Introduction to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTAD

29 September 2014

Overview

- What is UNCTAD
- Brief history of UNCTAD
- Three pillars of work (functional)
- Main areas of work (programmatic)
- Technical Cooperation
- Differences with WTO and ITC
- UNCTAD Publications
What is UNCTAD:

- “Focal point for the UN system on the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development.”

- Established in 1964 as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly

Main Achievements 1964-2013:

- The reasons behind its foundation

- 1960s and 1970s
  - The New International Economic Order
  - The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)
  - International Commodity Agreements
  - Code of Conduct on Restrictive Business Practices (RBPs)

- 1980s
  - Transformation in economic thinking
  - Economic interdependence and macro-economic management

- 1990s – today
  - Key developments in the international economic agenda
  - Expanded work on international investment issues
UNCTAD’s 3 pillars of work:

- **Research and analysis**
  (beyond “conventional wisdom”)

- **Intergovernmental machinery**
  (Trade and Development Board, quadrennial Conferences)

- **Technical cooperation**

Main areas of UNCTAD work

- Trade policies, trade negotiations and integration of developing countries in the multilateral trading system

- Investment policies and investment promotion and enterprise development

- Trade support services, logistics and trade facilities

- Globalization, Interdependence and Development

- Africa, Least Developed Countries and special programmes
International Trade and Commodities

- Capacity building in international trade negotiations
- Capacity building in the areas of services
- Assistance on issues related to market access, preferential treatment including the GSP
- Policies and strategies in the commodity area
- Trade, environment and development
- Competition law and policies
- Dissemination of trade data – the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAiNS)

INVESTMENT & ENTERPRISE

- Capacity building for International Investment Agreements (IIAs)
- Investment policy reviews
- Investment Guides for LDCs
- Enterprise development – the EMPRETEC Programme
- E.regulations Programme for business facilitation
TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND TRADE LOGISTICS

- Trade facilitation
- Shipping and port management
- Modernization of customs – the ASYCUDA Programme
- Electronic Commerce

GLOBALIZATION, INTERDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- contributes to the international debate on globalization
- promotes policies conducive to stable economic growth and sustainable development
- examines the trends and prospects in the world economy
AFRICA, LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

- focus on the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries in the world
- aims to increase understanding and awareness of the development problems of Africa and the least developed countries
- promote action to support their development and enhance their participation in the world economy

Technical Cooperation

- Over fifty programmes
  - ASYCUDA
  - DMFAS – Debt management
- Forms of delivery
- Annual delivery
- Contributions
UNCTAD differences with...

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO):
  - UNCTAD is not a trade negotiating forum
  - UNCTAD focuses on the development aspects of trade

- The International Trade Center (ITC):
  - ITC aims at export development through the assistance to enterprises
  - UNCTAD mainly assists Governments

Main UNCTAD publications

UNCTAD Flagship Reports:
- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- LDCs Report
- Economic Development in Africa Report
- Information Economy Report and E-commerce and Development Report
- Review of Maritime Transport
- Technology and Innovation Report

all available on UNCTAD website:
www.unctad.org
Thank you!

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