

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Policy Analysis and Research

UNCTAD's 2009 Economic Development in Africa Report: Strengthening Regional Economic Integration for Africa's Development re-examines current approaches to international development during global financial and economic crisis. The Report argued that regional integration measures should be designed and implemented within a broader development strategy designed to promote economic diversification, structural changes and technological development. Recommendations include renewed focus on physical infrastructure investment and related regional trade facilitation measures to increase intra-regional trade, strengthen regional trade in services and implement agreements on labour migration and mobility.

UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance argues that the global financial and economic crisis is an opportunity for a new policy approach in LDCs. The Report recommended a proactive mixed economy model which focuses on developing national productive capacities through a developmental agricultural policy, a developmental industrial policy, combined with growth-oriented macro-economic policies.

Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation

(i) Economic Governance

Domestic Resource Mobilization

UNCTAD's policy handbook on Enhancing the Role of Domestic Financial Resources in Africa's Development was finalized under the Development Account Project. It highlights neglected opportunities for increasing different types of financial resources for the continent's development. The handbook distils insights from 8 African country as well as discussions at expert group meetings, regional seminars and stakeholder country workshops. In addition, country dissemination activities were organised.

Debt management

UNCTAD's Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme continued to support 21 NEPAD countries, strengthening human and institutional capacity to manage debt in an effective and sustainable way. The DMFAS Programme strengthened partnerships with organizations involved in providing debt management technical assistance in Africa.

Attracting and benefiting from FDI

As in previous editions, the 2009 issue of World Investment Report on Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development included an analysis of FDI trends in Africa. UNCTAD finalized Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) for Burkina Faso, Burundi, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and has now completed 19 IPRs for African countries. The Secretariat also provided assistance in capacity and institution building in the area of investment promotion to 30+ African countries. Support was also provided to 27 African countries to participate

effectively in international negotiations on investment treaties and implement them.

Intellectual Property

In December, UNCTAD finalized an advisory report on the "Development Dimension of Intellectual Property for Uganda". UNCTAD is preparing a national intellectual property policy and strategy for implementation at Rwanda's request. In cooperation with the International Trade Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC), a regional workshop for Southern, Central and Western Africa on TRIPS flexibilities for local pharmaceutical production was organized in December.

Enterprise Development

EMPRETEC, a programme to promote entrepreneurship is operational in fifteen African countries and the Empretec Africa Forum was launched to facilitate consensus and exchange of best practices in this area. UNCTAD also contributed to the creation and strengthening of business linkages in Africa. Twenty-two African countries attended the 26th session of ISAR, where experts from Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania discussed the practical implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards. UNCTAD also continued to provide advisory services and technical assistance to the African insurance sector, including through collaboration with the African Insurance Organization and the African Centre for Catastrophe Risks.

Business Facilitation

UNCTAD also continued to provide assistance to Comoros, Mali, and Rwanda with tailored e-government applications that enhance transparency and efficiency in administrative procedures relevant to conducting business.

Trade Policy Capacity Building

UNCTAD assisted Rwanda in elaborating a comprehensive development-oriented trade policy framework that provides the basis for the country to prepare a national trade policy.

Support to SADC Regional Integration and South-South trade

UNCTAD continued to provide advisory services and capacity building assistance on services' assessment and negotiations to the SADC secretariat. UNCTAD supported developing countries in negotiating the third Sao Paulo round of GSTP negotiations launched in 2004. Developing country parties to the GSTP met in December at the ministerial level and adopted a decision on modalities for cutting tariffs in the trade they carry out with each other.

Services, trade and development

A national services policy review of Uganda was carried out as part of a series of services policy reviews examining policy and regulatory frameworks and the impact of trade liberalization in services, with emphasis on building services supply and poverty reduction.

Competition policy

UNCTAD continued to assist African countries in improving competition and competitiveness in support of economic growth and development. Assistance on competition and consumer policies was also provided to the regional groupings, namely, SACU, SADC and UEMOA. A new Competition Programme for Africa (AFRICOMP) was launched by UNCTAD in June to help

countries develop appropriate administrative, institutional and legal structures for effective enforcement of competition and consumer law and policies.

Dynamic and New Sectors

UNCTAD assisted African countries in enhancing their effective participation in dynamic and new sectors of world trade. UNCTAD collaborated with Royal Philips Electronic Corporation and with the Governments of Lesotho and South Africa to establish an assembly plant in Lesotho. UNCTAD is preparing a national study on new and dynamic sectors for Rwanda. In 2009, two assessment studies were undertaken in Zambia and Mozambique on creative industries. In June, UNCTAD was co-organizer of the Euro-Africa Campus for Cultural Cooperation.

Customs Automation

There are forty ASYCUDA technical assistance projects operational in Africa. The programme aims at modernizing customs through application of information technology. More than fifty ASYCUDA training sessions were carried out on know-how transfer and capacity building for the benefit of African user countries at national and regional levels.

WTO Doha negotiations and regional trade agreements

UNCTAD supported trade negotiators and policymakers from African countries in their preparations for the Doha negotiations. In 2009, support was provided to ministerial and high-level preparatory events for the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference including the Sixth LDC Trade Ministers' Meeting (Dar-es-Salaam, October); the Phnom Penh Round Table on LDCs' accession (September); the Informal African WTO Trade Ministerial Meeting on "Consolidating the Development Dimension" (Cairo, October); and the ACP Trade Ministers' Meeting (Brussels, November). African countries were also assisted in preparing for the Second WTO Global Aid for Trade Review (July). The UNCTAD Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Persons on Non-Tariff Barriers met in November and agreed that UNCTAD should collaborate with several regional groupings in Africa to collect and classify non-tariff measures applied by their member countries.

Support on WTO accession

Through its major programme on WTO accession, UNCTAD supported African Countries acceding to the WTO including Algeria, Cape Verde, the Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles and Sudan.

The Enhanced Integrated Framework

UNCTAD continued to support African countries which have active EIF projects that became operational in 2009, and coordinates delivery of trade-related technical assistance and institutional capacity building activities in LDCs. UNCTAD assisted Rwanda with its 2009 policy document on its leather sector and undertook advisory missions to Mozambique to update its action matrix; and to Sierra Leone to improve its capacity for trade policy formulation and trade information. It participated in the One-UN Pilot programmes on Trade and Productive Capacity for Benin, Mozambique, Senegal, Rwanda and Yemen. It has also developed a technical assistance partnership with UEMOA.

(ii) Market access and agriculture

UNCTAD's 13th Annual African Oil, Gas and Minerals Conference and Exhibition was held in Mali. Under the EU-funded 45 million Euro project entitled All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP), UNCTAD undertook the following activities relevant to Africa's agricultural sector. UNCTAD implemented a pilot market information system project based on its InfoShare software in Cameroon, organized two workshops under the Commodity Exchange component of the AAACP. UNCTAD also implemented trade-related capacity building projects in Guinea and Mozambique. In July, UNCTAD organized a WTO Accession workshop in Geneva.

(iii) Human Development

With Finnish support, the Virtual Institute organized three national professional development workshops on trade data analysis for academics from Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. A workshop on trade policy and negotiations and another on international trade logistics were offered to staff at the University of Mauritius. Academics from Cairo University, the University of Nairobi and Makerere University Business School strengthened their expertise on topical international economic issues by conducting research for the adaptation of VI teaching material on regional trade agreements.

Education

Three short courses were organized in the fall 2009 on international economic issues including biofuels, non-tariff barriers and investor-state dispute settlements in which nineteen delegates attended. In November, UNCTAD organized a training course on Productive Capacities, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction - The Example of Angola - for Angolan government officials in Luanda.

Train for Trade

The UNCTAD Train For Trade programme strengthens the training capacities in LDCs and in African countries in particular. Activities have continued in Angola. A workshop on "Productive Capacities, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction for LDCs with the example of Angola" for forty Angolan officials was held in November. In 2009, a joint project funded by the French Agency for Development (AFD) and UNCTAD-ITC contributed to Ghana's trade-related capacity development. A training seminar for twenty-three participants was held in Benin in September.

ICT

In the area of ICT policies and strategies, UNCTAD helps African countries create a favourable environment for e-commerce and e-business. UNCTAD continued in 2009 to assist governments of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda) in harmonizing their cyber laws. UNCTAD, together with UNECA, organized two training courses on measuring ICT in Addis and in Rabat. UNCTAD launched its first ICT Policy Review for Egypt. In addition, UNCTAD's Information Economy Report 2009 was officially launched.

Infrastructure

A train-the-trainer course was delivered in Dakar supported by the Government of Greece. Two trainings of technical tutors were conducted in Conakry, Guinea, in August and in Djibouti in

October 2009. Train for Trade Port Training Network continued to implement programmes and delivered new cycles of the “modern Port Management.” Two seminars were also organized in September course and delivered courses in both Tanzania and Ghana.

Trade Logistics

2009 Review of Maritime Transport examined transport related developments in Africa since 2006. The Annual Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) in November examined recent progress and future prospects for closer cooperation between African regional development partners and international organizations. UNCTAD contributed to the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of LDCs in Swaziland (October).

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

In 2009, a training session was held in Tunisia on cyber security with fifteen participants from African countries. STI policy (STIP) reviews for Ghana, Lesotho and Mauritania will be published in early 2010. UNCTAD's "Technology and Innovation Report" focusing on STI in African agriculture, will be published early in 2010. UNCTAD's Network of Centres of Excellence targets capacity building in Africa.

Tourism and Environment

UNCTAD provided assistance to the account project on "Strengthening SMEs Competitiveness in the Tourism Sector of Six African Developing Countries of the ECOWAS Sub-Region." Four high-level briefing sessions and national workshops were carried out. The Train for Trade/e-Tourism project held a workshop on "Tourism for Development" in Possotome, Benin. Burkina Faso has established a committee to strengthen public-private partnership.

Building up positive synergies between trade, environment and development

UNCTAD supported African countries in their participation in the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Support was also provided to the African and East African Organic Conferences in May and to several Africa countries in building up their organic agriculture policies. UNCTAD continue to assist Uganda in developing its biotrade opportunities.