UNCTAD is the United Nations body responsible for trade and interrelated development issues, serving governments and enhancing dialogue among stakeholders towards achieving prosperity for all.

UNCTAD makes policy recommendations on trade, finance, investment and technology, based on development-focused research and analysis.

As an intergovernmental forum, UNCTAD provides a platform where countries can debate and build consensus on policies best suited for overcoming economic disparities and generating people-centred sustainable development.

UNCTAD is committed to helping developing countries reach international development goals.

UNCTAD delivers tailor-made technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and helps them to build the capacities they need for fair integration into the world economy and for improving the well-being of their citizens.

**AREAS OF WORK**

**Globalization and development**

UNCTAD’s programme on globalization, interdependence and development contributes to international debate on management of the consequences of globalization for developing countries. This programme promotes macroeconomic policies at national, regional and international levels that are conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction. It maintains UNCTAD’s statistical database, examines economic trends and prospects, and undertakes studies of successful development strategies. The programme also carries out analysis of debt issues affecting developing countries and provides them with technical support in their efforts to manage external debt. And it provides assistance to the Palestinian people in support of their economic development.

**Trade and commodities**

UNCTAD’s programmes on international trade promote development through international trade; provide analysis and data to improve understanding of current and perspective issues in international trade; support the participation of developing countries in international trade negotiations and trade agreements; strengthen service sectors in developing countries; promote the integration of trade, environment and sustainable development; analyse issues related to competition law and policy and consumer protection; and enhance the contribution of the commodity sector to development, through diversification and risk management.
BASIC FACTS

HEADQUARTERS
Geneva, Switzerland

CREATION
Established in 1964 as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP
194 member States

SECRETARIAT
400 staff members

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand) since September 2005.

DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL
Petko Draganov (Bulgaria) since May 2009.

BUDGET
UNCTAD has an annual regular budget of approximately US$68 million from the United Nations and US$30 million in extrabudgetary technical assistance funds.

Investment and enterprise

UNCTAD’s Division on Investment and Enterprise provides expertise, on issues related to investment and enterprise for sustainable development, in research and policy analysis, intergovernmental consensus-building, and technical assistance to over 150 countries. Its flagship products are the “three Ws”: the annual World Investment Report, the biennial World Investment Forum, and the interactive World Investment Network which has over 9,000 members. The Division also produces Investment Policy Reviews, the Issues in International Investment Agreements series, the Global Investment Trends Monitor, the Investment Policy Monitor, FDI/TNC databases, the Transnational Corporation Journal, and Investment Facilitation Compacts. It is active in the fields of international accounting standards, corporate governance, and entrepreneurship development.

Least Developed Countries and Africa

The Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes collaborates with more than 80 countries in different special categories to improve their development prospects, particularly through productive capacity-building.

The Division also works to enable effective participation by least developed countries in the global economy.

It provides timely, targeted research and analysis and innovative policy recommendations on issues relevant to these subjects.

Technology and logistics

Through policy research and capacity-building, the Division on Technology and Logistics supports the economic development and competitiveness of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in a knowledge-driven and globalized world economy. Its activities seek to increase access to knowledge and technology – including information and communication technologies – and to foster innovation in developing countries, including by helping them to design and implement technology and innovation policies for economic growth and sustainable development.

The Division also carries out a large work programme aimed at developing efficient trade logistics services in transport, trade facilitation, and customs.