

## **UNCTAD: A partner in delivering Financing for Sustainable Development**

UNCTAD actions and activities that contribute in fulfilment of each para of the Zero draft of the outcome document of the third Conference on Financing for Development.

Para. 8           As part of UNCTAD's research and analysis, the LDC Report 2015 will focus on ways and means to foster rural development in LDCs. This is seen as necessary given the predominance of the rural population in the LDCs, the importance of agriculture in employment, production and exports and the historical role of agriculture in economic transformation. The report will also look at the type of rural structural transformation required for sustainable rural poverty eradication. For this to occur, resource mobilization is needed from credit markets, rural/agricultural development banks, public investment, aid, improved aid practices, among others.

Para. 13           Same comment as para 8.

UNCTAD has undertaken research on "Sustainable freight transport development and finance", included in the Review of Maritime Transport 2012.

UNCTAD co-authored a substantive report entitled "Closing the distance: partnerships for sustainable and resilient transport systems in SIDS" (soon to be published). An advance copy was presented by the Secretary-General as an UNCTAD contribution to the Samoa Conference.

UNCTAD's new technical assistance activities also involves building capacities of developing countries and providing advisory services to enable a reorientation towards sustain

the creation of sustainable small- and medium-

- Para 38: UNCTAD's i-guides and other investment promotion work is geared towards helping Small Vulnerable Economies(SVEs), LDCs, and LLDCs attract more and benefit better from foreign investment. UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development is designed to help governments develop regulatory systems that align business incentives with sustainable development.
- Para 39: UNCTAD has a number of initiatives on responsible and sustainable investment, including our Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative (SSE), Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI) and International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) which provides an accounting tool for assessing impact. On a more general level, UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD) is designed to help governments develop and implement investment policies that are geared towards sustainable development.
- Para 40: ISAR works on sustainability reporting. [NOTE: the word "integrated" in the second sentence of this paragraph could be construed as favouring the Integrated Reporting Committee over as reporting initiatives, such as Global Reporting Initiative. Hence it should be deleted.]
- Para 42: Cf para 18, UNCTAD's work on gender and Transnational corporations (TNCs).
- Para 43: For entrepreneurs in low-income countries, the availability of alternative financial services such as mobile money or mobile banking can make it easier and more secure to receive money from family and friends or to save. UNCTAD's research and technical assistance in this area can be of use. UNCTAD's work on e-commerce and Law reform covers, among other things, consumer protection and e-transaction laws. UNCTAD can offer technical assistance in this area.
- Para 44: UNCTAD can contribute in the context of exploring how information and communication technologies (mobile and digital solutions) can enhance competition and inclusion of international remittances, and to bring down the costs. UNCTAD held a special event on this issue at the occasion of UNCTAD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014.
- Para 46: UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework provides guidance and best policy practices for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) financing.  
See comment on para. 8.
- Para 48: Investment promotion is one of UNCTAD's central platforms, including through its

LDCs in investment promotion, investment treaty negotiation, and investment dispute resolution mechanisms and strategies.

Para 50: World Investment Report 2014 provided a full analysis of investment gaps, as well as sources of financing to bridge these gaps.

Para 51: Private sector investment to meet challenge of the investment gap for SDGs analysed in World Investment Report 2014, including incentive structures, SDG-orientated investment policies etc.

Para 52: Blended/hybrid finance analysed and concrete options presented in World Investment Report 2014. Further elaborated in the World Investment Forum and continues as a major area of work.

Para 53: UNCTAD contributes to the G20 work on infrastructure.

### **C. International Public Finance**

### **D. International trade for sustainable development**

Para 73: All of the activities undertaken by UNCTAD would fit into this. For example, Trade Policy assessments and support to the countries; Service Policy Reviews, National Green Exports Review; Competition Policy Reviews.

Para 74: UNCTAD are also working to on mapping the scope of certain Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) to highlight the WTO+: areas already covered by the WTO Agreement; and WTO-X: new areas, 'beyond the WTO' provisions.

Para 75: UNCTAD are supporting developing countries and LDCs in their regional integration efforts, such as the project to boost intra-Africa trade and the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations.

UNCTAD also provide a database-cum-

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Para. 84 UNCTAD, represented by the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, is an active member of the Task Force on Finance Statistics and could play an important, even leading, role in the creation of a central data repository.

Para. 85 See comment on para. 35.

UNCTAD's Principles on responsible lending and borrowing as reflected in the text are currently applied by a large number of developing countries. UNCTAD provides assistance to countries in the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Sovereign and Lending Practices after they have been adopted by countries.

Para. 87 UNCTAD has an observer status in the Paris Club, and regularly provides analysis of the restructuring Terms applied by creditors and issues proposals for improvements of debt treatment of developing countries.

Para. 87 UNCTAD's work on a Roadmap and Guide to Sovereign Debt Workouts is contributing to a deeper understanding of the challenges involved and providing practical steps for moving forward.

Para. 88 Through our work on promoting the dissemination of Principles on Responsible Lending and Borrowing, UNCTAD can assist more countries in adopting legislative steps, also in line with have already been taken in Belgium and the UK.

Para. 89 As noted in para 87, UNCTAD closely monitors and reports upon developments pertaining to the debt of developing countries, including the ongoing litigation against  
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This is an area where UNCTAD has done extensive research and analysis as published in Trade and Development Reports, G24 Discussion Papers, etc. UNCTAD will continue to examine all areas that fall under the heading of systemic issues.

### **G. Technology, Innovation and Capacity-Building (103-114)**

Para 103: UNCTAD undertakes reviews of national Science, Technology and Innovation policies in order to help developing countries build national Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) capacity and implement effective STI policies for sustainable development, and hosts intergovernmental meetings on STI aimed at sharing experiences on STI policy issues. UNCTAD also undertake selected training and capacity building exercises on STI policy in developing countries. UNCTAD can also offer both analysis and technical assistance to countries interested in better harnessing ICTs for trade, entrepreneurship and economic development. UNCTAD's flagship report series on the topic, the Technology and



framework on technology and innovation for mutually beneficial alliances amongst developing countries.

Para 112: UNCTAD is collaborating with other UN and international organizations on discussions