Erbil, Iraq (11-13 March, 9-11 June, 29 September-2 October 2013).
- c) Workshop on TBT issues and WTO accession for Seychelles trade officials in Victoria, Seychelles (23-25 April 2013).
- d) Workshop on WTO accession issues for Comoros trade officials in Maroni, Comoros (6-10 May 2013).
- e) Technical consultations with Azerbaijan key negotiators on WTO accession issues in Geneva, Switzerland (10-13 June 2013).
- f) Workshop on commercial diplomacy and accession for Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (26-29 August 2013).
- g) Advisory mission to Liberia on WTO accession issues in Monrovia (30 October-1 November 2013).
- h) Advisory services was also provided to regional and interregional **groups of countries** including a Seminar on Accession to WTO and Doha Negotiations for Arab countries and countries in transition organized by Islamic Development Bank in Istanbul, Turkey (2-4 July 2013).

3. Trade policy formulation and implementation

Developing countries and countries with economies in transition continue to face significant challenges in the formulation of development-oriented trade policy framework. UNCTAD thus continued to devote particular attention to strengthening the national capacity of policymakers on trade policy formulation. The support was focused on assessment and formulation new-generation trade policy measures and strategies as well as strengthened self-sustainable national institutional capacities on trade policy and negotiations. In 2013, UNCTAD continued to assist Jamaica in the review and elaboration of the trade policy and its implementation. UNCTAD support has contributed to enhanced understanding of developing countries' policymakers and trade negotiators on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development, and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating enabling environment under the international trading system. The work is being further intensified with the funding from the UN development account,

and initial analytical reviews have been conducted, including for Angola and Kenya.

The Division also cooperates with the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes in supporting selected LDCs in assessing and formulating trade policy frameworks/strategies and trade mainstreaming. Under this programme, the Division, contributed to Lesotho's national workshop in Maseru on harnessing trade as an engine of structural transformation and poverty reduction (11-12 December 2013).

4. Services, trade and development

Within the framework of its comprehensive work on services, trade and development, the Division seeks to build human, institutional, regulatory and productive capacities at national and regional levels in developing countries to endow them with capacities necessary to better harness the opportunities arising from services economy and trade for inclusive development. Beneficial integration of developing countries into the global services economy and trade calls for an adequate design and implementation of national regulatory and institutional frameworks, as well as better management of countries' participation in international services trade negotiations and agreements. It also requires an enhanced services supply capacities and competitiveness, as well as an enabling environment for entrepreneurship. Such needs are addressed by UNCTAD's capacity building programmes.

The Division conducts Services Policy Reviews (SPRs) to assist developing countries in assessing their services economy and trade and reviewing their existing policy and regulatory frameworks to inform their efforts to formulate best-fit national services regulatory and institutional frameworks to develop competitive productive capabilities in services sector and better engaging in international trade negotiations and agreements dealing with services. SPRs are a systematic review of economic, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and support developing countries' informed policy-making, regulatory formulation and institution building, as well as trade negotiations. In 2013, reviews were completed for Uganda, Rwanda, Lesotho, Peru and Nicaragua while reviews are ongoing for Paraguay and Bangladesh.

The SPR process, conducted with funding from the UN Development Account, encompasses the preparation of desk study and in-depth assessment by the consultants, as well as multi-stakeholder consultative

processes on services policy-making, to review and discuss findings of the SPR study. This serves as a basis to promote inter-agency dialogue on policy, regulatory and institutional dialogue on services and in specific services sectors of interest. In this context, the Division organized:

- a) First and Second SPR Stakeholders Workshops on services trade policy issues for Nicaraguan officials in Managua (25-27 February and 26 and 27 June 2013); and
- b) Second SPR Stakeholders Workshop on Services for Peruvian officials in Lima (22-23 April 2013).
- c) The Second Stakeholders Workshop for Uganda officials on services trade policy in Kampala (2-3 May 2013).

The SPRs also promoted sharing of experiences among regional partners, and two study tours of selected Government officials to other developing countries were organized for Uganda (6-10 May 2013) with the host country being South Africa, and for Nicaragua (30 September-4 October 2013) with the host being Chile. Two regional meetings were organized for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, to promote cross-fertilization of experiences and lessons learnt to set up best-fit national regulatory frameworks. These events served as platforms for disseminating major research findings and lessons learnt from the Division's analyses were:

- a) Regional Meeting on Promoting Services Sector Development and Trade-Led Growth in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (12-13 September 2013).
- b) Regional Dialogue on Promoting Services Development and Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile (8-13 November 2013).

The Division carried out numerous activities aimed at enhancing national and regional capacities of developing countries on trade policy and trade negotiations as they relate to services. Technical assistance and customized support, including specialized training, was extended to policymakers and negotiators in developing countries and country groupings such as the LDCs, the African Group, SADC, COMESA and the CARICOM, in defining national and regional strategies and policies to build services supply capacities and in preparing themselves for GATS and other trade negotiations. Advisory services were provided to developing countries regarding debate on GATS and regional trade negotiations, defining strategies for services negotiations at the national, regional and multilateral

levels, and at the interface between regional services negotiations and GATS negotiations. For instance, the Division contributed to the following:

- a) Workshop for Arab Maghreb countries on Services negotiations in Casablanca, Morocco (22-24 April 2013).
- b) Workshop on Services Negotiations and Trade in Services in Wuhan, People's Republic of China (20-22 May 2013).
- c) Workshop on Trade in Services for Mauritius in Port Louis (16-18 October 2013).

Targeted assistance was provided by the Division to SADC regional integration and the multilateral trading system services negotiations. These aim at strengthening the expertise and capacity of the SADC Secretariat, the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum (TNF) and SADC policymakers and trade negotiators with respect to services policy issues and negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. The Division provided substantive support to the SADC Financial Services Sector Forum (1-2 July 2013) and to the 19th TNF-Services (3-5 July 2013), in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Division also contributed to the SADC Workshop on tourism and energy-related services (18-19 November 2013) and the 20th TNF-Services (19-22 November 2013) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Division's contributions in these meetings focused on the specific services covered by the workshops, developments in the ongoing services negotiations at multilateral and regional level, as well as issues relating to SADC's built-in services agenda, including rules of origin for services trade and transparency mechanisms.

5. Trade and development aspects of migration

Consistent with the Doha Mandate, the Division has emphasized the importance of potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and developmental links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities' abroad as well as the issue of maximizing the development impact of remittances. It has contributed to international policy deliberations, including under the Global Migration Group, IOM, World Bank and WTO. Within the context of the UN General Assembly's High-level dialogue on international migration and development, the Division contributed to trade and development aspects of migration, primarily at the interactive discussions during the session in New York (3-4 November 2013). The deliberation have helped in raising awareness on issues relating to migration, along with improving the current understand-

ing of measures needed for remittances and further aid for migrants.

The Division further coordinates UNCTAD's participation in the Global Migration Group, and cooperates with international organizations and Member States on migration issues. UNCTAD is also part of the GMG working group on mainstreaming migration into development. In the GFMD context, the Division collaborated with other United Nations agencies to improve the policy and operational responses of the UN system and the international community to international migration.

6. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) and other preferences

The Division continued to promote enhanced awareness among developing countries on ways to better utilize the preferences available under GSP and other preferential schemes through regular provision of information on a dedicated website, administrative support on certificate of origin, collection of data, publication of handbooks and newsletters on the GSP schemes, and provision of technical cooperation and capacity building services.

The Division cooperated with Ministry of Finance and Tokyo Customs of Japan to organize a regional workshop on preferential rules of origin in Tokyo (7-14 June 2013) for government officials from six Asian countries who are responsible for the issuance and verification of certificates of origin to build and strengthen understanding of the trading opportunities available under GSP and other preferential trade regimes and regulations required to benefit from such opportunities. Furthermore, the Division disseminated relevant information through updating and revising GSP Handbooks of individual GSP schemes, such as that the Switzerland, Korea, Canada and EU, preparing related studies and issuing GSP newsletters. It also continued compilation and updating of the UNCTAD GSP database based on the data submitted by GSP donor countries, which provide useful information on trade conducted under each preferential scheme.

Following the successful conclusion of the Sao Paulo Round of the GSTP negotiations in December 2010 that would lead to 20 percent tariff cuts over 70 percent of dutiable tariff lines, the Division continued to service the Agreement on Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), and supported

GSTP participants in coordinating and backstopping their activities in various GSTP instances, including the 30th session of the Committee of Participants in Geneva (7 May 2013) that welcomed the ratification by Cuba of the Sao Paulo Round Protocol, as well as provided technical support upon request to selected GSTP participants.

B. Trade analysis capacities and information systems

A number of activities to strengthen the analytical capacities in trade of countries and enhancing knowledge of non-tariff measures (NTMs) were undertaken. The Division prepared “Guidelines on NTM data collection” and a first module on Introduction into NTMs. This comprises a programme of 5 modules for an online training course on NTMs developed jointly with UNCTAD’s Virtual Institute. It will be used to train officials and academics on NTMs.

Five training workshops on the TRAINS database and NTMs were held by the Division in developing regions and for developing country representatives in Geneva to strengthen analytical capabilities and knowledge of NTMs. Workshops abroad were held for:

- ASEAN countries in Thailand (14-15 March 2013).
- Ghana for ECOWAS countries (16-19 September 2013).
- CEFTA countries in Bosnia-Herzegovina (29-30 October 2013).

In addition, a staff member of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade was trained in Geneva in

Training workshop on TRAINS database and non-tariff measures in Ghana, Accra, 16-19 September 2013



UNCTAD on GTAP and TRAINS-WITS to prepare a study on assessing the impacts of free trade agreements (22-26 April 2013).

In collaboration with UNCTAD’s Virtual Institute, the Division organized a workshop on the Empirics of Trade at the Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2-6 June 2013). The teaching material developed by the Division has been used by the UNCTAD’s Virtual Institute staff in three additional training workshops: one in South Africa at the Stellenbosch University, Matieland (22-5 April 2013), one in Kenya at the University of Nairobi, Nairobi (5-8 August 2013), and one in Senegal at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar (4-7 November 2013).

Training workshop on TRAINS database and non-tariff measures, Bangkok, Thailand, 14-15 March 2013



Workshop on the Empirics of Trade at the Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2-6 June 2013



The Division contributed to several scientific conferences and workshops to mainstream development and trade aspects in the research agenda. Presentations were made at the:

- a) "Expert Meeting on Non-Tariff Measures" in the United States International Trade Commission, Washington DC, USA (16–17 September 2013).
- b) Conference on "Sustainable Development and Structural Transformation in North African and Mediterranean Economies" in Rabat, Morocco (14–16 November 2013).
- c) "Reducing Regulatory Barriers to Trade and Investment" and "Trade Policy Modeling Forum" conferences at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy (16–17 December 2013).

The Division supported the Geneva Trade and Development Workshop, a joint project of UNCTAD, WTO and the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration to enhance analysis in the area of trade and development. Substantive contributions were made by the Division to UNCTAD's regional course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda for the Latin American and Caribbean region in Colombia (4–22 February 2013). The Division also made a presentation at the WTO Trade Data Day in Geneva (16 January 2013).

C. Competition policy and consumer protection

Since the adoption of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 35/63 (December 1980), UNCTAD has played a key role in assisting developing countries and countries with economies

in transition in the establishment of their competition regimes. UNCTAD's technical assistance, capacity building and advisory services at both national and regional levels includes assisting countries in setting up legal frameworks, strengthening their institutional capacity for better implementation of competition laws and undertaking competition advocacy to create a competition culture and promote consumer welfare. These continued in 2013.

The Division attended and contributed substantively to international conferences and workshops on competition law and policy, and consumer protection, including the following:

- a) Eleventh meeting of the Latin American Competition Forum and Ibero-American Forum in Lima, Peru (1–5 September 2013), sponsored jointly by the Inter-American Development Bank and OECD to foster effective competition law and policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b) 12th Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) in Warsaw, Poland (23–26 April 2013).
- c) Fifth Annual African Consumer Protection Dialogue Conference in Consumer Protection, Livingstone, Zambia (10–12 September 2013).
- d) A workshop organized by the Competition Council of Latvia, in Riga on the implementation of competition law and policy (31 October–1 November 2013).
- e) Workshop on competition policy and intellectual property organized by WIPO, Harare, Zimbabwe (12–13 November 2013).
- f) International Conference on Competition Regulation, Competition and Competitiveness: Implications for Indian Business, organized by the Indian Institute of Management in New Delhi, India (20 November 2013).
- g) Third BRICS International Competition Conference 2013, organized by the Competition Commission of India in New Delhi, India, (20–22 November 2013).
- h) Second Workshop of the Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum (EMCF): The relationship between competition authorities and sector regulators, in Tunis, Tunisia (28–29 November 2013).
- i) Workshop on Competition Law and Policy for the Organization of Islamic Countries, Istanbul, Turkey (8–9 December 2013).
- j) Ninth Annual Asian Competition Forum (ACF) Conference in Hong Kong, China (8–11 December 2013).

The Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum (EMCF),

an informal regional cooperation network, initiated in December 2011 with the support of UNCTAD, to foster regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region on addressing the problems relating to the enforcement of competition law in regulated sectors (energy, telecoms, transport, etc.). The first workshop of the forum was organized in Geneva (11 July 2013), following the 2013 IGE session, and discussed the topic of 'Competition Advocacy in the Euro-Mediterranean Region. The second workshop on 'The Relationship between Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators' was organized in Tunis, Tunisia (28 November-29 December 2013). Participants in the meeting included representatives of competition authorities and sector regulators from Algeria, Austria, Egypt, France, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia, and representatives of the civil society from Egypt, Germany and Switzerland.

1. Competition policy

UNCTAD's Technical Assistance Programme on Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Latin America (COMPAL), supported by Switzerland (SECO) and implemented by the Division, has been running for almost ten years now and has achieved very good results in strengthening competition and consumer protection legal frameworks and institutional capacities in Latin America. It has "national components", which addresses individual concerns and needs of the beneficiary countries, and a "regional component" that seeks to facilitate the sharing of experiences and enhance cooperation between countries. Under COMPAL in 2013, many capacity- and institution-building activities as well as training and information sharing events were provided to beneficiary countries. These included the following:

- a) Technical assistance to Paraguay regarding its new Competition Regulation; to Guatemala on a Competition Policy Framework for the country; and to Costa Rica on the reform of its Competition Law and related regulations.
- b) National Training Workshop for case handlers in the regional offices (IRO) of Peru's National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) was organized in Chiclayo and Arequipa, Peru (18-23 February 2013) with the participation of the Swiss Competition Commission, Mexican Federal Competition Commission and INDECOPI.
- c) An regional workshop on International Bid Rigging: Liquid Oxygen Cases was organized in Quito,

Shaping Competition Policy, Kiev, Ukraine, 29 January 2013



Strategy for Development of Competition Policy in Ukraine and Overview of International Experience, Kiev, Ukraine, 28-29 January 2013



Ecuador (12-13 March 2013), together with the newly formed Ecuadorian Competition Authority (Superintendence for the control of market power). Participants comprised case handlers from six jurisdictions (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Peru) that sanctioned the Liquid Oxygen Cartel in Latin America.

- d) A training programme on bid rigging for members of the Public Procurement Offices in El Salvador (11-15 March 2013).
- e) An advanced competition law enforcement training programme for competition case handlers was conducted in Bogota, Colombia (18-20 April 2013) and Lima, Peru (21-23 April 2013), with the participation of trainers from the Oxford University Competition Policy Centre and US Federal Trade Commission. This was followed by research fellowships for the best students in Oxford University (17-30 October 2013).
- f) Participation at the VII Central American Competition

Forum in San Salvador, El Salvador (29-30 August 2013).

- g) A regional training workshop for High-Court and Supreme Court Judges, Prosecutors and advisers to Judges and Chambers of the National Courts of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua was organized in San Salvador, El Salvador (4-5 November 2013), in close cooperation with the Supreme Court of El Salvador. It focused on standard of proof needed in competition cases. Experts with judicial, academic and competition enforcement background from Colombia, Spain and UNCTAD were mobilized to provide the training.
- h) A national workshop for High-Court and Supreme Court Judges, Prosecutors and advisers to Judges and Chambers of the National Courts of Nicaragua, was organized in Managua, Nicaragua (6-8 November 2013), in close cooperation with the Supreme Courts of Nicaragua. The workshop addressed the importance of competition in the regulated sectors and how judges should interpret the provisions of the competition law in Nicaragua.
- i) A national workshop for Judges of higher courts and civil judges who revise the rulings of the Competition Authority in Costa Rica was organized in San Jose, Costa Rica (11 November 2013), in close cooperation with Competition Authority of Costa Rica. Given the importance of updating the judges as regards the new competition law passed in 2012 in Costa Rica, the training workshop focused familiarizing judges with both the economics underpinning national competition laws and how this combines with the legal approach to enforcing competition policy in order to promote smooth and effective enforcement of competition legislation in line with competition policy objectives in their respective countries. Experts with judicial, academic and competition enforcement background from Colombia, Spain and UNCTAD were mobilized to provide the training.
- j) A national training workshop on Competition Law Enforcement for Supreme Court Judges, Prosecutors and advisers to Judges and Chambers of the National Courts of Colombia was organized in Bogota, Colombia (5-6 December 2013). The workshop familiarized High-Court and Supreme Court judges with the techniques and methodological framework used by competition authorities when calculating fines and proposing remedies. Experts with judicial, academic and competition enforcement background were mobilized from

Spain and UNCTAD to conduct the training.

- k) A national workshop on Competition Law Enforcement for Supreme Court Judges in Peru was organized in Lima (9-10 December 2013). It focused on sanctions and remedies. In particular by familiarizing High-Court and Supreme Court judges with the techniques and methodological framework used by competition authorities when calculating fines and proposing remedies. Experts with judicial, academic and competition enforcement background were mobilized from Chile, Spain and UNCTAD to conduct the training.

In Africa, within the framework of the African Competition Programme (AFRICOMP), the Division continued to implement a number of activities. With regard to the ongoing support to the implementation of the capacity building for West Africa Economic and Monetary (UEMOA/WAEMU) Commission and its Member States, two retreats were organized in Geneva (September and November) with the cooperation of the Competition Directorate of the WAEMU Commission. The retreats examined the revision of relevant provisions of the WAEMU community regional competition rules in order to improve the involvement competition agencies in their Member States in the enforcement of these rules.

In addition a UEMOA/WAEMU Training Seminar on International Competition Law and Compliance was organized in Geneva, Switzerland (30 June-12 July 2013), in cooperation with the School of Management and Law, Zurich University of Applied Sciences. The seminar brought in top experts on competition issues to equip competition officials from the UEMOA/WAEMU Commission and the representatives of its Member States with solid technical, procedural and practical knowledge in the field of antitrust compliance.

Seychelles' Fair Trade Commission (FTC) which is responsible for the implementation of competition and consumer laws, decided to review the substantive content of the national laws and to adapt the laws and the institutional framework to current economic and social circumstances of the country. In this regard, as part of UNCTAD's assistance to Seychelles and the SADC countries, UNCTAD commissioned an independent report outlining possible reforms of the competition and consumer laws and of the enforcement agency of Seychelles, drawing on the UN Guidelines for consumer protection and the UN SET. The report was handed over by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the President of Seychelles. The report

was discussed with Government officials, legislators, and business and consumer representatives in Mahé, Seychelles (25-28 March 2013).

The Division conducted two training courses for Judges and Commissioners for SADC countries' competition authorities in Gaborone, Botswana (23-28 September 2013). The training built the capacity of judges and commissioners to enforce competition policy in their respective countries using both the economic underpinning of national competition laws and the legal approach. Participants include judges and commissioners from the SADC region. Experts providing training were drawn from those in the region with judicial, academic and competition enforcement and from UNCTAD.

Division also co-organized with the Competition Council of Morocco a workshop on competition policy and poverty reduction in Tunis, Tunisia (28-29 November 2013).

2. Consumer protection

In 2013, special attention was placed by the Division on carrying out extensive consultations on a revision of the 1985 United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, as revised in 1999. The revision of the Guidelines was mandated by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts Meeting on Competition Law and Policy in 2012. The process started by taking stock of how the Guidelines had been implemented since their last revision in 1999 among Members States. In doing so, UNCTAD requested Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to submit contributions by informing of the legislative processes of Member States, along with contemporary guidelines produced by ICPEN, OECD, OAS, UNCITRAL and Consumers International, among others. UNCTAD received contributions from over 40 countries that have been integrated into a consolidated Implementation Report on United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (TD/B/C.I/CLP/23). This report confirms the relevance of the current guidelines worldwide and also highlights the need for regulation on other topics not yet covered such as e-commerce and financial services.

As part of the consultative process on the review of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection, the Division held a briefing for the diplomatic missions in Geneva (29 October 2013). The Division will conduct further consultations at national, international and regional forums on consumer protection throughout 2014 and 2015.

Furthermore, four Working Groups, led by a Member State working closely with UNCTAD, have been formed on the issues of e-commerce, financial services, implementation of the Guidelines, and 'other issues' that could be of assistance in the preparation of a report by UNCTAD on the review of the Guidelines for Consumer Protection. The groups are responsible for providing the best practices on each area to be included in the UNCTAD report. The report will be submitted to the seventh UN Conference to Review the United Nations Set of Principles on Competition that will be held in 2015, and subsequently to the UN General Assembly.

On the occasion of the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) Conference for 2013 in Antwerp, Belgium (18-19 April 2013), the Division organized a break-out session (on 19 April) to gather the inputs from ICPEN members on the proposed revision of the 1985 (and further revised in 1999) UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection, spear-headed by UNCTAD. ICPEN is the most important gathering of consumer protection enforcement agencies worldwide. ICPEN Conferences gathers consumer protection agencies from all over the world to discuss policy and cooperation issues, and thus their views on the possible revision of the UN Guidelines were particularly useful. ICPEN provided an excellent opportunity to present UNCTAD's Implementation Report of the UN Guidelines and to take stock of the emerging issues to be considered in the revision of the guidelines. Later in the year at the ICPEN Conference in Panama City, Panama (8-11 October 2013) on 'Enhancing Consumer Protection in a Global Economy', the Division participated and contributed discussions on the latest developments E-commerce in the light of work on revising the United Nations Guidelines

A Workshop on E-commerce and Alternative Consumer Dispute Resolution, was organized by the Division jointly with the Costa Rican Consumer Protection Agency (DAC) in San José, Costa Rica (20 - 21 May 2013), for the staff of the consumer protection agency of Costa Rica under the umbrella of COMPAL.

The Third International Consumer Protection Forum was organized jointly by UNCTAD and the Dominican Consumer Protection Agency (ProConsumidor) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (23- 24 May 2013), under the framework of COMPAL. The yearly forum is designed to foster discussion on policy issues

among COMPAL beneficiaries and other countries of the Americas. The first forum was held in Guayaquil in 2011, and the second one in Lima in 2012. The first forum addressed the relationship between competition and consumer protection, and the second one dealt with current issues such as educational programmes for young consumers, e-commerce, product recall and the revision of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection. The third forum gathered 20 representatives of consumer protection agencies of the Americas (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Puerto Rico as well as Switzerland and United States) to discuss the revision of the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection; consumer educational programmes for providers; inter-agency cooperation in tourism; and data protection in e-commerce. Civil society stakeholders, namely consumer and business organizations, also participated in the forum. Its objective is to commonly reflect upon the issues raised while building consensus on how to address common challenges in the region and exchange best practices where appropriate. It was held back-to-back with the Iberoamerican Forum of Consumer Protection Agencies (FIAGC) Conference in the Dominican Republic.

UNCTAD has been working on Tunisian consumer protection issues for several years. For some time now, the Institut National de la Consommation of the Ministère du Commerce et de l'Artisanat has been preparing a consumer protection bill to present to Parliament for enactment. This bill has had the input of EU Members regarding the most recent developments on consumer protection. In particular, France's Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes has promoted a EU-Tunisia Twinning. In this context a legal workshop on the bill was organized in Tunis, Tunisia (24 September 2013) on the EU and Tunisian legislation, alternative dispute settlement mechanisms, codification strategies and the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection. The event included the participation of experts from France, Germany, Tunisia and UNCTAD.

3. Voluntary peer reviews

The Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy is the final phase of UNCTAD's technical assistance on competition policy cycle which typically begins with the formulation of a competition policy framework, followed by the adoption of a competition

law and policy, the set-up of a competition authority and the provision of training to enforce the Law, and implementation of the law and policy. It also links UNCTAD technical cooperation work with its analytical pillar and its intergovernmental consensus building pillar in a holistic manner.

In 2013, the 13th session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Competition Law and Policy (8-10 July 2013) carried out in-depth voluntary peer reviews of the competition policy of Nicaragua, Pakistan and Ukraine, prepared by UNCTAD. The peer reviews were produced by the Division in documents: Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/2 and Overview); Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Ukraine (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/3 and Overview); and Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Pakistan (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/4 and Overview). The peer reviews concluded with tailored recommendations for each country to enhance their competition regimes. Subsequently, the Division presented the results of the peer review of Nicaragua at the American University of Managua, Nicaragua (22 October 2013) to key stakeholders.



As a follow up to recommendations of the tripartite peer review of competition law and policy of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, conducted in 2012, the Division organized a training of Judges and Commissioners from 23-27 September in Gaborone, Botswana to build up their institutional capacity for effective competition law and policy enforcement. Training of judges at the regional level is one of the recommendations of the tripartite peer review.. This is because in many countries, members of the legal profession and the judiciary may not have had an opportunity of handling competition cases. In addition, the enforcement of competition law in the context of globalization and changing markets demands greater sophistication and upgrading of skills in order for judges to effectively adjudicate competition cases.

D: Trade, environment and development

A major challenge facing developing countries is the

need to promote faster economic growth, job creation poverty reduction, based on inclusive and sustainable models of development. In this context, harnessing the positive interface between trade and environment for economic growth and development while minimizing the negative impact on social, economic and environmental sustainability as well as cultural diversity and resources continues to underpin UNCTAD's capacity building efforts. The Division's activities in the area of trade, environment and development as well as the creative economy continued to provide developing countries with much needed policy advice, capacity building support and training to facilitate the transformation of their economies into being more economically resilient and socially and environmentally sustainable.

In addition to specific areas of work mentioned below, and reflecting high interest in green growth and green economy issues, the Division has made available resources persons to conduct training on trade, environment and sustainable development issues for students and other audience at the request of academic institutions and other agencies. In 2013, the following were delivered in Geneva, Switzerland:

- a) General presentation of UNCTAD's activities (in Portuguese) for students from the Université Pierre Mendès France de Grenoble / Sao Paulo (24 January 2013).
- a) "The UN's Rio+20: Why is a green economy so difficult to agree upon?" for students from Russian universities, (15-19 April 2013).
- a) UNCTAD's trade & environment-related activities for a Brazilian delegation from the Federation of Industries of the State of Parana (FIEP), (19 April 2013).
- a) Investment trends in renewables for students of the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Group of Msc International Business Management (16 May 2013).
- a) UNCTAD and its work on environmental issues in developing countries for students of the School of Oriental and African Studies (3 June 2013).
- a) UNCTAD's work on sustainable energy for students of the Duke University Summer Programme (26 June 2013).
- a) "The UN's Rio+20: Why is a green economy so difficult to agree upon?" for students of the University of International Business and Economics of Hong Kong, (16-20 September 2013).
- a) UNCTAD's environmental work for the Chinese Municipal-authorities delegation (17 September

2013).

- a) UNCTAD's environmental work for Young Journalists from the Reham al Farra Programme (3 October 2013).
- a) UNCTAD Virtual Institute Research Seminar (9-11 October 2013).
- a) Short course on new trade reality and multilateralism for Permanent Missions in Geneva (4 November 2013).
- a) UNCTAD's work on environmental issues for Chester University students (11 November 2013).
- a) Biofuels and trade for students of the Masters of International Law and Economics (MILE) Programme of the World Trade Institute (26 November 2013), Bern, Switzerland.

1. BioTrade Initiative

Since its creation in 1996 by the Division, UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative promotes trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) objectives. It has contributed to the evolution of a group of producers, processors and retailers who are seriously engaged in and committed to sustainable use of biodiversity and to the fair and equitable distribution of benefits.

In 2013, the Division under the BioTrade Facilitation Programme Phase Two (supported by SECO of Switzerland) continued to assist developing countries in strengthening the institutional capacity of the national BioTrade programmes in developing policy frameworks in support of biotrade. It also provided technical assistance and advisory services to BioTrade programmes and partners in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico on issues such as the BioTrade concept and methodologies, value chain development and market access-opportunities.

In Northern Mexico, the Division supported the implementation of its methodology "Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of BioTrade Products: Resource Assessment" for candelilla (*Euphorbia antisyphilitica*). Candelilla wax is used by the cosmetic industry for lipsticks and UNCTAD's work in this area complements that of the Natural Resources Stewardship Circle's (NRSC) and its members such as Yves Rocher and Chanel, among others. The activities were implemented with the support of CONABIO (National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity) and the draft final report was completed in December 2013.

UNCTAD/CITES meeting on Traceability systems for managing international trade in South East Asian Python Skins, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 October 2013



In support of strengthening the capacity of BioTrade partners, an e-learning course on BioTrade and Value Chain development, was developed in 2012 by the Division in partnership with UNCTAD's TrainForTrade programme. The first e-learning course was conducted by the Division (25 March-7 April 2013) with 23 participants from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment, Trade Promotion organizations, SMEs and NGOs. A very positive feedback on the e-learning course was received from participants.

The BioTrade Initiative continued to support CITES in fostering sustainable and regulated trade of CITES-listed species under Appendix II that are endangered. UNCTAD and CITES jointly undertook a scoping study to identify options for the development of a traceability system for the international supply chain of snake-skins, focusing on pythons from Southeast Asia (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/6). It addressed issues such as sustainability concerns; traceability, tag and other technological options; compliance with standards and regulations; available institutional frameworks; the value of capacity building and guidance and manuals; and the need for increased engagement from the private sector and conservation organizations. It sought out contributions from range countries exporting snakeskins and from stakeholder consultation events. It would serve as a key input into the CITES process expected to culminate in 2016 at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES when the Parties will decide how and when to implement the most suitable traceability system(s) for international trade of python skins.

The BioTrade Initiative, in partnership with UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR),

continued to support the use of BioTrade as an approach to support reintegration of ex-combatants and livelihoods in post-crisis settings. A videoconference was held with UNDP Burundi to present UNCTAD's BioTrade value chain methodology. This raised the interest of UNDP Burundi in considering the implementation of BioTrade and initiate consultations on the interest to prepare an initial assessment for the country's potential on BioTrade.

The BioTrade Initiative prepared the BioTrade Impact Assessment System (BTIAS) baseline report for 2010 (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/3) and implemented the BTIAS that measures the contribution of BioTrade to sustainable development and the conservation/sustainable use of biodiversity in a harmonized and structured manner. It also continued to provide technical assistance to BioTrade partners in Africa, Europe and Latin America in using the BTIAS information system, as well as in gathering information on the impact of BioTrade in Africa and Latin America for 2011 and 2012. The BTIAS allows countries to obtain valuable information in reporting their progress towards the CBD and its 2011-2020 Strategic Plan as well as their national reporting activities, which relate to environment, socio/economic and governance issues.

In implementing the Development Account project on 'Strengthening the capacity of policy makers and business leaders in three BioTrade beneficiary countries in integrating REDD+ projects into BioTrade strategies', the Division conducted research and analysis on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, in particular, REDD+ and BioTrade. This resulted in the development of a training manual for developing joint BioTrade and REDD+ activities and an e-learning course on developing joint BioTrade and REDD+ proj-

II BioTrade Congress, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 December 2013



ects. In addition, national workshops were organized in Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador to discuss the feasibility of linking the two initiatives and identify the challenges and opportunities in developing joint projects. Policy issues and strategies for REDD+ and biotrade were discussed at the second BioTrade Congress.

In increasing the awareness and understanding of BioTrade issues by public and private stakeholders, the BioTrade Initiative prepared several reports (as mentioned earlier) and organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences as well as relevant discussions of international development processes, such as the following:

- a) CITES Conference of the Parties (COP) 16, Bangkok, Thailand (11-13 March 2013).
- b) UNCTAD-CITES round table on Sustainable trade: Exploring reliable traceability systems for managing international trade of python skins, Bangkok, Thailand (12 March 2013).
- c) Conference: The beauty of sourcing with respect, Paris, France (19 April 2013).
- d) Briefing by the Swiss Management Authority to the private sector on trade in snakes skin, Bern, Switzerland (19 April 2013).
- e) 3rd ABS Business Dialogue on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS: Implementing the Green Economy, Copenhagen, Denmark (4-5 September 2013).
- f) Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Day organized by the European Investment Bank, Luxembourg (24 September 2013).
- g) 19th session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, Windhoek, South Africa (30 September-4 October 2013).
- h) Briefing on BioTrade to the UN General Assembly Second Committee on implementation of the CBD, New York, USA (30 October 2013).
- i) National capacity building workshop on Integrating REDD+ into BioTrade Strategies, Bogota, Colombia

(6 November 2013).

- j) National capacity building workshop on Integrating REDD+ into BioTrade Strategies, Quito, Ecuador (12 November 2013).
- k) National capacity building workshop on Integrating REDD+ into BioTrade Strategies, Manaus, Brazil (14 November 2013).
- l) Second BioTrade Congress: Integrating REDD+ into BioTrade Strategies, Geneva, Switzerland (11-13 December 2013).

2. BioFuels Initiative and renewable energies

The Division developed UNCTAD's Biofuels Initiative as a facilitating hub for programmes or initiatives underway or for initiating new ones in a number of institutions on renewable energy sources including biofuels. Together with its partners, it has provided developing countries with access to sound economic and trade policy analysis, capacity-building activities and consensus-building tools. It has maintained partnerships with intergovernmental organizations, governments, applied research centres, NGOs, and relevant initiatives such as the International Bioenergy Platform of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the UN-ENERGY, the UNFCCC, the G8 Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), UNEP-Risoe, UNIDO, the EPFL/WEF Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, the Brazilian Military Engineering Institute, and the University of Sao Paulo, among others.

Through the Initiative, the Division also continued its work on climate-friendly, cost-efficient and development-oriented green sectors, which are within reach of developing and least developed countries by undertaking further analytical analysis on the theme of biofuels, which included issues related to the costs

of biofuel sustainability certification as well as their impacts on developing country producers. An initial study on the State of the Biofuels Market: Regulatory, Trade and Development Perspectives, which was first published in 2006, was updated in 2013 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/ TED/2013/1).

The BioFuels Initiative serves as a platform for UNCTAD's continued advocacy for developing countries' interest in the sustainable production and use of biofuels. In its participation in various meetings and conferences, the Division has stressed the importance of considering the context and technical capacities of developing countries whenever considering more stringent sustainability rules for biofuels. It also underlined the importance having some degree of regulatory stability (for predictability of investments) and keeping the door open to developing country content in this market, as a way to ensure its stability and fairness, both true components of sustainability.

UNCTAD co-hosted with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) an event on "Trends in Global Biofuels Markets: Sustainability Policy and Trade" in Geneva, Switzerland (19 March 2013). All three partnering organizations have been engaged in studying and building consensus on the potential of improving bioenergy use as a tool to promote development, trade in equitable conditions, as well as to reduce carbon emissions. Discussions in the meeting centered on latest issues of international biofuels trade, such as intra-industry trade, policy proposals to promote 2nd generation fuels, developing country participation in the market, and the latest analysis on the food *versus* fuel issue. Participants included discussants, representatives of Member States, private sector and civil society.

Building on an earlier initiative launched at an UNCTAD BioFuels side-event at the Rio+20 conference to build an African network of bio-energy experts, a group of African researchers were mobilized to attend a training workshop held in Stockholm, Sweden (26-31 May 2013). The workshop, jointly organized by UNCTAD and the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences, included participation by institutions with activities in Africa such as the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), the Bunda College of Agriculture (Malawi), Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), the Zambian Biofuels Association and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). During the week-long workshop, researchers from Zambia, Mozambique,

Malawi and United Republic of Tanzania participated in a number of site visits, exchanged lessons and engaged in discussions with policymaking institutions such as the Swedish Energy Agency, and private sector companies working in solid, liquid and gaseous bioenergy development.

As one of the implementing partners of the Nairobi Framework, which was established to improve the level of participation of developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol, UNCTAD supported the organization of the Africa Carbon Forum held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (3-5 July 2013). UNCTAD contributed to the Bioenergy session, which addressed the theme of bioenergy, covering its current and future linkages to global biofuels trade and human development in Africa. A sustainability-oriented uptake of bioenergy can complement carbon markets and benefit many countries in Africa through low-carbon development.

In increasing the awareness and understanding of biofuels and renewable energy issues by public and private stakeholders, the Division has organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences as well as relevant discussions of international development processes, such as the following:

- a) EU-Brazil event on proposed changes to EU Biofuels policy, Brussels, Belgium (6 March 2013).
- b) World Biofuels Markets Congress 2013, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (12-14 March 2013).
- c) Bio-energy workshop, Stockholm, Sweden (26-31 May 2013).
- d) International Association of Energy Economics meeting, Daegu, South Korea (16-20 June 2013).
- e) Africa Carbon Forum 2013, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (3-5 July 2013).
- f) Workshop on low carbon innovation and governance organized by the University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil (28 October-1 November 2013).

3. Climate change and the green economy

The Division assists countries in considering approaches to mitigating climate change while enhancing their trade and development prospects. It provided assistance to the Government of Vanuatu in respect of renewable energy sources and green export sector strategies in support of trade-led development. A technical mission to Port Vila was undertaken from 22 to 26 July 2013 and discussed possible green sectors, especially agriculture, where further study can

be undertaken to develop an export strategy, assess market access conditions in major markets and study links with tourism; product sectors where a biotrade programme can be developed; examined potential for diversifying energy mix to enhance access to energy, especially renewable energy; and discussed options for a possible Vanuatu-UNCTAD green growth development programme.

As mentioned previously, the Division together with partners and experts carried out research and analysis linking biodiversity and climate change through the REDD+ mechanism, which resulted in the development of a training manual and e-learning course. Linkages between Biotrade and REDD+ was also the theme of the second BioTrade Congress held in December 2013.

The Division developed in 2013 a new initiative centered on assisting interested developing countries in examining and developing green productive and export capacities as part of options for transition into a greener and more resilient economies. Through this initiative the Division aims to assist interested developing countries to develop national plans to advance green economy development through an interactive, multi-stakeholder stock-taking exercise to examine what has, can and should be done across various policy domains – including industrial policy, privatisation, regulation, institutions, trade policy and international cooperation – to forward-looking supportive policies and institutions to promote promising green sectors. The Division has mobilized financial support from the UN Development Account to implement this initiative starting in 2014 for some interested developing countries.

The Division participated in the following events on climate change and development:

- a) UN ESCWA workshop on Regional mapping and policy guidelines of green productive sectors in the Arab region, Beirut, Lebanon (27 February 2013).
- b) 2nd annual conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, Paris, France (4-5 April 2013).
- c) LINKS 2013 Conference and World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council, Boston, USA (22-23 July 2013).
- d) 5th session of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, New York, USA (25-27 November 2013), and Side event on Addressing trade in agricultural products and food price volatility in the SDGs / Post-2015 framework, New York, USA (26 November 2013).

- e) OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment, Paris, France (10-12 December 2013).

4. Organic agriculture

Organic agriculture is of major interest of policy-makers, researchers, farmers and development stakeholders including in South-East Asia and in Sub-Saharan Africa because of its economic, social and environmental benefits. The Division continued to support the implementation of organic agriculture development activities in Lao PDR under the project on “Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in Lao PDR”, funded by SECO of Switzerland under the framework of the UN Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. In 2013, the Division, through local partners, supported activities such as the incubation programme for organic enterprises, capacity building for Luang Prabang producer groups on participatory guarantee system, Lao participation in key international or regional meetings on organic agriculture and the activation of a network of extension workers in the districts and villages, among others. UNCTAD also coordinated the preparation of a study on the backward and forward linkages between organic agriculture and the tourism sector in Lao PDR, to be released in 2014.

In Uganda, building on its previous work (since 2004) in supporting the country in elaborating an organic agriculture policy, the Division, in 2013, working with a local NGO namely NOGAMU (National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda), supported the development of an implementation plan that can operationalize the Organic Agriculture Policy. The work was done in close cooperation with the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and other Ugandan stakeholders. A workshop was held in Kampala (13 June 2013), which resulted in the preparation of an action plan for implementation of the national organic agriculture policy. The policy and related implementation plan are being reviewed by relevant Government agencies.

5. Creative economy

The Division contributed to Special Edition of Creative Economy Report 2013: Widening local development pathways prepared by UNESCO and UNDP. The report received contributions from eminent personalities, academics, experts and leaders. Contributing to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development goals and partnerships as key enablers of suc-

cess in the creative economy are among the aspects addressed in the contribution paper. In addition, a statistical annex was prepared providing the economic evidence of the increasing demand for creative goods and services at worldwide level. The publication was released at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in November 2013 with UNCTAD participation.

The Creative Economy Report 2010 prepared by the Division was translated into Korean, Portuguese and Spanish to help disseminate the report and raise the knowledge and understanding of the creative economy among citizens. This endeavor was supported by the Ministry of Finance of Korea, the Creative Economy Secretariat at the Ministry of Culture in Brazil and the Universidad Tecnológica de Chile (INACAP) in Concepcion.

At the request of the Government of Cape Verde, supported by UNDP, the Division in close collaboration with the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat launched work to support the Government in the development of an action plan for strengthening its creative economy potential. An initial assessment has been undertaken and the analytical report on Cape Verde's Creative Economies: Leveraging vocations for new development was prepared. This joint publication, to be released in 2014, presented the potential of Cape Verde to become a case in building a new sustainable development model based on the cultural expressions of its people (music, festivals, handicrafts, gastronomy, tourism and cultural events), a development of small scale goods and services that favors the distribution of income and the quality of life of its population.

Hangzhou International Congress on Culture: Key to Sustainable Development, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, 14-17 May 2013



Drawing upon its analyses and expertise on creative economy and industries, the Division made substantive inputs into various national and international events directed at enhancing understanding on the creative economy and developing strategies to strengthen the impact of creative industries on economic growth and development. It also highlighted the potential contribution of the creative industries in eradicating poverty and the role of culture and creative industries in the post-2015 Development Agenda:

- a) Iberoamerican Creative Industries Statistical Measurement, Medellin, Colombia (6- 8 March 2013).
- b) Technical Workshop on Financing Services Exports and Creative Industries, Geneva, Switzerland (10 April 2013).
- c) 2013 Creativity Week under the theme "Creativity: A Vessel for Mind Development and Peace Building", Abuja, Nigeria (16-19 April 2013).
- d) Hangzhou International Congress on Culture: Key to Sustainable Development, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, organized by UNESCO and China (14-17 May 2013).
- e) High-level session on Creating and Promoting Partnerships, including in Creative Services during the Global Services Forum, Beijing, People's Republic of China (28 May 2013). At the meeting a partnership agreement was announced between UNCTAD and the Istanbul Commerce University to strengthen the Creative Economy Center of the university.
- f) Next Society Forum: A creative economy, the pursuit of People's Happiness, Seoul, South Korea (26-27 June 2013).
- g) Shanghai Design Week, Shanghai, People's

Next Society Forum: A creative economy, the pursuit of People's Happiness, Seoul, South Korea, 26-27 June 2013



Republic of China (5-11 September 2013).

- h) Arterial Network Third African Creative Economy Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa (6-9 October 2013).
- i) Symposium on Arts and Culture: Engines of Socioeconomic development, Cali, Colombia (6 December 2013).

The Division assisted African countries in continuing to elaborate policies, strategies and exchange of knowledge and best practices on enhancing contribution of the creative economy to economic growth and inclusive development in Africa. It contributed substantively to the 2013 Creativity Week in Abuja, Nigeria as listed above. It also contributed substantively to the Arterial Network Third African Creative Economy Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Delegates from fifty different countries congregated at Cape Town's City Hall and debated on making a connection between arts and culture and economic development. At the occasion the Division participated in a CNBC Africa talk show on informing general public about the creative economy and Africa. It also contributed to the Cape Town municipality in shaping its policy on "Creative Cape Town".

The Division has been supporting the Istanbul Creative Economy Center in the Istanbul Commerce University to support the development of creative industries in Turkey. It has attended meetings hosted by them and they have attended meetings in Geneva.

E. Trade and gender

The Division organized a National Seminar on trade and gender in Luanda, Angola (21 November 2013). It launched the case study prepared by the Division on "Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Angola? A gender perspective" (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/3) and shared methodology and research approaches with government officials and national stakeholders. Among policy measures discussed at the workshop

were the advancement of women's capacities through better access to education and training; the upgrading of infrastructure; and improvements in the availability of rural credit, especially to women. Angola is in the process of preparing its graduation from the LDC status. Participants agreed that women's economic empowerment would contribute to ensure that this process evolves smoothly. The findings of the study and the outcomes of the national seminar will contribute to the formulation of the 2015-2019 UNDAF programme framework for Angola.

The Division facilitated the Working Group on Gender, Trade and Development on the occasion of the 51st Geneva Graduate Study Programme (1-12 July 2013). The study programme is organized yearly by the Information Service of UN Office in Geneva and is addressed to young postgraduate students from all over the world. The DITC delivered a presentation on mainstreaming gender into macroeconomic policy, especially trade policy and on UNCTAD's activities on trade and gender. It also prepared a case study based on which participating students drafted a group report that was later published by UN Office in Geneva. As part of the programme, the Division has guided students in this effort through coaching activities.

The Division participated in the 2013 Gender Academy organized by the ILO/International Training Centre in Turin, Italy (November 2013). A global international event on gender and employment, the Gender Academy gathered international experts and practitioners on gender and development-related issues from all over the world with a view to offering an exclusive forum for discussion and a platform for sharing experiences. The Division delivered a Master Class presentation on gender inequality and its effects on women in the labour market, and an Elective Workshop on how to assess the effect of trade on women's wellbeing and economic empowerment.

V. PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES: COOPERATING AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Division maintains a wide network of collaborating partners in making trade work for inclusive development for all. Such partnerships are thematic, sectoral or subject-specific and include UN agencies including UN regional commissions, international and regional organizations, private sector, academic and the civil society. The examples below provide an indicative of the kind of partnerships that the Division is involved in with other relevant institutions to join forces, expertise and finances to enhance the impact of their collaborative initiatives in trade growth. In regard to technical cooperation and capacity building, the Division is also engaged in One UN programmes and in UN Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and its member agencies. Many collaborative initiatives not mentioned in the list below of established mechanisms but which are ongoing and were discussed previously include, for example, regular dialogue on services issues, global value chains, and other trade issues with the OECD Secretariat.

1. UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG).

The Division takes part in and contributes to the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG). This includes various departments within the UN Secretariat, a number of UN agencies from within the UN system and outside, various government agencies and national statisticians, and other organizations concerned with the development of MDG data at the national and international levels, including donors and expert advisers. UNCTAD's contribution (provided by the Division), in close collaboration with WTO and ITC, entails the annual provision of data and analysis for the update of MDGs 8 indicators on market access, namely, Indicator 8.6 (proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty) and Indicator 8.7 (average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries). These data and analyses are integrated into the UN's annual MDGs reports. The group prepared the annual UN inter-agency Millennium Development Goals 2013 Report which presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs.

2) The MDG Gap Task Force

The Division also contributes to the UN inter-agency MDG Gap Task Force, which was created by the UN Secretary-General to improve monitoring of the global commitments contained in MDG 8, the Global Partnership for Development, through the joint production of the annual MDG gap task force report. The main purpose of the task force is to systematically track existing international commitments and to identify gaps and obstacles in their fulfillment at the international and country level in the areas of official development assistance, market access (trade), debt relief, access to essential medicines and new technologies. The Task Force integrates more than 20 UN and other international agencies. The Division contributed to the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2013 entitled "The Challenge we Face" with analytical inputs to the chapter on "Market access - Trade".

3) The Research Partnership Platform (RPP) on competition and consumer protection

UNCTAD created the Research Partnership Platform (RPP) in 2010. It is an initiative that aims at contributing to the development of best practices in the formulation and effective enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws and policies so as to promote development. It brings together research institutions, universities, competition authorities, business and civil society, and provides a platform where they can undertake joint research and other activities with UNCTAD, exchange ideas on the issues and challenges in the area of competition and consumer protection faced particularly by developing countries and economies in transition. Currently, RPP hosts thirty-four institutions consisting of research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations, corporate affiliates and competition agencies.

The Research Partnership Platform (RPP) held its fourth meeting in Geneva (7 July 2013), just prior to the 2013 IGE, with the participation of over 60 people from competition authorities, consumer protection agencies, universities and research institutes. The meeting was held in two parts. In Part I, project coordinators provided updates of ongoing research projects. Within this framework, the Competitive Neutrality project led by Professor Deborah Healey, the Competition Law and the State project led by Professor Eleanor Fox, and the Benchmarking Competition Systems project led by Marianela Lopez-Galdos were discussed. Furthermore, the Competition Law and Aggregate

Concentration project were presented by Professor Michal Gal and Professor Thomas Cheng. The project on Cartel Enforcement in Selected Latin American Countries, Present and Future was presented by Dr. Ivo Gagliuffi. During Part II, presentations of new projects were given by researchers namely: Interaction between Regional Competition Law Systems and National Enforcement, presented by Professor Frédéric Jenny (Co-Directeur du Centre Européen de Droit et d'économie, ESSEC Business School); Integration of Economic and Econometric Evidence in Competition Law presented by Dr. Ioannis Lianos; Best Practices of Consumer Redress project presented by Dr. Ying Yu; and lastly the project on Broad Competition Policies for Least Developed Countries presented by Dr. Graham Mott, Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD.

4) UNCTAD-SELA Working Group on Trade and Competition (WGTC)

The WGTC was formed by SELA, with the support of UNCTAD, in July 2011 to establish contact and dialogue between trade and competition officials of SELA countries; to agree on collective actions needed to fight cross-border anti-competitive business practices; to promote studies at regional level on issues of interest to trade and competition authorities; and to share information and experiences as regards these two policy areas. The third annual meeting of the WGTC was organized in Buenos Aires, Argentina (24-25 September 2013). It discussed several issues including trade and competition policies in the energy markets, and internal and external coherence between trade and competition policies. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the trade and competition authorities of SELA, ECLAC and UNCTAD as well as Switzerland. It provided a forum for open dialogue between the trade and competition communities.

5) Sofia Competition Forum

The Sofia Competition Forum (SCF) was founded in 2012 at the initiative of the Commission on Protection of Competition (CPC) of Bulgaria and UNCTAD, based on a memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions on 11 July 2012. It aims to strengthen cooperation and relations in the Balkans region to achieve coherent application of competition rules. Its inaugural session was held on 12 November 2012 in Sofia, Bulgaria). The members of the forum are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,

Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and UNCTAD,

The Division and the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition jointly organized the second SCF in Sofia (28 May 2013) and the third SCF in Sofia (7 November 2013). The forums discussed a number of competition related issues such as the importance of media information in building anti-trust cases and bid rigging. On that occasion of the third forum, the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition and UNCTAD signed a cooperation agreement with Bulgaria's largest business association (Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria - KRIB) and the Bulgarian National Institute of Justice. The aim is to stimulate private sector involvement in the activities of the SCF and build up a culture of competition.

6) The Transparency in Trade (TNT) Initiative

The Transparency in Trade (TNT) Initiative is a partnership between the African Development Bank, the International Trade Centre (ITC), UNCTAD, and the World Bank, which will provide for open use of the trade policy data and analysis system, including on NTMs, to enable countries to address trade barriers, increase opportunities for trade and facilitate actual trade flows. TNT is designed to make trade more efficient through access to information. Already, the initiative has made a plethora of data available on country-specific trade policies and market information.

TNT's major components include: (i) Tariff data (data collection led by the ITC), (ii) Non-tariff measures (data collection led by the UNCTAD), (iii) Trade remedies data (collection led by the World Bank), (iv) Policies restricting trade in services (data collection on led by the World Bank), (v) Trade policy in Africa, particularly in the area of non-tariff measures (data collection led by the African Development Bank), and (vi) Trade Information Tools of participating agencies including Market Access Map (<http://www.macmap.org>), TRAINS/WITS (<http://wits.worldbank.org>), Temporary Trade Barriers Database including the Global Antidumping Database (<http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/temporary-trade-barriers-database>), Services Trade Restrictions Database (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/servicetrade/>).

In terms of Progress achieved in 2012-2013, ITC has updated the 2013 tariff data through an active collaboration with national institutions with a comprehensive coverage with applied MFN and preferential tariff rates available for 105 countries at the most detailed

national tariff line level; UNCTAD and its TNT partners and regional organizations have collected and disseminated non-tariff measures data for 36 countries; the World Bank has collected and disseminated data on antidumping, countervailing duties, and safeguards for more than 20 major economies.; and the World Bank has collected and disseminated data on services trade policies across 103 countries and 18 sub-sectors.

7) The International Collaborative Initiative on Trade and Employment (ICITE)

The ICITE aims to seek a better understanding of how trade interacts with employment, promote discussion on these issues and develop policy-relevant conclusions. ICITE is a joint undertaking of ten international organizations namely UNCTAD, ILO, World Bank, WTO, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Organization of American States (OAS), OECD, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and African Development Bank. The Division represents UNCTAD in ICITE meetings. In 2013 ICITE members participated in UNCTAD's Global Services Forum in Beijing, People's Republic of China (May 2013) in a high level panel discussion on trade in services and employment.

8) UN Forum on Voluntary Sustainability Standards

The Division initiated and supported the creation of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), which is a joint project of UNCTAD and four other UN agencies namely FAO, ITC, UNEP and UNIDO. The Forum acts as a neutral, independent and credible platform for the provision of information on emerging new and diverse standards arising from the rapidly expanding environmental/sustainability markets in which health, social and environmental impacts of production and consumption playing an increasingly important role in shaping consumer preferences. It would systematically conduct analytical, empirical and capacity-building activities in this field and deal with generic and strategic problems of VSS in a consistent way, without endorsing or legitimizing any specific VSS. It provides an opportunity to address the issue of VSS as a sustainable development tool, and to discuss priority issues the UNFSS should address

In 2013, the major activities of UNFSS were the UNFSS launching conference, the briefing sessions in several countries, presentation of the UNFSS at relevant WTO Committees and other international fora (e.g. FAO and

ISEAL Alliance) in addition to meetings of the UNFSS Steering Committee and Advisory Panel, and analytical work/ publications. The UNFSS was formally launched at a UN conference in Geneva (21-22 March 2013), which was attended by over 200 participants from some 50 UN member states. Besides the launching conference, the following specific UNFSS activities were undertaken in 2013. One set of activities related to the preparation for the creation of national/regional platforms on voluntary sustainability standards that are linked to UNFSS. These involved:

- a) The first UNFSS briefing session held in Beijing, People's Republic of China (4 March 2013), jointly organized by UNFSS, the Ministry of Commerce of China and the China Certification and Accreditation Institute.
- b) The second UNFSS briefing in Bangkok, Thailand (13 March 2013), jointly organized by UNFSS, the Compliance & Innovation for Agri-Food Supply Chains project and the Board of Trade of Thailand.
- c) The third UNFSS briefing in Panama City, Panama (9 May 2013), jointly organized by the UNFSS with the Ministry of Trade of Panama, La Ciudad del Saber and the Panamanian National Authority for Environmental Management.
- d) Douala, Cameroon (27 June 2013). The UNFSS co-organized an international workshop on sustainability standards with the international commodity body for cocoa, ICCO, in Douala, Cameroon (24-27 June 2013) during which a briefing on UNFSS was organized on the last day of the meeting.
- e) The fourth UNFSS briefing for ASEAN and the Philippines in Clarkeville, Province of Pampanga (24-25 October 2013), organized jointly by the UNFSS, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, and the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines.

Briefings on the UNFSS were also made at the following events: (a) a meeting for WTO delegates and other key stakeholders in Geneva, Switzerland (18 February 2013); (b) FAO/UNEP VSS workshop in Rome, Italy (10 June 2013); and (c) International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Alliance General Assembly in Bonn, Germany (21-31 May 2012) and in London (11-13 June 2013).

The UNFSS co-organized an international workshop on sustainability standards with the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), in Douala, Cameroon (24-27 June 2013). Over 160 ICCO members (including both consuming and producing country del-

egates) and key stakeholders from the cocoa sector attended the workshop that examined in-depth VSSs and their impact on cocoa producers and the cocoa supply chain. Substantial time was spent discussing the establishment of national platforms and standards for sustainable cocoa production (in particular in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana), and the UNFSS was requested for support and guidance in those efforts.

A fundamental objective of the UNFSS is to provide credible and independent information and analysis on VSSs. The publication of the first UNFSS Flagship report, presented in two documents, was an essential step in the direction of that objective. It provides both a comprehensive analytical overview of the key issues related to VSSs and a description of the major multi-stakeholder initiatives currently working on VSSs.

- a) UNFSS flagship report for 2013 Part 1: Issues "Voluntary sustainability standards: today's landscape of issues and initiatives to achieve public policy objectives" (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/4).
- b) UNFSS flagship report for 2013 Part 2: Initiatives "Voluntary sustainability standards: today's landscape of issues and initiatives to achieve public policy objectives" (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/5).

The UNFSS also launched its Discussion Paper series, with two papers focusing on the role of meta-governance approaches on VSS, on the one hand, and a review of key systemic issues resulting from activities of the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture and the Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Project, on the other.

9) Global Network of Export-Import Banks and Development Finance Institutions

The Global Network of Exim Banks and Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID) was launched on 13 March 2006 in Geneva, with support from the Exim Bank of India and UNCTAD and currently has more than 20 institutional members. The Honorary President of G-NEXID is Mr. Rubens Amaral, CEO of the Foreign Trade Bank for Latin America (BLADEX). It is managed by its General Assembly and Steering Committee, which meetings normally on an annual basis and at the same time conducts a technical workshop on key issues relating to South-South trade financing. It is aimed at supporting South-South trade and investment relations, which have assumed increasing importance globally, through trade and investment financing cooperation. It is an independent network with close collaboration with UNCTAD on

Global Network of Exim Banks and Development Finance Institutions (GNEXID) Steering Committee meeting and Technical Workshop on Financing Service Exports and Creative Industries, Geneva, 9-10 April 2013



substantive issues emerging in South-South trade and financing. The conclusions of these annual meetings of the Network are usually presented to the annual sessions of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Commission.

Each year, UNCTAD promotes and participates in G-NEXID Technical Workshops organized by the Network. UNCTAD experts and other experts from international organizations usually participate as speakers in such meetings. The 2013 technical workshop was on "Financing service exports and creative industries" in Geneva (10 April 2013). It was preceded by a meeting of the G-NEXID Steering Committee (9 April 2013), in which UNCTAD participated as an observer. The 8th G-NEXID Annual Meeting was held in Geneva (11 June 2013), with support from the Division.

10) WTO Director-General's Advisory Group on Aid for Trade

The Division has actively participated in all aid for trade (Aft) meetings organized by WTO and OECD, including the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) and the WTO Director General's Aft Advisory Committee. This has contributed to increased its visibility in the Aft global community. In 2013 the Division participated in various meetings organized by the Advisory Committee and the Aft session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development. It also contributed to an OECD Policy Dialogue on Aft in Paris (16-17 January 2013) and to the Fourth WTO Fourth Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva (8-10 July 2013) which addressed the issue of connecting to value chains. In these events the Division also reports on Aft activities implemented by UNCTAD generally. Regarding the latter, UNCTAD participated in the global review; contrib-

uted to the joint OECD-WTO publication "Aid for Trade as a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains"; and a Roundtable on the Role of Competition and Consumer Policies in Connecting Value Chains; contributed to an African Union survey on AfT related to boosting intra African trade to develop inputs for the Global Review; and provided assistance was provided to ACP States in preparing their participation and to the Consultative Group of LDCs in the WTO. For LDCs, UNCTAD prepare a technical note on aid for trade issues and participated in their retreat. The Division also contributes to the preparation by the WTO of the work programme on AfT.

11) UN System-wide Action Plan (UN SWAP) on gender equality and women's empowerment

The Division, through its Trade, Gender and Development Section, is also responsible for gender mainstreaming within UNCTAD and performs an advocacy role meant to encourage, whenever appropriate, the inclusion of gender considerations in the substantive work of UNCTAD. In order to better implement and respond to a UN-wide gender action plan, The Division has coordinated UNCTAD's reporting on the Un System-Wide Action Plan (UN SWAP) on gender equality and women's empowerment. The SWAP is a new mandatory accountability tool aimed at strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women at the organizational level across the UN system.

12) Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment

The Division coordinates UNCTAD's contribution to the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment, a new global community that brings together policy makers, the academia, entrepreneurs, and civil society activists and facilitates knowledge mobilization, innovation and partnerships for women's economic empowerment. The Knowledge Gateway online platform is managed by UN Women and funded by the Government of Canada. The Division has ensured that UNCTAD's work and resources on women's economic empowerment reach and benefit a global audience.

13) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of WHO, UNCTAD is a key partner of the FCTC Secretariat in implementing the convention obligations. The Division is the focal point/coordinator on

behalf of the UNCTAD on these issues. During 2013, DITC worked with the FCTC Secretariat on several issues namely; (i) coordinated two studies on tobacco plain packaging and labeling issues under Article 11 of the FCTC and the interplay between international investment agreements and tobacco control measures by different states as per Article 21; (ii) completed a study on Tobacco Value Chain and options for alternatives, as per Article 17 of the FCTC; (iii) supported technical assistance and capacity building missions of the FCTC in India (for Asian region) and Peru (for Latin American region); and (iv) participated in different meetings of the Convention and shared UNCTAD's perspective and expertise in relevant areas. In order to further strengthen the collaboration, a Statement of Intent is expected to be signed between FCTC Secretariat and UNCTAD, to frame and strengthen this work, possibly by joint programming.

14) UN Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

The 2013 ECOSOC resolution (E/RES/2013/12 paragraph 1 and 4) adopted on 22 July 2013, on the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs, requests the UN Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the WHO Director-General to establish a UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. UNCTAD became part of this Task Force, chaired by WHO, along with FAO, IARC, IAEA, IDLO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, , UN-HABITAT, UNOSDP, UNSCN, WFP, CSF of the WHO FCTC, WIPO, World Bank, and WTO. It has been involved since then, in strengthening the framework and laying grounds for an approved work plan. In 2013, the following two meetings of the task force were held.

- a) First meeting of the UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2-3 October 2013) that agreed on content for the WHO Discussion Paper. The paper was published in last week of October 2013.
- b) Formal Meeting with Member States (13 November 2013) that completed the work on a terms-of-reference for the UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs.

The Interagency Task Force on NCDs would gain importance after submission of the report to ECOSOC in June 2014. UNCTAD is a key member of the Task Force and expected to contribute in the cross cutting areas of trade and development. Most of the work un-

der this Task Force would be based on joint programming with other UN agencies. UNCTAD has worked actively on Tobacco (trade, investment and intellectual property issues) through the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Tobacco is considered to be key area of work under the NCDs, therefore UNCTAD would be expected to contribute specifically in this area, apart from overarching trade and develop-

ment aspects of the prevention and control of NCDs. The work under this Task Force would stream into the post 2015 development agenda planning. It gives an opportunity for UNCTAD to contribute towards manifesting the role of trade as an enabler in the area of health by way of facilitating access to medicine, trade in health and related services, transfer of technology and financing issues related to health.

ANNEX I

Indicative list of DITC publications in 2013

1. African, Caribbean and Pacific States' participation in international trade (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TNCD/2011/2).
2. Shared harvest: Agriculture, Trade and Employment (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/2).
3. Handbook on preferential tariff scheme of Korea (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.75).
4. GSP Handbook of Switzerland (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.28/rev.3).
5. Handbook on the rules of origin for the scheme of the EU (UNCTAD/DITC/TSB/Mis.25/rev.3/Add.1).
6. Non-tariff Measures to trade: Economic and Policy Issues for developing countries (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2012/1).
7. The economics behind non-tariff measures: Theoretical insights and empirical evidence (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/58).
8. Market access, export performance and survival: Evidence from Peruvian firms (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/59).
9. Turkish enterprise-level response to foreign trade liberalization: The removal of agreements on textiles and clothing quotas (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/60).
10. Tariff preferences as a determinant for exports from Sub-Saharan Africa (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/61).
11. Cooperation in the tariff waters of the World Trade Organization (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/62).
12. South-South Trade Monitor No. 2 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/TAB/2013/1).
13. Services Policy Review: Uganda-II (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/12).
14. Services Policy Review: Rwanda (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/6).
15. National Services Policy Review: Lesotho (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1).
16. Services Policy Review: Peru (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/11).
17. Services Policy Review: Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/13).
18. UNCTAD findings on Services, Development and trade (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/8).
19. A methodology for reviewing policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for services (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/1).
20. Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Angola? A gender perspective (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/3).
21. Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Rwanda? A gender perspective.
22. The fishery sector in the Gambia: trade, value addition and social inclusiveness, with a focus on women (UNCTAD/DITC/2013/4).
23. Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/2 and Overview).
24. Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Ukraine (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/3 and Overview).
25. Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: Pakistan (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/4 and Overview).
26. Trends in Global Biofuels Markets, 19 March 2013 (UNCTAD/WEB/DITC/ TED/2013/1).
27. Meta-governance in the realm of voluntary sustainability standards: early experiences and their implications (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/1).
28. BioTrade Impact Assessment System (BTIAS) Baseline report 2010 (UNCTAD/DITC/ TED/2013/3).
29. UNFSS flagship report for 2013 Part 1: Issues "Voluntary sustainability standards: today's landscape of issues and initiatives to achieve public policy objectives" (UNCTAD/DITC/ TED/2013/4).
30. UNFSS flagship report for 2013 Part 2: Initiatives "Voluntary sustainability standards: today's landscape of issues and initiatives to achieve public policy objectives" (UNCTAD/DITC/ TED/2013/5).
31. Traceability systems for a sustainable international trade in Asian Python skins (UNCTAD/DITC/ TED/2013/6).
32. Local content requirements and the green economy (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2013/7).