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**Review of the draft UNCTAD programme plan and
performance information for the year 2022,
part II of the proposed programme budget**

Draft UNCTAD programme plan and performance information for the year 2022, part II of the proposed programme budget¹

¹ This document has not been formally edited.



Foreword

Trusted with the responsibility of promoting an inclusive global economy, giving priority consideration to the needs and interests of developing countries, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continues to implement its work programme to advance trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD, through its three pillars of work – research and policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation – effectively contributes to supporting member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets set in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and supports developing countries in their response and recovery to the trade and development challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has gravely wounded the world economy, with serious consequences for trade and development. Moving rapidly across borders along the principal arteries of the global economy, the spread of the virus has benefited from the underlying interconnectedness, and frailties, of globalization, catapulting a global health crisis into a global economic shock that has hit the most vulnerable the hardest. COVID-19 is accelerating trends already building since the global financial crisis in trade, investment and technological change. It is magnifying some obstacles, but also opening up new opportunities for trade and development. Since the virus first began to spread and the potential repercussions for development became apparent, we at the UNCTAD secretariat have been closely monitoring the effects of the global pandemic with an eye to supporting a “better recovery” from the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic. In pursuit of such a better recovery, our intergovernmental deliberations, research and analysis products and technical cooperation activities are helping countries to reshape global production networks and reset multilateral cooperation for the better, with an eye to accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is our hope that this better recovery can sow the seeds of a healthier, fairer and greener globalization that can be nourished by a more resilient approach to multilateralism.

Going into 2022, I am committed to supporting the organization in its implementation of the outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development through addressing the trade and development challenges of all developing countries across all regions. UNCTAD will continue to promote synergies and complementarities with other international organizations and work with relevant international economic cooperation forums in the areas of its mandate with the aim of addressing persistent and emerging economic and development issues.

(Signed) Mukhisa Kituyi

Secretary-General

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

1. UNCTAD is responsible for assisting developing countries, as reflected in paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, and economies in transition in integrating beneficially into the global economy in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. UNCTAD was established to promote an inclusive global economy by informing national and international policies while giving due consideration to the needs and interests of developing countries. As stated in the Nairobi Maafikiano, “the important role of UNCTAD will be strengthened as the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development”. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including the quadrennial sessions of UNCTAD, in particular the principal functions of the Conference outlined in section II, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX). In the face of a complex set of trade and development challenges, UNCTAD has been called upon to focus its resources to help developing countries build productive capacities, address widening technological and digital divides, ensure sound macroeconomic management and advise Governments on financing for development, addressing illicit financial flows and providing technical assistance on debt issues. UNCTAD support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development will also continue to be provided through the implementation of the regular programme of technical cooperation and United Nations Development Account projects.

Strategy and external factors for 2022

2. In order to achieve its objectives, UNCTAD works through three interrelated pillars: (a) it conducts high-quality and evidence-based research and policy analysis that feed national, regional and international policies with the aim of generating inclusive and sustainable development under the principle of leaving no one behind; (b) it provides technical cooperation based on such analysis to all developing countries, with a particular focus on the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, other structurally weak and vulnerable, small economies, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; and (c) it brings member States together through its intergovernmental machinery to build consensus on policies that allow developing countries to maximize the opportunities of globalization and economic integration, as well as to address cross-cutting economic, social and environmental challenges.

3. In the context of deepening interdependence among all countries, UNCTAD will maintain its unique orientation and commitment to development through the three pillars, while remaining responsive and accountable to all member States. UNCTAD addresses interrelated issues essential to all countries to attain sustainable and equitable growth and development and this requires extensive cross-fertilization and cooperation across UNCTAD subprogrammes on areas such as South–South cooperation, investment and the digital economy, with due consideration to the increasing impact of these subjects on global trade and development.

4. UNCTAD will continue to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the interrelationship between sustainable development and trade, finance, investment and technology is recognized. UNCTAD is also custodian of eight Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the global level and actively contributes to the monitoring and implementation of a wide range of Goals, with its main contributions to Goals 8, 9, 10 and 17, and with important contributions to Goals 2, 5, 12, 15 and 16. In addition, UNCTAD will continue to

contribute to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, supporting monitoring and follow-up to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UNCTAD subprogramme activities are also aligned with other relevant agendas, including the agreed outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcomes and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, along with the results of the twenty-fifth and previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

5. Along with the global agendas, UNCTAD will strive in particular to ensure the implementation of mandates resulting from and reinforced by the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in 2021 in Bridgetown, Barbados, which will be an important moment for member States to come together to discuss recent developments and long-term trends in the area of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and to take stock of the achievements, and the shortfalls, of the first half-decade of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Enhancing its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, UNCTAD has strengthened its systems for planning, monitoring and evaluation over the last four years. It will continue efforts to build a culture of results-based management across the organization, through training and guidance, and will increase internal capacity for collecting and reporting data on results.

7. For 2022, while the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UNCTAD programme of work and associated deliverables remain unclear, the UNCTAD planned deliverables and activities reflect the likely ongoing challenges faced by member States related to COVID-19. Such planned deliverables and activities include supporting debt sustainability in developing countries, exploring novel approaches to liquidity support for developing countries, measuring and combating illicit financial flows to increase fiscal space in developing countries, adjusting investment policies, investment facilitation efforts and international investment agreements in light of the changing global production networks catalysed by the pandemic, supporting entrepreneurs including women and marginalized groups that have suffered from lockdowns and the economic crisis, supporting trade policies, trade and environment policies and competition policies in response to the pandemic, helping to make trade facilitation, maritime shipping, customs authorities and transport networks more resilient to the effects of the pandemic, supporting the digital readiness of developing countries with an eye to bridging the widening digital divides that have been further exacerbated and highlighted by the pandemic and supporting the building of productive capacities in LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, other structurally weak and vulnerable, small economies, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Specific examples of such planned deliverables and activities are provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Support to member States on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to contribute to planned results in 2022, as described under the subprogrammes.

8. With regard to external factors, the overall plan for 2022 is based on the following planning assumptions:

(a) Up-to-date and accurate economic and financial information and data at the country and regional levels continue to be available and cooperation continues with relevant entities on the production of statistics;

(b) Extrabudgetary funding continues to be available for technical cooperation programmes and conditions and capacities exist in member States to adopt and implement policies and strategies;

(c) There is political will to achieve consensus in intergovernmental meetings;

(d) There is an agreed outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Bridgetown in 2021, that reaffirms the existing work programme and there is an agreed outcome of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

(e) The outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which is to take place in Doha in January 2022, will be as agreed.

9. With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme plan is based on the assumption that the proposed deliverables and activities in 2022 will be feasible to implement and will be in line with the outcome of the 15th session of UNCTAD. However, if the pandemic continues to further impact the planned deliverables and activities, these would be adjusted in 2022 within the scope of the overall objectives, strategies and mandates. Any such adjustments would be reported as part of the programme performance information.

10. UNCTAD integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate and in line with its mandate and gender mainstreaming strategy. In 2022, UNCTAD will continue to strengthen the capacity of member States to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit from the opportunities arising from international trade. In the context of the pandemic, UNCTAD has been active in analysing the gender impact of the pandemic and advocating for policy responses that are not gender-blind as, otherwise, the pandemic risks reversing decades of progress on gender equality. Namely, UNCTAD has produced publications on issues related to COVID-19 gender-equal responses to save economies; women working in tourism industries at risk in small island developing States; the future for women, small-scale and informal cross-border traders when borders close; and how to leverage digital solutions to seize the potential of informal cross-border trade. Furthermore, UNCTAD will continue to provide policy support to member States through analytical work that includes country and regional studies on the gender impact of trade liberalization and regional integration. Recent work in this area included analysis on trade and gender in Central America and on the trade and gender nexus in LDCs, which will serve as a basis for new online courses on trade and gender, which have to date reached more than 1,200 participants from 145 countries. UNCTAD will also continue its pioneering work on trade and gender statistics and measuring the different ways that women and men experience the impacts of trade. Based on the framework it has developed, UNCTAD will provide practical guidance to member States on how to compile the necessary statistics that allow a full picture of the gender impact of trade to be obtained. The internal statistics coordination task force will enhance the availability and quality of statistics to help policymakers develop gender-responsive and inclusive trade and development policies.

11. With regard to cooperation with other entities, UNCTAD will continue to combine its expertise with the reach and in-country presence of partners in order to maximize the impact provided to beneficiaries. UNCTAD is actively engaged with the United Nations development system reform process including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Task Team on Financing for Development and the Group of Friends of Financing the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD also serves as reviewer for Sustainable Development Goals fund projects and supports integrated national financing frameworks and is also part of a task team on enhanced collaboration with eight resident coordinator offices to develop clear entry points and mechanisms for the agile, effective and efficient

engagement of UNCTAD and other non-resident agencies and specialized agencies at the country level. UNCTAD has also advocated for a stronger engagement of non-resident agencies in COVID-19 response mechanisms so that the organization's expertise can more quickly turn into solutions at the country level. In addition, UNCTAD has concluded partnership agreements with various international organizations and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and private sector entities. It will continue to enhance partnership mechanisms with the private sector by enhancing its due diligence guidelines, drawing from experiences of the United Nations Global Compact.

12. With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, UNCTAD participates actively in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies. As one of the five major institutional stakeholders of the Financing for Development follow-up process, UNCTAD is leading inter-agency dialogue on monitoring of and accountability of the means for the implementation of targets through the dedicated follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitments, with a particular focus on its trade, finance, investment and technology dimensions. UNCTAD contributes to the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, supporting monitoring of and follow-up to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, UNCTAD continues to lead the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in "Delivering as one" operational activities at the country level, in collaboration with 14 other entities. UNCTAD is also part of the steering committee for the multi-partner trust fund for the socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and actively contributes to the United Nations network of economists, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals task team on COVID response and the digital finance task force. UNCTAD is also one of the lead agencies of the Group of Friends of Financing the Sustainable Development Goals financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond initiative, led by Canada and Jamaica, and is leading the cluster on finance and technology. In response to the call for action by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to tackle the many socioeconomic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis, UNCTAD further intensified cooperation with other United Nations entities to provide a coherent response to the pandemic. For instance, UNCTAD and WHO are collaborating on a three-year project to respond to the urgent call to boost the local production of essential medicines in developing countries. UNCTAD also joined forces with the five United Nations regional commissions in a new United Nations joint project to help developing countries deal with trade and transport challenges from the pandemic and facilitate the flow of goods and services, while containing the spread of the coronavirus. In addition, UNCTAD, with other United Nations organizations and agencies (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA ICAO, IMO), urged Governments to take a risk-based approach to restoring maritime, air and inland connectivity with minimal restrictions, by signing a joint statement stressing that international transport and integrated supply chains are critical in recovering from the pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Together with ITC and WTO, UNCTAD rolled out a revamped global trade help desk to support firms, in particular smaller businesses, in a post-pandemic world, allowing MSMEs to easily access pandemic-related trade information from various international agencies, including updates about temporary import and export restrictions.

Impact of COVID-19 on programme delivery in 2020

13. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the planned deliverables and activities of UNCTAD. This impact included changing the approach and the format of certain planned meetings and activities from in-person to virtual and postponement of others to after 2020. Specific examples of this impact included, most importantly, the postponement of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including its preparatory meetings and related publications. Other pandemic-related postponements to 2021 included the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, the sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission, the World Investment Forum and its related meetings and the session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development. A number of capacity-building events, including some courses on key issues

on the international economic agenda (paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action), that could not be organized virtually, were also postponed to 2021. These and other specific examples of impacts and examples of meetings postponed to 2021 are provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

14. On the other hand, to engage with member States and a broad range of audiences to debate and discuss the impact of the pandemic, UNCTAD was able to quickly adapt its working methods and changed its approach by moving to online platforms. Despite the pandemic, UNCTAD was able to use its convening power and organize over 120 webinar sessions to bring various stakeholders to debate, exchange experiences, identify best practices and develop global standards with regard to the most pressing issues. Virtual eWeek 2020 attracted over 2,000 participants from 134 countries from civil society, academia, the scientific community and the technology industry to forge closer partnerships with the private sector and thereby build capacity and provide the necessary tools for the transformation of the digital economy, particularly in light of the heightened importance of digitalization due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the change in approach and necessary adjustments, Bureau meetings of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and eCommerce week, as well as many other thematic expert meetings and webinars, covering a broad range of issues, such as investment promotion, competition policy and consumer protection and biotrade were all organized virtually. The oceans economy event was replaced by a webinar organized with partners on World Oceans Day. These and other examples of such changes in approach are also provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The change in approach and the postponement or even cancellation of some planned deliverables and activities also had an impact on the expected results for 2020, as described in the programme performance under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

15. At the same time, however, some planned deliverables and activities were modified and some new activities were identified in 2020, within the overall scope of the subprogrammes objectives, in order to support member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such modifications and new activities included a spectrum of activities covering all three pillars of the work of UNCTAD, namely, research and policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. Since the start of the pandemic, UNCTAD has been closely monitoring its effects on manufacturing, trade, foreign direct investment and economic growth. UNCTAD research and analysis, as part of the organization's rapid responses to the pandemic, has contributed to analysing and understanding the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and providing policy recommendations for a "better recovery". Since the start of the pandemic, UNCTAD has published more than 75 analytical publications, commentaries and news items on COVID-19. Moreover, UNCTAD analytical work showing the need for debt relief, increased global liquidity and a global health Marshall Plan for developing countries has also provided intellectual leadership to the United Nations FFD in the era of COVID-19 and beyond high-level events organized by the entire United Nations system under the leadership of Canada and Jamaica throughout 2020. This ahead-of-the-curve intellectual leadership has resulted in UNCTAD co-chairing two of the six discussion groups convened under this initiative, namely the groups on external financing and debt sustainability, and the organization has been mandated to conduct follow-up work. Furthermore, the UNCTAD report *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal*, published in November 2020, benchmarked the expectations of UNCTAD for what a better recovery should constitute, by providing a road map for recovery that requires an overdue and opportune shift in the structure of global trade and cooperation. In the area of technical cooperation and capacity-building, UNCTAD has adapted to the priorities of different countries in their responses to the pandemic and also their recovery plans, by identifying mitigation and recovery-related UNCTAD programmes that can help to address critical challenges during the pandemic. From its work on the ground, the organization has also gathered best practices, standard operating procedures, manuals and other resources that countries can use to limit the economic damage from the pandemic and keep essential services running. Specific examples of such modified and new activities are provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. UNCTAD, as one of 15 United Nations entities, has also played a critical role in the drafting of the United Nations framework for the immediate

socioeconomic response to COVID-19 and is a member of the advisory committee of the multi-partner trust fund to combat COVID-19, playing an important role in designing and monitoring the fund. All of the above mentioned modified and new deliverables and activities contributed to results in 2020, as described in the programme performance under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Liquidity constraints

16. Liquidity constraints also had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the programme. This impact included delays in delivering research and analysis pieces for the benefit of developing countries, declining or downgrading numerous requests for technical cooperation and a deterioration in the quality of the expert meetings and their topical discussions due to the inability to ensure the participation of representatives from developing countries. Thus, in the area of research and policy analysis, available resources had to be redeployed to prioritize the delivery of the organization's flagship reports, as well as other recurrent publications, while a number of other studies of high relevance for policymaking, in particular for developing countries, were delayed or postponed. Furthermore, the liquidity constraints have impacted the ability of UNCTAD to effectively disseminate on the ground findings and policy recommendations originating from its flagship reports and have thus limited the access and targeted assistance that the organization has been providing to beneficiary countries. Although the organization has increased its online trainings, advisory services and remote technical assistance, some countries with less-than-optimal infrastructure facilities have not adequately benefited from them. Specific examples of the impact are provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Legislative mandates

17. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

1995 (XIX)	Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly
63/204	Report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
63/303	Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development
66/288	The future we want
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
68/219	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
72/234	Women in development
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

73/241	International migration and development
73/243	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
73/245	Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection
73/246	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
73/291	Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation
74/200	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
74/201	International trade and development
74/202	International financial system and development
74/207	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
74/239	South–South cooperation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reports

TD/442 , TD/442/Corr.1 and TD/442/Corr.2	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its twelfth session
TD/500/Add.1	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its thirteenth session: The Doha Mandate
TD/519/Add.2	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its fourteenth session: Nairobi Maafikiano

Deliverables

18. Table 1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory.

Table 1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	9	9	10	10
1. Documents and conference room papers prepared for the Trade and Development Board	1	1	1	1
2. Reports on the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the areas of UNCTAD expertise	1	1	1	1
3. Reports on matters requiring action by the Trade and Development Board in relation to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	1	1	1	1
4. Conference room papers or working papers prepared for the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	4	4	4	4

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
5. Overview of the external evaluations of UNCTAD programmes and projects: Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD	1	1	1	1
6. Synthesis of the five subprogramme evaluations and update on the status of implementation of recommendations	-	-	-	-
7. Report on the external evaluation of an UNCTAD subprogramme	-	-	1	1
8. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing: Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	28	71	104	104
9. Meetings of the Trade and Development Board, including annual, special and executive sessions of the Board and its subsidiary bodies	26	59	92	92
10. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	12	12	12
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	9	24	9	24
11. Ad hoc expert discussions to generate and transfer knowledge on topics to be determined by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with member States	3	3	3	3
12. Public symposium with civil society and member States to generate and transfer knowledge in connection with the work programme of UNCTAD, subject to further consideration and decision by the Trade and Development Board	1	2	1	2
13. Raúl Prebisch lecture to transfer knowledge on topical trade and development issues	1	1	1	1
14. Geneva multi-stakeholder dialogues to share and transfer knowledge on topical international trade and development issues	1	1	1	1
15. High-level events with UNCTAD special advisers and advocates to contribute to transferring knowledge	1	2	1	2
16. Cabinet meeting to share and transfer knowledge and coordination of national development strategies oriented towards sustainable development	1	1	1	1
17. Civil society and youth networking events to share and transfer knowledge, including online networking discussions	1	14	1	14
Technical materials (number of materials)	12	7	9	11
18. Policy briefs on trade and development issues to generate and transfer knowledge	1	0	0	0
19. Reports on evaluations of United Nations Development Account projects and of external evaluations required by contribution agreements	10	4	8	8
20. Secretary-General opinion pieces	1	3	1	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD annual report, UNCTAD civil society database and civil society electronic alerts and Youth Network, reaching an audience of 37,522 people at the corporate level				

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
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D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: UNCTAD at a Glance; two outreach programmes; four special events; 45 civil society outreach activities; 254 regional outreach materials; press kits, media briefs and flyers for flagship publications; news briefs and opinion pieces; public information materials on UNCTAD (including brochures, posters and folders); and specialized information sessions for students, 6,000 delegates, academics and youth visiting UNCTAD and, upon request, in other locations, including online outreach

External and media relations: Press conferences, including by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General; press releases and information notes about UNCTAD; and web-based news briefs

Digital platforms and multimedia content: UNCTAD website and its pages and social media applications containing information about UNCTAD, meetings and events, documents, publications, including policy briefs, blogs, reviews and reports and press and public information materials, including information on evaluation and podcasts, attracting 2 million visitors per year, with 5.4 million page views

Evaluation activities

19. The following evaluations completed in 2020 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2022:

- (a) Informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- (b) Fostering the development of green exports through voluntary sustainability standards in Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security;
- (d) Strengthening statistics on international trade in services for countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

20. Overall, all the evaluations found UNCTAD interventions to be relevant to the needs of beneficiary countries and fully consistent with the UNCTAD mandate. In addition, the comparative advantage of UNCTAD in the areas of work evaluated were validated. Regarding outcomes and effectiveness, the evaluations found that UNCTAD had contributed to enhancing the technical knowledge, awareness and capacity of participating policymakers and practitioners on a variety of topics covered by the evaluations. For example, one evaluation found strong evidence that women informal cross-border traders who participated in UNCTAD micro-level schemes acquired new knowledge and that they would use their new skills towards constructive ends. In particular, the evaluation noted that the combination of skill sets targeted created mutually reinforcing gains so that the women cross-border traders now had skills to accumulate profits and save, allowing them to diversify, expand or invest in value-adding elements and thereby move closer to the formal economy. Another example was identified in the evaluation of support from UNCTAD in strengthening the statistical technical capacity of member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, which observed that results included the development and use of a harmonized questionnaire on trade in services, contributing towards improving the quality and harmonization of statistics on international trade in services in the region.

21. Evaluation at UNCTAD is not only an accountability tool but an important instrument for learning and decision-making. Evaluations have contributed towards strengthening UNCTAD subprogrammes, and the secretariat is looking into how the feedback loop can be further strengthened. Examples of the use of evaluations include the following: (a) the design of science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews reflects changes based on prior evaluations of projects on building STI capacities in developing countries. In particular, in line with the recommendations from the evaluations, the methodology for the STIP reviews was revised and each review now also includes the

development of an action plan and the identification of capacity-building actions required, which provides pragmatic steps forward following each STIP review; (b) following the evaluation of an intervention on investment promotion, the active involvement of private sector entities and outward investment agencies is now solicited under a follow-up intervention, in alignment with a recommendation from the evaluation; and (c) following recurrent recommendations from a number of evaluations to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the work of UNCTAD, the ICT Policy Section under subprogramme 4 has added three gender specific indicators related to eTrade for Women in their results framework and, in an increasing number of projects, a gender analysis is conducted, and gender-sensitive indicators included in the project design.

22. The following evaluations are planned for 2022:

- (a) Evaluation of subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development;
- (b) Evaluation of subprogramme 2: Investment and enterprise (to be presented in 2023);
- (c) Eight evaluations of completed projects.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1 Globalization, interdependence and development

Objective

23. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance inclusive and sustainable development, sustained growth, full employment and decent work for all through evidence-based economic policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels and to achieve progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, as well as poverty eradication in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including through North–South cooperation, complemented but not substituted by South–South and triangular cooperation.

Strategy

Planned activities

24. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to identify specific needs and measures arising from the interdependence of trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies, from the point of view of their effects on development through its three pillars, namely research and policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. The subprogramme also plans to support developing countries in their efforts to formulate development strategies and practical policy options and recommendations at all levels, which will help member States meet the challenges of globalization and of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The subprogramme will continue to provide high-quality and timely statistics, which will support the efforts of developing countries to develop their national statistical systems by providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes. Furthermore, the subprogramme will continue to promote stronger cooperation at all levels of the interplay between successful development finance strategies, debt sustainability and effective debt management, including through the provision of important contributions on debt and debt sustainability and on addressing systemic issues for the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. The subprogramme will also focus on the challenges to short and long-term debt sustainability in developing countries and on sustainable domestic and international financial resource mobilization for development, which will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Goals 16 and 17 and facilitate progress on debt and development finance issues. In addition, the subprogramme will provide technical assistance, training and support for developing countries. In addition, the subprogramme will continue to undertake research and analysis on trends and prospects for closer cooperation and integration among developing countries. The subprogramme will also provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices, training and support for developing countries.

25. In responding to the mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolutions 74/10, on the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and 74/117, on assistance to the Palestinian people, the subprogramme will continue to provide advisory services and research and analysis to support the Palestinian people, in line with paragraph 55(dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

26. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by continuing its work, through its three pillars, on identifying how the international financial architecture can work for development, including on issues of debt, and analysing specific ways in which South–South cooperation can promote post-pandemic recovery and build resilience in developing countries.

Expected results

27. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in: (a) a better understanding of the coherence between international economic rules, practices and processes and national policies and development strategies; (b) strengthened linkages between economic and development policies and decision-making and improvements in the compilation and dissemination of the official statistics of member States; (c) strengthened national capacities for effective debt management; and (d) an increase in the understanding of developing countries of the global economic environment and of policy choices for inclusive and sustained development. The planned support on pandemic-related issues is expected to result in increased understanding at the international level of the needs of developing countries, in particular on debt issues, for allowing them to reach growth levels conducive to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and enhanced South–South cooperation through provision to developing countries, with policy tools for dealing with the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020

28. Owing to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the subprogramme cancelled training activities for developing country policymakers held every year in Wuhan, China. Furthermore, the subprogramme's participation in Paris Club meetings was cancelled due to travel restrictions. Due to physical distancing measures, there was a marked drop in interactions with representatives of member States, in both Geneva and New York, the latter being particularly affected due to travel restrictions, such as participation in the High-Level Political Forum on the FFD process in New York and presentation of the reports of the Secretary-General to the Second Committee prior to the adoption of resolutions at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. At the same time, the subprogramme changed its approach and replaced physical meetings with virtual meetings, such as the online launch of the industrialization strategy of Mauritius jointly organized by the subprogramme and the Government of Mauritius. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, scheduled to be held in the last quarter of 2020, was postponed to January 2021. These changes had an impact on programme performance in 2020, as specified under result 2.

29. At the same time, however, the subprogramme identified both new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objectives, including a broad spectrum of deliverables and activities such as policy and technical discussions held with policymakers and think tanks on topics focused on the economic impacts of the pandemic, while modified activities included the change of focus and themes in the subprogramme's research and analysis to address the impact of COVID-19 on developing countries and discussion papers focused on policy responses needed to assist developing countries in coping with the COVID-19 shock. Thus, the subprogramme's *Trade and Development Report 2020* focused on the effects of the pandemic and forecasted a decline of nearly 5 per cent in global growth in 2020. The report also stated that the global economic crisis caused by COVID-19 presents a stark choice to the international community: either continue with misguided policy choices or collectively chart a new path that leads from recovery to a more resilient, more equal and more environmentally sustainable world in line with the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the area of debt and finance, the subprogramme emphasized the escalating debt problem in developing countries and warned that many countries were on the verge of a debt crisis, calling for securing access to financial services for vulnerable people during the pandemic. The subprogramme's analytical work, which showed the need for debt relief, increased global liquidity and a global health Marshall Plan for developing countries, also provided intellectual leadership to the United Nations FFD in the era of COVID-19 and beyond high-level events organized by the United Nations system under the leadership of Canada and Jamaica throughout 2020. The subprogramme's annual online update, UNCTAD SDG [Sustainable Development Goals] Pulse, tracking progress on a range of Sustainable Development Goal indicators showed that poverty, inequality, the climate crisis, unsustainable production and other pressing challenges required even more

urgent action due to COVID-19. The 2020 edition of the “in focus” section of the update looked at COVID-19 from a statistical perspective, examining the measurement challenges associated with the pandemic itself, the different policy actions adopted by Governments and the impact on employment by gender. The new and modified deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under result 1.

Liquidity constraints

30. In 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included substantive delays in the development of the divisional web pages and outreach work, including through the Virtual Institute, the latest online course of which was delayed by several months. Liquidity constraints also prevented the subprogramme from participating in the United Nations Issues-Based Coalition for Africa. In the area of debt and development finance, the subprogramme had to withdraw from participation in preparation and eventual implementation of a Development Account project on integrated national financing frameworks and has seen substantive delays on all but mandated tasks and objectives, e.g. development of financial conditions indicators, a debt sustainability framework, work on UNCTAD principles and sovereign debt restructuring frameworks and analysis in other areas of financing for development. It is important to mention that debt is an area which has seen high levels of demand from member States, in particular with regard to pandemic-related analysis of debt policy issues and initiatives, with several requests for assistance being turned down.

Result 1: Supporting developing countries’ ability to respond to the crisis and to sustain recovery and build resilience by augmenting their policy space in the multilateral system

Programme performance in 2020

31. The world economy experienced a deep recession in 2020 amid a still unchecked pandemic. The cost in terms of lives and livelihoods has already been enormous. What is needed moving forward is a plan for global recovery, one that can return even the most vulnerable countries to a position stronger than before the crisis. Without a change of direction in policy, the next 10 years will be a lost decade for growth, development, employment, the environment and economic and social justice. The subprogramme provided extensive analysis of the development challenges caused by the pandemic in a series of research and analysis pieces, focusing on both the vulnerabilities of developing countries in the face of the pandemic and the economic shock; and necessary immediate response measures, including at the multilateral level, and policy tools for a better recovery. In *Trade and Development Report 2020: From Global Pandemic to Prosperity For All – Avoiding Another Lost Decade* the subprogramme focused on policy mistakes that should be avoided to allow developing countries to regain lost ground due to the pandemic and highlighted that if Governments opted for premature fiscal tightening in an attempt to bring down public debt and businesses adopted an aggressive cost-cutting strategy in an attempt to boost exports, the planned recovery for 2021 would likely fizzle out. The report argued that the threat was of particular concern for developing countries, where a combination of precarious work conditions, high levels of debt distress and insufficient fiscal and policy space limited their options to respond to shocks of any kind, let alone one as serious as the pandemic. The urgent need for increased health spending along with declining tax revenues, combined with a collapse in export earnings and pending debt payments, had exposed a \$2 trillion–3 trillion financing gap in the developing world, which the international community had, to date, failed to address. There was a serious danger that the shortfall would drag developing countries into another lost decade, ending any hope of realizing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report recommended a set of multilateral measures to transform the global crisis into a global recovery, including a Marshall Plan for health recovery funded through increased official development assistance commitments, providing a more dedicated framework for building future resilience. The analysis was complemented by a policy brief titled “Topsy-turvy

world: Net transfer of resources from poor to rich countries” that looked at financial vulnerabilities in developing countries and the limitations they faced in mobilizing domestic financial resources to respond to the pandemic at the required scale; and at the main drivers of the net financial resource transfer to the developed world, including illicit financial flows from developing countries.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

32. The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by its being one of the catalysts for the creation of the United Nations Research Road Map for the COVID-19 Recovery announced in November 2020, aimed at providing support for a better socioeconomic recovery and a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future; and by providing intellectual leadership to the United Nations FFD in the era of COVID-19 and beyond initiative organized by the United Nations system under the leadership of Canada and Jamaica (table 2).

Table 2

Performance measure: Advancement of financing for development issues in international forums based on the work of subprogramme 1

2018	2019	2020
The subprogramme raises the issue of structural problems in the global economy, which represents an important drain on developing country resources	Increased awareness of member States of the continuing imbalances in the global economy provided by the analysis contained in Trade and Development Report 2019 and subprogramme’s analysis warning that the international community must do more to help developing countries meet the Sustainable Development Goals	Increased advancement of financing for development issues in international forums through the launch of the United Nations FFD in the era of COVID-19 and beyond initiative under the leadership of Canada and Jamaica and through the launch of the United Nations Research Road Map for the COVID-19 Recovery, in which the subprogramme’s work has particular relevance for pillar 4: Macroeconomic policies and multilateral collaboration – What lessons from past economic crises can inform the design of national, regional and global recovery strategies?

Result 2: A methodology to measure illicit financial flows – Improving the prospects for sustainable development (reflected in the programme plan for 2020), A/74/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

33. The subprogramme published a conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of illicit financial flows in partnership with UNODC in October 2020. The framework was presented in numerous online forum, including the Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows in November, the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in October and an ESCAP Stats Café on Illicit Financial Flows in October. The subprogramme also continued its work in the IFF Task Force that includes IMF, OECD and UNODC, as well as several member States. Furthermore, the subprogramme has tentatively selected six methodologies to be tested in 2021 in a selection of countries in Africa. These methodologies are under development, to be presented to the task force before end-2020.

34. The above-mentioned work contributed to building the capacities of countries for a more accurate estimate of illicit financial flows but did not meet the target of inclusion of the new methodology in the balance of payments statistics of nine participating countries in Africa, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. Due to ongoing pandemic-related travel restrictions it was not possible to travel to selected countries and interact with

the national authorities on the ground. Given the sensitivity of the topic and the wide array of national authorities required to be involved in this activity, such as the national statistical offices, customs authorities, tax authorities and trade ministries, it was agreed that it would not be possible to replace personal meetings with virtual ones. the subprogramme aims to meet the target in 2021 if travel restrictions due to the pandemic are lifted before the second half of the year.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

35. The subprogramme will continue the work related to developing a methodology for measuring illicit financial flows, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective and in response to recent developments, the subprogramme's work will evolve and, after the testing of the six methodologies in the task force in 2021, they will be finalized and published in 2022. The subprogramme will then test these six methodologies in nine countries in Africa. COVID-19 mitigation plans are being considered, to determine whether capacity development can be delivered online. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 3).

Table 3

Performance measure: Improving prospects for sustainable development through inclusion of a methodology to measure illicit financial flows

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
Absence of methodology and reliable statistics on illicit financial flows in balance of payments statistics	Availability of a methodology for measuring illicit financial flows in balance of payments statistics	Availability of a methodology for measuring illicit financial flows in balance of payments statistics	Six methodologies for measuring illicit financial flows tested in the illicit financial flows task force	Six methodologies finalized, published and tested by the subprogramme in nine participating countries in Africa with regard to their national statistics

Result 3: Improving industrial policy and fostering regional value chains in Southern Africa (reflected in the programme plan for 2021) – A/75/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

36. The subprogramme has undertaken several activities that have contributed to making progress towards strengthening the regional integration and coordination of industrial policy in the SADC region. Inter alia, the subprogramme organized a series of workshops with the specific objective of strengthening industrial policy capacity and facilitating policy dialogue. Specific attention was given to the key sectors previously identified by the subprogramme together with Southern African Governments (agroprocessing, mining machinery and energy provision). Preliminary impact evaluation suggests that the joint efforts which led to the identification of the policies and the preparation of the workshops were successful. This is testified by the adoption of an official outcome document by the countries participating in the initiative in support of the policy options identified. Concrete regional initiatives and policies adopted are a regional trading platform for agricultural commodities exchanges to improve access to markets and management of agricultural risk, and harmonization of technical standards to guarantee interoperability of electrical equipment and devices. The subprogramme is currently carrying out a series of follow-up activities aimed at improving the industrial policy strategic framework in Mauritius, upon request by the country, where the new Industrial Policy Strategic Plan was launched on 4 December, and facilitating the development of specific value chains, in particular in agroprocessing and energy sectors, in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, the subprogramme is working on a volume aimed at presenting an analysis of the key structural challenges posed by the COVID-19 emergency to the economies of the region and the most effective policy responses.

37. The above-mentioned work contributed to assisting the Governments of the region in identifying key policy measures to build resilient value chains in strategic economic sectors, which met the planned target of identifying sectors in which regional value chains could be established and bringing together relevant stakeholders, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

38. The subprogramme will continue the work related to improving industrial policy and fostering regional value chains, in line with its mandate. Due to the fact that the above-mentioned specific activities under this planned result were implemented in the framework of a project that is projected to end in December 2020, the subprogramme will not be able to continue with a similar performance measure for 2022. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme's work will evolve to include research and capacity-building activities to support countries in improving industrial policy and their implementation, including in regions outside of SADC, subject to resource availability. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 4).

Table 4

Performance measure: Improving industrial policy and fostering regional value chains in Southern Africa

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Request made to UNCTAD to support the SADC industrialization strategy and develop proposals to operationalize a common regional industrial policy that includes regional value chains	Initial proposals developed for a regional industrial policy of several SADC countries	At least three sectors identified (agroprocessing, mining machinery and energy provision) in which regional value chains established and relevant stakeholders brought together identified and presented to several countries in SADC and to private sector companies	Increased engagement of private sector in economic policy discussions and expanded cross-border activities of firms in the region	Increased capacities of developing countries to formulate industrialization strategies and to implement them through support provided by the subprogramme, focusing on research and capacity-building activities

Result 4: Monitoring the debt situation of developing countries and proposing policies to avoid a lost decade

Proposed programme plan for 2022

39. The global economic recession in 2020 came at a time when developing countries were already struggling with raising sufficient funds to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. By 2019, a number of them were already facing unsustainable debt burdens, making further borrowing for health, social and economic spending to combat the impact of the pandemic an unviable option. With depressed economic activity through most of 2020 and a likely slow recovery in 2021, even servicing existing external debt obligations will represent a challenge for many developing countries. The subprogramme has analysed these issues in a number of UNCTAD publications, for example *Trade and Development Report 2020* and the UNCTAD report *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal*, as well as the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on external debt sustainability in developing countries (A/75/281). The subprogramme also published a special follow-up to *Trade and Development Report 2019* titled "From the great lockdown to the great meltdown: Developing country debt in the time of COVID-19", outlining that the pandemic combined a deep supply shock arising from wide-ranging and prolonged lockdowns of entire economies, with consequent demand shocks arising from a collapse in corporate investment plans and a retrenchment of household spending. The analysis argued that both developed and developing country Governments had to borrow to finance economic and social programmes to assist their populations during lockdowns, but for developing countries, the

shock to their sovereign external debt positions was more severe due to their already fragile positions over the last few years. As a result, the follow-up to the report called for coordinated debtor country action to proactively shape future international agendas and the stated that agreements on developing country debt relief and restructuring were urgently needed.

Lessons learned and planned change

40. The lesson for the subprogramme was that in extraordinary situations such as the pandemic, it is important and useful for the international community to be updated in a timely manner on the economic implications of different policy options and to have a second opinion on the macroeconomic and financial challenges facing developing countries in particular. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will issue follow-ups to its research, such as the April 2020 update to the *Trade and Development Report*, in situations where the global macroenvironment has experienced a major shock that warrants such activities. In 2020, the feedback received from member States and from civil society on the relevance of these types of activities was extremely positive and the subprogramme has demonstrated its capacity to swiftly update its research to reflect new and emerging economic realities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

41. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the advancement of these policy proposals by developing country representatives, including by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who proposed a global initiative on debt relief and stated, in communications with the UNCTAD secretariat, that the initiative had been inspired, inter alia, by the subprogramme's analysis on debt presented in *Trade and Development Report 2020* and the special follow-up to *Trade and Development Report 2019* titled "From the great lockdown to the great meltdown: Developing country debt in the time of COVID-19" (table 5).

Table 5

Performance measure: Monitoring the debt situation of developing countries and advancing them in international forums

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Assessing the debt situation in developing countries a decade after the financial crisis, UNCTAD identifies a number of structural vulnerabilities that could create a new spiral of debt defaults	UNCTAD continues to provide a platform for discussions on improving the global debt restructuring mechanism and by providing developing countries with analysis of the current challenges to their debt sustainability	Debt issues and policy measures are advanced through proposals and initiatives by developing country representatives, based on the subprogramme's work as presented in <i>Trade and Development Report 2020</i>	Debt issues are further advanced in international forums through the organization of an international debt conference with the participation of representatives from at least 40 countries and international institutions to discuss further measures for debt relief	Diminished risk and severity of a debt crisis in developing countries through the proposal of multilateral measures for debt alleviation and a fairer debt rescheduling framework, while assisting developing countries to build their debt management capacity

Legislative mandates

42. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

66/188	Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets
72/227	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
73/240	Towards a new international economic order
74/10	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
74/117	Assistance to the Palestinian people
74/203	External debt sustainability and development
74/205	Financial inclusion for sustainable development
74/206	Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development

Deliverables

43. Table 6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 6

Subprogramme 1: Deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	11	8	10	7
1. Reports for the General Assembly, including on external debt sustainability and development, assistance to the Palestinian people, the economic cost of occupation for the Palestinian people and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	5	3	5	3
2. Report of and background documents for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	1	1	-	0
3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including on financing for development issues and on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people and the overview of the Trade and Development Report	3	2	3	2
4. Reports for the Trade and Development Commission and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission	1	1	1	1
5. Reports for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	43	13	24	18
6. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies	4	4	4	4

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
7. Meetings of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	25	1	-	0
8. Annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	3	3	3	3
9. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	2	2	2
10. Meetings of the Trade and Development Commission and related multi-year expert meetings	3	3	3	3
11. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development	6	0	6	6
12. Debt Management Conference	-	-	6	0
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	19	19	19	17
13. Project on enhancing public, private and/or international capacity related to assistance to the Palestinian people	1	1	1	1
14. Project on trade in services development for the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union	1	1	1	0
15. Project on development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	1	1	1	0
16. Projects on installation, update and maintenance of the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System	15	15	15	15
17. Project on measuring illicit capital flows in sub-Saharan Africa (jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Commission for Africa)	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	126	137	126	145
18. Seminars and workshops for policymakers, including on formulating development strategies and policy recommendations; sovereign borrowing and lending; and globalization, trade and development	30	30	30	28
19. Ad hoc expert discussions, including on inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals and the interdependence between trade, finance, investment, technology and macroeconomic policies	6	7	6	7
20. Debt Management and Financial Analysis System training courses for administrators and debt auditors from selected countries in recording debt data, reporting, debt statistics, debt analysis and debt auditing	90	100	90	110
Publications (number of publications)	11	10	10	10
21. Trade and Development Report	1	1	1	1
22. UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics	1	1	1	1
23. SDG[Sustainable Development Goals] Pulse	1	1	1	1
24. Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures	1	0	-	0

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
25. Studies, including on external debt, financial crises in developing countries, international financial architecture, Palestinian economic development, South–South cooperation and regional integration	7	7	7	7
Technical materials (number of materials)	12	17	12	12
26. Policy and statistical briefs on macroeconomic, development, financing and debt, structural transformation and South–South cooperation issues	6	5	6	5
27. Economic and maritime statistical country profiles	2	2	2	2
28. Debt Management and Financial Analysis System documentation and software	3	5	3	3
29. Training materials on debt management	1	4	1	2
30. Paper on illicit financial flows prepared and submitted to the Second Committee upon the request of member States	0	1	0	0

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services to policymakers, including on domestic resource mobilization, structural transformation, growth policy (Group of 20), debt renegotiation at the Paris Club, financial instability, debt sustainability and statistical capacity in the area of trade and development

Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD financial database; world economic macro-level modellers database; UNCTAD statistical data centre; and financial stress and debt sustainability indicators

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures and presentations on external debt, development finance and macroeconomic and development policy issues; and electronic newsletters and brochures on the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System and the Virtual Institute

External and media relations: Press releases, press conferences and interviews, including on developing country debt and external financing, South–South cooperation and regional integration and assistance to the Palestinian people

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Debt Management and Financial Analysis System; Virtual Institute; and UNCTADstat

Subprogramme 2

Investment and enterprise

Objective

44. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance inclusive growth and sustainable development through investment and enterprise development for productive capacity-building, economic diversification and job creation.

Strategy

Planned activities

45. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to assist member States through research, policy analysis and technical assistance to design and implement active policies at both the national and international levels, ensuring enhanced investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development. This will help member States to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 (including through the creation of sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions (target 1.B)), Goal 8 (including through the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization and growth of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (target 8.3)), Goal 10 (including through the encouragement of financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular the least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes (target 10.B)) and Goal 17 (including through enhancing the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources (target 17.16)), as well as all other Goals through the scaling-up of the mobilization of public and private finance towards Goals-related sectors. The subprogramme will also monitor, assess and analyse regional and global trends and prospects in international investment and prepare the annual *World Investment Report* and other analytical publications on international investment for development. The subprogramme will also conduct reviews of national investment policies and will backstop policy dialogue on the international investment agreement regime and support and design new international investment agreements that are better aligned with development objectives. The subprogramme will also advise Governments on investment promotion, business facilitation and innovative financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, including through stock exchanges and institutional funds. Furthermore, the subprogramme will also help member States enhance the international competitiveness of their enterprises through enterprise policies aimed at stimulating enterprise development, as well as by promoting best practices in corporate social responsibility and accounting and reporting. In addition, the subprogramme will also foster dialogue and an exchange of best practices in investment and enterprise development issues through consensus-building mechanisms and the World Investment Forum.

46. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing an assessment of the impact of the pandemic on investment, global value chains and enterprise development, as well as policy advice, frameworks and tools during the recovery phase and beyond.

Expected results

47. This work is expected to result in a) member States making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through support in their efforts to

close the investment gap for the Goals; b) the improved ability of countries to address key and emerging issues related to investment and investment policies that promote development, including issues related to international investment agreements and their development dimension; c) additional resources leveraged and channelled towards global investment development objectives; d) enhanced understanding of enterprise development issues and ability to boost productive capacity, inclusive growth and sustainable development through enterprise development policies; and e) policy proposals, innovations and tools resulting from increased dialogue and an exchange of best practices that can be disseminated to member States to gain traction and drive sustainable development. The planned support on pandemic-related issues is expected to result in mitigating the effect of the pandemic on the ability of member States to attract and benefit from investment for development and in fostering the recovery of their private sector, as specified under result 4.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020

48. Owing to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the subprogramme postponed a number of meetings, such as meetings related to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, postponed to 2021, including preparatory meetings, the session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and several meetings related to the World Investment Forum, also postponed to 2021. The subprogramme also changed its approach to delivering workshops, resulting in an increase in the number of webinars delivered. These included webinars on investment promotion and facilitation aimed at supporting investment promotion agencies in dealing with the crisis, on entrepreneurship to support SMEs and entrepreneurship in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. These changes had an impact on programme performance in 2020, as specified under results 2 and 3.

49. At the same time, however, the subprogramme identified both new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objective and mandates. Namely, it focused its research and policy analysis on the impact of the pandemic on investment and enterprise development, provided targeted assistance for recovery plans and fostered the exchange of best practices among countries. For instance, with regard to research and policy analysis, *World Investment Report 2020* examined the evolution of international production and global value chains, analysed the latest developments in new policy measures for investment promotion, facilitation and regulation around the world, and provided an update on investment treaties and their reform. The Investment Trends Monitors and Investment Policy Monitors provided regular analysis on the impact of the pandemic on global FDI and GVCs and informed of investment policy responses to the pandemic, respectively. The subprogramme also provided in-depth analysis of investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, reviewed global progress and proposed possible courses of action. This also resulted in reformulated deliverables with regard to the facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies, as the subprogramme coordinated the response of the United Nations system in the area of external financing and job growth and provided substantive backstopping for the summit and ministerial meetings on financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond. The modified and new deliverables contributed to results in 2020 and beyond, as specified below. Existing online tools were also prioritized to facilitate the continuity of business operations, as specified under result 1. UNCTAD electronic government platforms provided essential services and new COVID-19 fiscal rescue measures to businesses while offices were closed. For instance, business facilitation tools allowed for the administration of social security for temporarily retrenched workers, business grant requests, the handling of tax relief or late payment applications and the post-crisis recovery of State aid through tax systems. This led to an increase in the number of projects on business facilitation. The deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified below.

Liquidity constraints

50. In 2020, liquidity constraints impacted the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included a reduction in the number of parliamentary documents and the postponement of a number of publications on investment for development and enterprise development. Namely, available resources had to be redeployed to prioritize the delivery of flagship reports, as well as other recurrent publications, while a number of other studies and issues notes of high relevance for policymaking, in particular in developing countries, were delayed or postponed, including on essential topics such as promoting and facilitating investment towards specific Goals-related sectors; entrepreneurship policies in support of poverty reduction, inclusiveness and the formalization of SMEs; and the refinement of indicators related to public and private contributions towards the Goals.

Result 1: Monitoring and mitigating the effects of the pandemic on investment and enterprise development

Programme performance in 2020

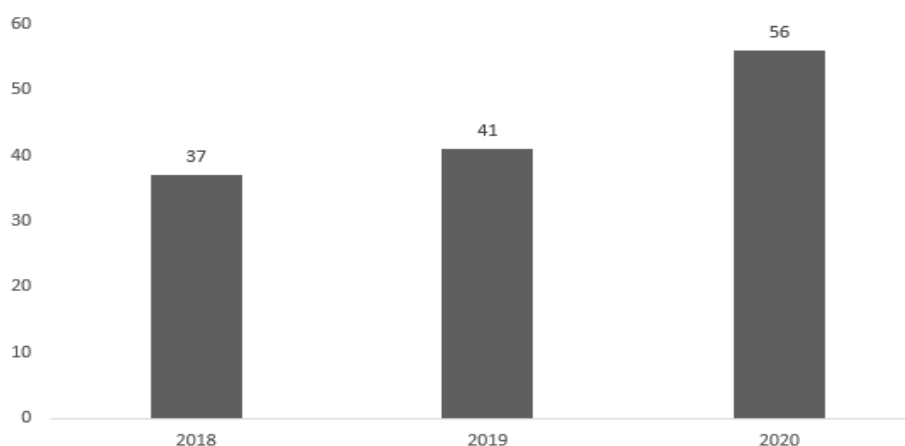
51. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have a dramatic effect on the global economy and will significantly impact development finance, including global FDI flows that are forecast to decrease by up to 45 per cent in developing countries. In the face of unprecedented circumstances, the subprogramme has been monitoring the impact of the pandemic on investment and private sector development, as well as the implications for development. The subprogramme focused on research and policy analysis to help mitigate the impact of the crisis, producing data, trends and investment issues analysis to facilitate decision-making and policymaking. The subprogramme also strengthened its capacity-building programmes, allowing for the continuity of businesses (for instance through the provision of electronic government platforms) and fostering the resilience of public and private sector stakeholders. Furthermore, the subprogramme promoted the exchange of best practices among member States to improve understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on investment and enterprise development and of related recovery policies.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

52. This work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the increased number of member States availing themselves of the online tools revised and provided by the UNCTAD programme on investment and enterprise development to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 (figure 1).

Figure 1

Performance measure: Number of member States using online tools developed by UNCTAD



Result 2: A favourable and enabling environment for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals (reflected in the programme plan for 2020) – A/74/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

53. The subprogramme has continued to assist member States catalysing investment in support of sustainable development and Goals-related sectors. In particular, the subprogramme continued to review global investment trends in key Goals-related sectors, including FDI and project finance, updating the data presented in the first Sustainable Development Goals Investment Trends Monitor issued in 2019. Although progress on investment in the Goals is now evident across six out of 10 Goals-related sectors, overall growth is falling well short of requirements. A more systematic approach is needed to mainstream the Goals into national investment policy frameworks and the international investment agreements regime and to factor investment promotion into national Goals-related strategies. For this reason, and building on its action plan for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals (*World Investment Report 2014*), the subprogramme presented a big push for action: a set of six policy packages aimed at spurring further private sector investment in the Sustainable Development Goals. The subprogramme also provided capacity-building assistance to member States aimed at mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their investment policies (based on its investment policy framework for sustainable development and its international investment agreements accelerator) and continued to provide concrete recommendations for the promotion and advancement of investment in sustainable development, including through the development of pipelines of bankable projects aimed at attracting investment in Goals-related sectors and bankable Goals-related projects. Support also included partnerships with other institutions to facilitate scaling up manufacturing pharmaceutical capacities in developing countries to diversify their production and contribute to their global manufacturing capacity. Furthermore, the subprogramme continue to promote investment in the Sustainable Development Goals through global platforms, such as World Investment Forum satellite events.

54. The above-mentioned work contributed to 82 per cent of beneficiaries from UNCTAD assistance reporting on the successful implementation of recommendations, strategies and policies aimed at attracting investment in Goals-related sectors, which exceeded the planned target of 80 per cent, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

55. The subprogramme will continue the work related to a favourable and enabling environment for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to support member States mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their investment and private sector development strategies. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 7).

Table 7

Performance measure: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting on the successful implementation of recommendations.

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Countries reporting gaps in awareness, understanding and implementation capacity among policymakers and investment	Frameworks and tools on attracting investment in Goals-related sectors start being used by beneficiaries	Eighty-two per cent of beneficiaries from UNCTAD assistance report on the successful implementation of	Eighty per cent of beneficiaries of UNCTAD assistance reporting on the successful implementation of recommendations,	Eighty-five per cent of beneficiaries of UNCTAD assistance reporting on the successful implementation of recommendations,

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
practitioners on investment policies and instruments to attract investment in Goals-related sectors		recommendations, strategies and policies aimed at attracting investment in Goals-related sectors	strategies and policies aimed at attracting investment in Goals-related sectors (the number of beneficiary countries to increase over the year)	strategies and policies aimed at attracting investment in Goals-related sectors (the number of beneficiary countries to increase over the year)

Result 3: An investment chain to bridge the financing gap for the Goals (reflected in the programme plan for 2021) – A/75/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

56. The subprogramme has broadened its global investment chain approach, which engages the entire spectrum of investment-development stakeholders. This includes policymakers and investment treaty negotiators, investment promotion agencies, central banks, stock exchanges and sovereign wealth fund managers, as well as multinational enterprises, SMEs, family businesses and special economic zones, the upstream and downstream of the investment chain, with the objective of bridging the financing gap for the Goals. The subprogramme engaged in several initiatives aimed at enabling a reorientation of financial markets to fully integrate sustainability, at creating new Goals-related investment compacts and changing the business mindset. The subprogramme also engaged in a new institutional investment workstream, carrying out research and policy analysis on how sustainable finance and long-term institutional investment could be leveraged to contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive economy, identifying a rich pool of good practices for sustainability integration by institutional investors and fostering the exchange of best practices, as well as launching a new framework that can be used by institutional investors and asset managers to act on sustainability in line with their operational models and strategic priorities. Furthermore, the subprogramme launched a family business for sustainable development initiative to further mobilize firms to embed sustainability into their business strategies and serve as a model for galvanizing business uptake of supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative successfully launched the family business sustainability pledge, a global statement signed by some 280 family businesses to promote a more purpose driven business model, thereby contributing to global sustainable development, inclusive growth and prosperity for all, and developed a full set of sustainability indicators for family business. These new initiatives contribute to making a significant dent in the estimated Goals-related investment gap.

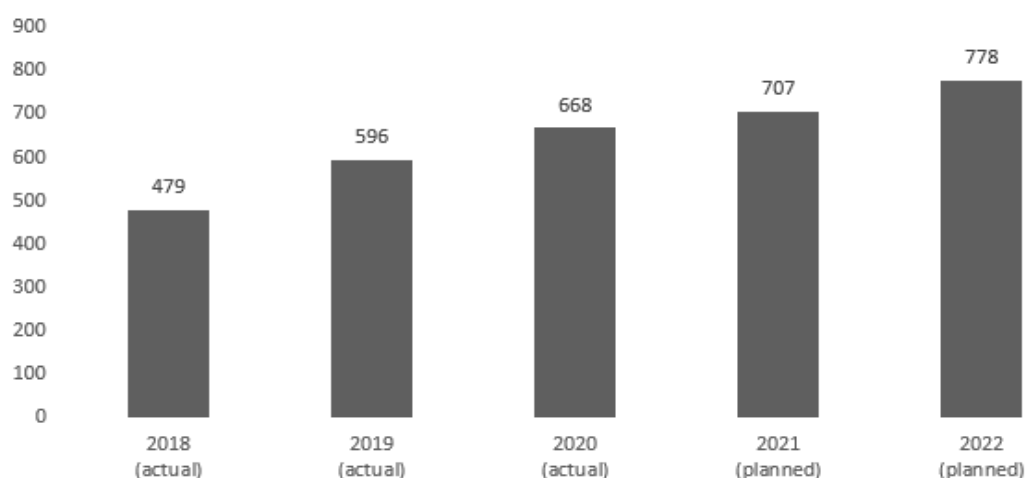
57. The above-mentioned work contributed to increased adherence to UNCTAD principles and recommendations by 668 individual investment stakeholders, as they support the capacity-building of developing countries in their efforts to close the Goals-related investment gap, which exceeded the planned target of 651 as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

58. The subprogramme will continue the work related to an investment chain to bridge the financing gap for the Goals, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to broaden and engage the entire spectrum of investment-development stakeholders and mobilize them for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (figure 2).

Figure 2

Performance measure: Total number of individual investment stakeholders adhering to UNCTAD principles and recommendations



Result 4: Facilitating investment and enterprise development for recovery and resilience

Proposed programme plan for 2022

59. Despite some progress in specific Goals-related sectors, global investment remains far from the target of bridging the Goals-related investment gap. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic could have a substantial impact on Goals-related investment given the restriction in cross-border capital flows in developing countries, Preliminary research by the subprogramme suggests that there could be a risk that progress made in Goals-related investment in the last few years might be undone.

Lessons learned and planned change

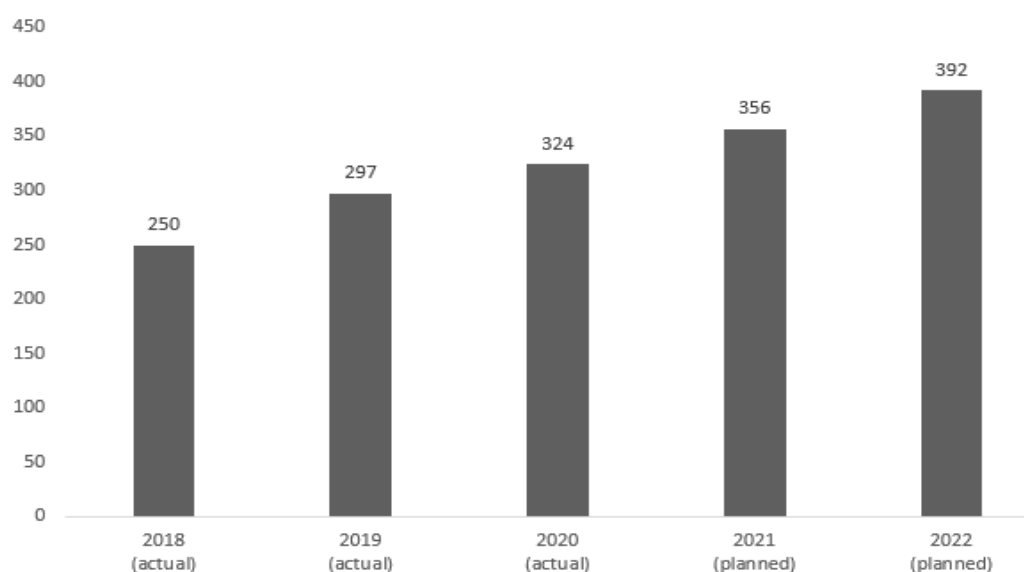
60. The lesson for the subprogramme was that the perfect storm of economic, social and political shocks generated by the pandemic proved to have significant implications in a longer-term context of transformation for international production. This required the subprogramme to work with its partners and member States to assess the financial needs deriving from the pandemic and to contribute to the effort towards mobilizing new resources necessary for recovery, while promoting investment and enterprise frameworks conducive to inclusive and sustainable reconstruction. In response, the subprogramme will aim to foster new forms of partnerships and sustainability-themed financial instruments to mobilize new resources in support of pandemic recovery and sustainable development.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

61. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the increased number of public and private sector stakeholders and sustainability-themed funds reporting the integration of principles, guidance and instruments, such as the investment policy framework for sustainable development and the guidance on core indicators, developed by the subprogramme in its activities (figure 3).

Figure 3

Performance measure: Number of stakeholders reporting integration of principles, guidance and instruments developed by the subprogramme in its activities



Legislative mandates

62. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

73/225	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
74/199	Promoting investments for sustainable development

Deliverables

63. Table 8 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 8

Subprogramme 2: Deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	9	8	8	8
1. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on entrepreneurship for sustainable development	1	2	1	1
2. Report of and background documents for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	1	0	-	-
3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board on investment for development	1	1	1	1
4. Reports for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings	4	2	4	4

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
5. Reports for the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	2	3	2	2
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	68	21	24	24
6. Meetings of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	24	1	-	-
7. Meetings of the Trade and Development Board	2	3	2	2
8. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	2	2	2
9. Meetings of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings	14	2	14	14
10. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	6	6	6	6
11. Meetings of the World Investment Forum	20	5	-	-
12. Meetings of financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond initiative	-	2	-	-
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	52	69	60	60
13. Projects on regional investment issues analysis	3	3	3	3
14. Projects on investment policy reviews and investment facilitation enhancement	8	12	8	8
15. Projects on special economic zones	-	-	2	2
16. Projects on international investment agreements	8	8	8	8
17. Projects on investment promotion and facilitation	3	3	3	3
18. Projects on intellectual property rights for development	-	-	1	1
19. Projects on investment guides	4	4	2	2
20. Projects on business facilitation	10	16	10	10
21. Projects on enterprise development and business linkages	4	4	3	3
22. Entrepreneurship Development Programme (Empretec) projects	5	5	6	6
23. Projects on accounting and reporting	2	8	3	3
24. Projects on the contribution of foreign direct investment to inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals	5	5	5	5
25. Projects on institutional investors	-	-	2	2
26. Projects on family businesses	-	1	2	2
27. Projects on responsible investment	-	2	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	107	123	107	107
28. Seminars on foreign direct investment, its development dimension and the themes of the World Investment Report	6	7	6	6

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
29. Training workshops on best practices in national and international policies related to investment	8	8	4	4
30. National workshops on investment policy reviews, follow-up and investment facilitation enhancement	10	6	14	14
31. Training workshops on international investment statistics and survey methodologies	5	5	5	5
32. Ad hoc expert discussions on key foreign direct investment issues	3	4	3	3
33. Training workshops on investment promotion and facilitation for policymakers, investment promotion officials and diplomats	14	14	10	10
34. Training workshops on the negotiation, implementation and reform of international investment agreements	15	16	15	15
35. Ad hoc expert discussions on investment policies for sustainable development	4	4	4	4
36. Training workshops on intellectual property for development	10	10	10	10
37. Training workshops on enterprise development policies	16	22	16	16
38. Training seminars on accounting and sustainability reporting	6	7	6	6
39. Workshops and seminars on responsible investment issues	4	9	4	4
40. Ad hoc expert discussions on enterprise competitiveness issues	6	11	6	6
41. Seminars on institutional investors and sustainable development	-	-	2	2
42. Ad hoc expert discussions on family businesses	-	-	2	2
Publications (number of publications)	25	30	25	25
43. World Investment Report and its overview	2	2	2	2
44. Publications on investment issues for development, including the Transnational Corporations Journal, best practices and lessons learned in foreign direct investment in the least developed countries, and responsible investment	7	10	7	7
45. Publications on investment policies for development, including Investment Policy Facilitation Enhancements, Investment Policy Reviews and Investment Policy Monitors	9	10	9	9
46. Publications on investment promotion and facilitation, including on investing in SDG sectors	3	4	3	3
47. Publications on enterprise development, including on MSMEs recovery from the pandemic	2	2	2	2
48. Publications on accounting and reporting, including the international standards of accounting and reporting annual review, the series on accounting and reporting	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	9	9	13	13
49. Global Investment Trends Monitor (series), including the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Trends Monitor	-	-	4	4

<i>Category and subcategory</i>		<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
50.	Investment guides	2	1	2	2
51.	Reports on measures affecting international investment	2	2	2	2
52.	International investment agreement issues notes	2	2	2	2
53.	Policy briefs on intellectual property rights for development	2	2	1	1
54.	Training materials on enterprise development and business linkages	1	2	1	1
55.	Report on annual ambassadors round table	-	-	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services to developing countries, including on formulating policies to attract foreign direct investment for development; statistics and analysis on international investment, including responsible investment; advisory services to Governments, including on national policies and international investment agreements and sustainable development, as well as investment promotion and facilitation, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship and enterprise development and business facilitation, including with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, accounting and reporting standards; and advocacy and advisory services to investment promotion agencies, special economic zones and other stakeholders in the global investment chain and Empretec centres. Specific focus will be shed on the analysis of the impact of the pandemic on investment and enterprise development, especially in light of the sustainable development objectives and Agenda 2030 and ways to facilitate resilience and recovery.

Databases and substantive digital materials: Databases on foreign direct investment, national policies and international investment agreements (12)

D. Communication deliverables

External and media relations: Two international standards of accounting and reporting updates; Two Empretec newsletters; five newsletters on responsible investment; World Investment Forum report; booklets; and newsflashes

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Global Registration Portal; and Investment Policy Hub

Subprogramme 3

International trade and commodities

Objective

64. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure that international trade and commodities are an engine for prosperity, inclusiveness and sustainable development through the participation of all member States.

Strategy

Planned activities

65. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to promote the implementation of relevant measures and policies by developing countries so that they better integrate and benefit from the international trading system through the mechanisms of the three main pillars of the work of UNCTAD (research and analysis; consensus-building; and technical cooperation), including through the provision of contributions on international trade as an engine for development to the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, to the Sustainable Development Goals Report, to World Tariff Profiles and to the World Economic Situation and Prospects. The subprogramme will continue to support trade and the trade-related decision-making of developing countries to better deal with the impacts of subsidies, tariffs and non-tariff measures, helping them to make progress towards achieving Goal 17, particularly targets 17.11 and 17.14. Further, the subprogramme will continue to enhance the implementation of measures by member States to integrate beneficially into the international trading system at the regional and international levels, including by providing tailored interventions to countries in their engagement in different phases of negotiations, providing analysis to facilitate the evaluation of alternative scenarios and assisting national officials at all stages of the WTO accession process. In addition, the subprogramme plans to provide capacity-building support for commodity-dependent developing countries to address trade and development problems associated with the commodity economy, including commodity dependence. Furthermore, the subprogramme will promote the design and implementation of trade, environment and sustainable development objectives and creative economic strategies and enhance the adoption, improvement and enforcement of national and regional competition and consumer protection legislation, through the provision of best practices, guidelines and peer reviews, which will help member States make progress towards Goals 8, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 17. Furthermore, the subprogramme will continue to act as the focal point for gender mainstreaming in trade policies, strengthening the capacity of member States to design and implement trade policies that allow women to benefit more from the opportunities arising from international trade through specific country and region-based activities and helping them make progress towards Goal 5 (targets 5.5, 5a, 5b and 5c), along with other targets under Goals 1, 8 and 17 (1.1, 1b, 8.3, 8.5, 17.14 and 17.16).

66. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by continuing to monitor and analyse the effects of the global pandemic on manufacturing and international trade, including by providing specific policy recommendations for a better recovery in specific sectors, such as the global tourism industry and the blue economy. The subprogramme also plans to support countries in identifying the set of measures and actions most appropriate to addressing key economic sectors affected by COVID-19, including through market studies and competition impact assessments of incentives and exemptions. The subprogramme will continue to address the gender perspective of the trade recovery from the pandemic, given that the negative outcomes of economic crises disproportionately affect women and girls, increasingly so when the crises are also related to public health.

Expected results

67. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in (a) the streamlining of non-tariff measures and, where appropriate, the elimination or reduction of non-tariff measures in international trade, including unilateral measures, where they may act as unnecessary trade barriers, and the strengthened trade and trade-related decision-making of developing countries; (b) more countries achieving positive development outcomes in relation to increased trade integration and activity; (c) improved capacity to seize opportunities emerging from commodity trade and enhanced international and regional cooperation; (d) more countries adopting, revising or implementing competition and consumer protection legislation and institutional frameworks; (e) member States harnessing opportunities for trade in environmentally preferable products, including biotrade and creative industries, and to increase capacities to assess the economic potential of ocean-based sectors and devise integrated sustainable use and trade action plans; and (f) improvements in the capacity of member States to identify and address gender-specific trade barriers and gender-specific obstacles on the supply side. The planned support on pandemic-related issues is expected to result in mitigating the effect of the pandemic on the ability of member States to benefit from international trade and in fostering the recovery of the trade sectors, as specified below and under results 1–4.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020

68. Owing to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the subprogramme postponed or cancelled a number of deliverables, including meetings and technical assistance events, along with publications related to those events. Due to the postponement of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to 2021, most related meetings of the subprogramme were accordingly postponed. Further, the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development scheduled to take place in October 2020 was postponed to 2021, along with the relevant publication outputs, due to concerns of connectivity problems in developing countries that would prevent them from effectively participating in a virtual meeting. At the same time, the subprogramme changed the approach and format, where possible, of many capacity-building and training activities, panels and workshop events, to an online format, including online events that were jointly organized with different partners. These included thematic expert meetings and webinars on competition policy and consumer protection, as well as events on biotrade and the oceans economy; the latter was replaced by a webinar organized with partners on World Oceans Day. These changes had an impact on programme performance in 2020, as specified in the deliverables section.

69. At the same time, however, the subprogramme identified both new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objective. Namely, as part of rapid response measures, the subprogramme produced several opinion pieces, articles and memorandums to highlight the impacts of the pandemic on specific sectors or economies. These included the services sector, women and vulnerable groups, the blue economy, competition and consumer policies and restrictive trade practices in personal protective equipment markets. The subprogramme also produced a report that explored the heavy toll the pandemic was taking on the tourism industry, highlighting the vulnerabilities of many developing countries to such shocks and outlining appropriate policy recommendations. The subprogramme, particularly through the new and modified activities as a result of the pandemic, addressed new trade-related issues in a timely and efficient manner, based on the immediate needs of and demand from member States. The recently launched global trade update 2020, issued quarterly to present trends and short-term forecasts for world trade, provided preliminary forecasts of global trade, depending on how the pandemic might evolve, and gave special attention to pandemic-related medical supplies (personal protective equipment, disinfectants, diagnostic kits, oxygen respirators and other related hospital equipment). The subprogramme analysed the salience of commodities in the merchandise trade of Commonwealth members and estimated the impact of pandemic-induced trade disruptions on commodities exports to five main markets (Australia, China the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United

States of America and the European Union), suggesting that dependency patterns had at best been maintained because of the pandemic shock and, at worst, in particular among highly dependent commodity exporters, the pandemic had further accentuated a fragile macroeconomic situation already under pressure due to heightened price fluctuations in several commodity markets.

Liquidity constraints

70. In 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included delays in the subprogramme's work on gender-related issues, affecting the delivery of online courses on trade and gender and slowing the delivery of activities under a new project devoted to women-owned MSMEs, as part of the United Nations response under the COVID-19 recovery fund. The liquidity constraints also impacted the subprogramme's ability to fulfil technical assistance requests, leading to a reduction in the number of seminars, workshops and training activities in 2020. For example, the subprogramme was not able to respond to requests from 23 countries for capacity-building on areas related to sustainable trade and the environment, biotrade and consumer protection and competition laws and policies. Further, the liquidity constraints impacted the subprogramme's ability to fulfil its consensus-building activities. The UNCTAD Trade Forum, a week of panel discussions, dialogues and presentations addressing a wide range of the subprogramme's activities, was cancelled due to the lack of available personnel to service the event. Finally, the recruitment freeze of two senior-level positions led to the cancellation of the annual report on trade and sustainable development. This report has been instrumental in providing substantive analysis and trade policy advocacy for developing countries and has been particularly effective in informing member States of issues related to market access, non-tariff measures and international standards, employment and inequality outcomes of trade policy and, more generally, augmenting the development dimension of the multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. The previous report contributed to the High-Level Political Forum meeting in New York (July 2019) by informing Member States of trade policies in relation to Goal 10 and Goal 17.

Result 1: Enhancing services sectors of developing countries through services policy reviews

Programme performance in 2020

71. For many years, UNCTAD has been emphasizing the importance for developing countries of strengthening and diversifying their service sectors. Services, in particular infrastructural services, improve value addition in other economic sectors, promote employment and facilitate trade in manufacturing and agriculture. Services have become indispensable links in global value chains. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development largely depends on the development of key services activities, including health, education, energy, financial, telecommunications and computer-related services, as well as transport services. Yet many Governments in developing countries, including LDCs and economies in transition, face challenges in identifying and addressing the services-related needs of the domestic economy and then translating them into policies with a view to enhancing the quantity and quality of services output. The work of the subprogramme on Service Policy Reviews (SPRs) provides policymakers from developing countries with a comprehensive list of policy options to enhance their services sectors, with a view to assisting them to tap the significant potential to advance the development of their service sectors. SPRs cover multiple sectors and are quantified to provide policymakers with a sound basis to (re-)formulate strategies and policies related to the development of their services sectors in general or of specific subsectors. Despite the resilience of the services sector, most notably during the global financial crisis, services sectors on which developing economies and the least developed economies are dependent, such as tourism, hospitality and care services, have been significantly affected by the pandemic. SPRs have an important role in the recovery process and in a better recovery, particularly in

developing countries that aim to diversify their services sectors away from traditional personal services (including the employment of migrant workers in hospitality and care services) towards services necessary for increasing productivity and competitiveness in manufacturing sectors (e.g. professional, logistical and ICT-related services). In 2020, several SPRs concerning countries in Africa (e.g. Lesotho, Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda and the ECOWAS region) provided useful means to engage with member States on their intended services commitments scheduled to be presented to the African Union by end-2020. In addition, by end-2020, 11 countries had submitted their services sector commitments to the African Union. In 2020, the subprogramme undertook a Services Policy Review for the ECOWAS region. This comprehensive review addressed 13 sectors (e.g. banking and other financial services; insurance and insurance-related services; telecommunications services; road transport services; air transport services; tourism services; and energy services) and made 79 services sector-specific recommendations covering these. The review was carried out in close collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission with support from the Commission of the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine, with financial support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. The review for ECOWAS, the first exercise of its kind conducted for a regional economic organization, had been endorsed by the ECOWAS ministerial conference held in December 2019, along with an ECOWAS services market blueprint for action to be achieved by 2030.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

72. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the strengthened capacity of countries in the ECOWAS region to implement specific services policy measures and actions on the ground to adapt their national services trade in a rapidly evolving trading environment and post-pandemic recovery period, as a result of SPRs (table 9).

Table 9

Performance measure: member States enhancing services policies through services policy reviews

2018	2019	2020
Member States have an increased understanding of the importance of services economies through analysis and capacity-building activities provided by the subprogramme	SPRs available for member States in the ECOWAS region to implement specific services policy measures and actions on the ground, to adapt their national services trade	At least 23 developing countries (including 15 ECOWAS member countries) were equipped to initiate updates of existing services policies, through the SPRs provided by the subprogramme.

Result 2: Unleashing the potential of women informal cross-border traders (reflected in the programme plan for 2020) – A/74/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

73. In response to a request from three member countries (Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) involved in the activities related to women cross-border traders in the period 2016–2019, the subprogramme launched, in October 2020, a new set of activities devoted to training women involved in informal and/or small-scale cross-border trade on entrepreneurship development and on trade rules and customs procedures. This work is part of the global initiative towards post-pandemic recovery for the MSME sector. The organization and implementation of training activities are ongoing and expected to be completed by February 2021. Activities are being replicated at the same borders covered by the previous intervention, since the overall initiative aims to provide an immediate response in the context of the COVID-19 situation. Moreover, challenges posed by travel restrictions and new border measures introduced because of COVID-19 do not allow for work at new borders. Discussions for a new project phase starting in March 2021 are currently under

way. If approved, this would allow new training activities to be developed and delivered at borders different from those included to date and therefore involve new countries. With these new interventions, the subprogramme is also providing support to disadvantaged groups of women that have been particularly affected by the health crisis and subsequent economic fallout due to the pandemic.

74. The above-mentioned work contributes to the shift of women traders from informal to formal trade channels to conduct cross-border trade activities and encourages the formalization of businesses, as a precondition for diversifying and expanding businesses and moving from subsistence to sustainability. Of the 147 participants in the training activities, the majority of women traders confirmed that the knowledge acquired during the training about border rules and procedures and rights and obligations made them more confident to cross borders (99 per cent), which contributed to their intention to formalize their business (98 per cent). This met the planned target of having more than half of the women trained take steps to switch to formal trade channels and have a good understanding of how to scale up and/or diversify their business, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

75. The subprogramme will continue the work related to unleashing the potential of women informal cross-border traders, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will expand its training activities on entrepreneurship development and on traders' rights and obligations devoted to women informal and/or small-scale cross-border traders to other borders in sub-Saharan Africa and possibly other developing regions. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 10).

Table 10

Performance measure: Formalizing women's cross-border trading activities

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Lack of awareness by women informal traders about border procedures, documentation requirements and rights and obligations and lack of basic entrepreneurial skills	Increased awareness by women traders about border procedures, documentation requirements and rights and obligations and increased knowledge of basic entrepreneurial skills. Benefits also to customs officers attending training in trade rules and procedures	The majority of the women trained take steps to switch to formal trade channels and have a good understanding of how to scale up and/or diversify their business. The pilot training programme delivered at six border areas in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia is expected to be replicated at other border posts and possibly in a different region, building on its positive results	At least two more countries in sub-Saharan Africa express interest in replicating the approach and implementing the training programme for women in informal cross-border trade	At least two more countries in sub-Saharan Africa or in other developing regions express interest in replicating the approach and implementing the training programme for women in informal cross-border trade

Result 3: Oceans economy – Supporting small island developing States and coastal developing countries in realizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources (reflected in the programme plan for 2021), A/75/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

76. In the process of supporting small island developing States and coastal developing countries, UNCTAD and DOALOS organized a total of 12 stakeholder and validation dialogue field missions for about 261 participants, of which 42 per cent were women, over

the last three years. In 2020, UNCTAD also organized four online multilateral conferences dedicated to assessing challenges and opportunities to the blue economy brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the potential of blue biotrade, impacts on human settlements and coastal tourism and on trade in plastics, sustainability and development.

77. The above-mentioned work contributed to increased capacity in member States to formulate national oceans economy and trade strategies, including the production of the Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy (OETS) of Belize and Costa Rica, with a focus on developing an action plan to enable sustainable trade in the tuna, spiny lobster, queen conch and coastal fish value chains, which exceeded the planned target of increased capacity in member States to formulate national oceans economy and trade strategies, as reflected in the programme budget for 2021. In addition, a stakeholder workshop on tuna value chains was organized in Barbados in early 2020 and online training in experiences on the use of traceability systems and collective trademarks was organized for Costa Rica and other regional stakeholders in late 2020. Another OETS is currently being prepared for Barbados for possible validation in 2021. Due to the positive impact of this support, a pilot blue biotrade project was agreed with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CITES in late 2020 to support three OECS member countries in developing national assessments and action plans for sustainable trade products in the queen conch value chain during the 2021–2022 biennium. All these activities exceeded the target of 2020 and placed the subprogramme in a good position to meet the target of 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

78. The subprogramme will continue the work related to the oceans economy and supporting small island developing States and coastal developing countries in realizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will organize the fourth Oceans Forum to identify actions and realign efforts for progress and compliance with the trade-related targets of Goal 14 considering the post-pandemic scenario and will continue to assist member States in developing their OETS (table 11). In addition, the subprogramme plans to develop at least two blue biotrade value chain assessments for selected species and a regional action plan by 2022.

Table 11

Performance measure: member States formulating national oceans economy and trade strategies

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Member States have an increased understanding of the importance of national oceans economy and trade strategies, including as a result of the second Oceans Forum on Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14	Member States have increased interest and are better supported in formulating national oceans economy and trade strategies, including as a result of the United Nations Trade Forum	Member States have increased their capacities to formulate national oceans economy and trade strategies, as a result of the subprogramme's activities, including two member States (Belize and Costa Rica) formulating an Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy	At least two member States adopt their Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy at the national level	Member States identify actions and realign efforts for progress and compliance with trade-related targets of Goal 14 as a result of the Fourth Oceans Forum and at least two blue biotrade value chain assessments for selected species and a regional action plan are developed by the subprogramme

Result 4: Tearing down trade barriers: Transparent and streamlined regulations for sustainable development

Proposed programme plan for 2022

79. Non-tariff measures (NTMs), including technical regulations and traditional trade policy instruments, constitute a high cost for traders. The costs are estimated to be about three to four times higher than those of tariffs and disproportionately affect low-income countries and small and medium-sized enterprises. Yet most NTMs have important public policy objectives to protect health, safety and the environment. Regulations that limit emissions from vehicles, ozone-depleting substances or single-use plastics protect the environment, for example. The use of NTMs was prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic as a number of temporary measures were put in place by over 140 countries in pursuit of both non-trade and trade-related objectives. Important goals were related to safeguarding public health, as well as to economic concerns. They impacted the volume and speed of trade during the pandemic, some for the better and some for worse. A global challenge for traders is non-transparent and non-coordinated regulations. Transparency in NTMs already reduces transaction costs significantly. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NTMs have often been introduced in an uncoordinated fashion and without informing trade partners accordingly. Regulatory streamlining and cooperation reduce the costs further without compromising on non-trade public policy objectives. Requirements that have to be met by traders are not easily accessible and regulations are often not coordinated within and between countries. Without work to address these new NTMs, along with those already in place, they may prove to be significant barriers to any post-pandemic recovery. In responding to this, the subprogramme has developed an international classification of NTMs jointly with seven international organizations (FAO, IMF, ITC, OECD, UNIDO, World Bank and WTO). The classification allows for systematic NTMs data collection and dissemination for policymakers and traders, a precondition for trade information portals, efficient streamlining and regulatory cooperation. This is complemented by online and face-to-face training courses aimed at raising awareness about and capacity to deal with NTMs. NTMs data have been collected for many countries but data less than three years old are available for only about 30 countries. The more that up-to-date NTMs data are made available and the more policymakers are sensitized, the higher the request for transparency and the usage of NTMs data in trade portals will be. To assist in this regard, the subprogramme has been developing three relevant portals for different user groups.

Lessons learned and planned change

80. The lesson for the subprogramme was that regular updates of NTMs data require assistance by Governments and awareness of the importance of regulatory transparency needs to be raised among the latter. Stronger involvement by government officials contributes to the sustainability of the transparency initiative. In earlier years of the subprogramme, NTMs data were collected from publicly available official sources, often with little involvement by the Governments issuing the regulations. The downside of this approach was that countries were not updated regularly when external funding was not available. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme is turning to an approach involving stronger involvement by Governments. Countries increasingly see the importance of, and request support for, transparency, as evident from the declaration on microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises of the informal working group on MSMEs, presented in December 2020, which includes prominently regulatory transparency. Positive responses, if funds are available, will increasingly be coupled with requests for own commitments to support sustainability. Supporting MSMEs, which have been disproportionately affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, will be crucial for a better recovery, as they will play a significant role in economic recovery.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

81. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by an increased number of users of NTMs data in trade portals. While there is increased awareness about

the importance of streamlined NTMs and their transparency, up-to-date NTMs data is required for more countries and such data should be increasingly used (table 12).

Table 12

Performance measure; Increased transparency in non-tariff measures data through UNCTAD trade portals

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Growing awareness among many member States about the high trade costs of NTMs and the potential of transparency and regulatory coordination and cooperation	Increased awareness among member States about the importance of NTMs for international trade. Development and improvement of NTMs data portals to facilitate access to NTMs information collected by the subprogramme, specifically for developing countries	Increased demand from member States for NTMs transparency and increased use of the information published on NTMs in trade portals, with 13,000 total users registered	Increased demand from member States for NTMs transparency and increased use of the information published on NTMs in trade portals, with at least 1,500 additional users registered (14,500 in total)	Increased demand from member States for NTMs transparency and increased use of the information published on NTMs in trade portals, with at least 2,000 additional users registered (16,500 in total)

Legislative mandates

82. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

35/63	Restrictive business practices
70/186	Consumer protection
71/312	Our ocean, our future: Call for action
74/7	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba
74/198	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021
74/204	Commodities
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Deliverables

83. Table 13 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 13
Subprogramme 3: Deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	22	15	21	20
1. Reports to the General Assembly on international trade and development and world commodity trends and prospects	1	1	2	1
2. Report of and background documents for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	1	1	-	0
3. Reports on trends in trade and on trade regulations and sustainability standards and ad hoc reports on commodities trends and prospects for the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
4. Background documentation for the Trade and Development Commission and for related expert meetings, including on non-tariff measures and sustainability standards	8	1	7	7
5. Reports of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy	10	10	10	10
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	64	33	33	33
6. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee)	2	2	2	2
7. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	-	-	-	-
8. Meetings of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	24	10	-	-
9. Annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	2	2	2	2
10. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	3	2	2
11. Meetings of the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings	23	5	16	16
12. Meetings of the annual sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy	10	10	10	10
13. Annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	21	24	24	20
14. Capacity-building projects, including on services, trade and inclusive growth, competition and consumer protection laws and policies, sustainability standards, regional and multilateral trading negotiations, multilateral trading negotiations on boosting intra-African trade, in particular in the least developed countries, and dispute settlement and commercial diplomacy	9	9	13	9
15. Project on collecting, monitoring, reporting and disseminating data on non-tariff measures	1	1	1	1

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
16. Projects on generalized and global systems of trade preferences, on trade, the environment and development and on assistance to commodity-dependent countries in achieving greater diversification and value addition	8	11	8	8
17. Projects to assist developing countries in acceding to the World Trade Organization, formulating development-oriented trade policies and strengthening the creative economy	3	3	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	124	109	115	108
18. Seminars for policymakers on the World Integrated Trade Solution, the Trade Analysis and Information System and non-tariff measures, sustainability standards, preferential trading arrangements, WTO accession, services policies and frameworks, emerging development challenges in the international trading system and trade, international trade negotiations, the environment and sustainable development	48	54	57	50
19. Capacity-building for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and economies in transition, on trade policy, skills for competition and consumer protection agencies, sustainability standards and gender and trade	58	43	40	45
20. Workshops for supporting commodity-dependent developing countries to formulate strategies and policies and harness development gains and respond to the challenges and opportunities of commodity markets	10	1	10	5
21. Panel discussion on the changing international trade landscape and trade costs	1	1	1	1
22. Panel discussions on challenges and opportunities of international trade for the promotion of sustainable development	2	2	2	2
23. Ad hoc expert discussion on the role of competition law and policy and on consumer protection and policy	1	1	1	1
24. Geneva Trade and Development Workshop series, held jointly by UNCTAD, WTO, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	4	7	4	4
Publications (number of publications)	31	30	35	36
25. Publications on trade and sector-specific publications	1	1	5	1
26. Publications on trade, multilateralism and the Sustainable Development Goals	14	14	12	17
27. Publications on trade trends and policy in the international context	9	8	8	9
28. Publications on trade, market efficiency and consumer welfare and on competition and consumer protection policies	4	4	4	6
29. Publications on trade, commodities, economic diversification and value addition	3	3	6	3
Technical materials (number of materials)	17	15	12	12
30. Reports on UNCTAD work on competition and consumer protection policies and on the Global Commodities Forum	2	1	2	1
31. Handbooks and policy briefs on classification of non-tariff measures, the Generalized System of Preferences and effective competition and/or consumer protection agencies	3	3	3	3

<i>Category and subcategory</i>		<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
32.	Manual on Consumer Protection	1	1	1	1
33.	Model law on competition	2	2	1	1
34.	Materials on competition and consumer protection under the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform	2	2	1	1
35.	UNCTAD, WTO and International Trade Centre publication: World Tariff Profiles	1	1	1	1
36.	Trade-related aspects in the Sustainable Development Goals Report	1	1	1	1
37.	Report of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards	1	1	–	1
38.	Training modules on topics in international trade negotiations	3	3	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services on trade-related decision-making, integration into the global economy and participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements, integration of trade concerns into national trade and services policies, cooperation and partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development, trade and gender, developing competition and consumer protection frameworks, trade and environment issues and creative economy potential for sustainable development

Databases and substantive digital materials: World Integrated Trade Solution and Trade Analysis and Information System.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards; Global Commodities Forum; multi-stakeholder meeting on commodities and development; Global Services Forum; Non-Tariff Measures Week; BioTrade Congress; event on trade and gender; events on illicit trade; event on creative economy; lectures and exhibits on issues related to the work of the subprogramme; newsletters on the Generalized System of Preferences and on UNCTAD work on competition and consumer protection; brochures and flyers on trade and gender and on commodity policy research and implementation and projects; and booklets and fact sheets related to the work of the subprogramme

External and media relations: Press releases and “op-ed” pieces

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Proceedings of meetings conducted by the subprogramme; online training course on non-tariff measures; interactive tools related to national competition and consumer protection laws, commercial diplomacy and dispute settlement; UNCTAD, WTO and International Trade Centre website on trade-related Sustainable Development Goals and indicators; electronic version of the model law on competition; and teaching package on trade and gender

Subprogramme 4 Technology and logistics

Objective

84. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to harness innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy, improve trade logistics and increase human capacities for inclusive and sustainable trade and development in developing countries and economies in transition.

Strategy

Planned activities

85. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will foster international policy dialogue and consensus-building, carry out research and analysis and provide technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of technology and logistics for development. In doing so, the subprogramme will maximize synergies and cross-fertilization, building complementarities across the different issues in its portfolio of activities. With regard to science, technology and innovation policies, the subprogramme will continue to foster international policy dialogue and consensus-building as the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development and contribute to the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The subprogramme will carry out research and analysis on STI for development through its flagship publication *Technology and Innovation Report*, as well as other reports analysing policy options in STI for development, including the STI chapter of the Inter-Agency Task Force report on financing for development. With regard to technical assistance and capacity-building, the subprogramme will deliver STI policy reviews, support the implementation of technology assessment and foresight exercises in developing countries and provide inputs to the Inter-Agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. With regard to e-commerce and the digital economy the subprogramme will foster international policy dialogue and consensus-building. This will include activities with regard to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the annual eCommerce Week, in addition to facilitating the intergovernmental process with regard to these issues. The subprogramme will also carry out research and analysis on e-commerce and the digital economy and development, including through the flagship publication *Digital Economy Report* and other reports analysing major trends and policy options in developing countries. The subprogramme will also respond to a rapidly growing number of requests for capacity-building and technical assistance in the field of e-commerce and the digital economy from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. This will include preparing Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments, assistance in the development of national e-commerce strategies and legal frameworks on e-commerce and undertaking the statistical measurement of e-commerce and the digital economy, as well as coordinating the multi-stakeholder eTrade for All initiative and managing the eTrade for Women initiative. In the area of trade logistics, including trade facilitation, customs automation and transport, including maritime transport and port management, the subprogramme will foster international policy dialogue and consensus-building by servicing the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery on these issues and by contributing to the deliberations of other specialized forums, including at the regional level. It will also carry out research and analysis on trade facilitation and transport and development, including through its flagship publication, *Review of Maritime Transport*, and other research products analysing data, trends, challenges, legislative frameworks and policy options for developing countries to improve transport, trade facilitation and trade logistics. The subprogramme will also provide technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries in the areas of trade facilitation, including customs automation and modernization through the ASYCUDA programme, transport, including maritime transport, transit corridors and port management, and associated legislative issues. In doing so, the subprogramme will continue to address

specific trade logistics challenges affecting small island developing States and landlocked countries. The subprogramme will deliver targeted training and capacity-building activities to relevant stakeholders and government experts in trade and related areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. This includes the delivery of regional and Geneva-based courses on key issues on the international economic agenda and the Training Development in the Field of International Trade (Train for Trade) programme, to reinforce developing countries' human capacities in various aspects of trade and development policies, including port management, trade statistics and other issues, including a digital identity for e-commerce.

86. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by increasingly focusing on the impact, adaptation policy measures and economic recovery, in the field of technology and logistics for development. This will include identifying and disseminating good practices to keep trade logistics operational while containing the spread of the coronavirus, as well as identifying how the pandemic may transform the trade logistics and transport sector in the long term and helping developing countries to adapt accordingly. With regard to STI, this will include researching and sharing policy options to protect and recover from the pandemic. The subprogramme will also analyse and disseminate information on the impact of the pandemic on e-commerce and the digital economy and policies to promote e-commerce for mitigation and recovery.

Expected results

87. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in (a) improved knowledge and improved international consensus on emerging challenges and good practices in science, technology and innovation policies for development; (b) the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism; (c) better capacities in member States to harness science, technology and innovation to support their national development strategies; (d) increased consensus on and awareness of key trends and challenges in the digital economy for development; (e) strengthened capacity in developing countries and the least developed countries to implement policies that harness the digital economy for development objectives, including in terms of integrating women and vulnerable groups into e-commerce and the digital economy; (f) enhanced trade logistics that better connect beneficiary countries to international markets in a more resilient and sustainable way, while enhancing transparency and efficiency in trade, including through the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA); (g) improved capacity to implement trade facilitation and transport measures for sustainable development; h) better capacity of developing countries to assess, analyse and formulate policies on important issues related to the macroeconomy, trade, investment and technology, including information and communications technology, for development; and i) developing countries being in a better position to plan and implement trade and development policies that are more inclusive and sustainable. The planned support on pandemic-related issues is expected to result in enhanced capacities of beneficiary countries and improved policies in the fields of technology and trade logistics resulting in increased resilience to pandemics and other shocks, as well as accelerated recovery from the economic impact of COVID-19. Support will result in better understanding and capacities to mitigate the impact of pandemics through technology solutions, including e-commerce, and more resilient trade logistics in developing countries, as well as enhanced capacities to better leverage technology and trade logistics for accelerated recovery, as specified under results 1 and 2.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020

88. Owing to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the subprogramme had to postpone some activities, and several intergovernmental meetings to which the subprogramme contributes were postponed or delayed, at the request of either UNCTAD member States or other entities. These included the Science Technology and Innovation Forum, the sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission and meetings of the working group on e-measurement, as well

as the postponement of all technical notes and materials related to these meetings. Also, due to the fact that the programme of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD was modified to allow for discussions on the impact of COVID-19, specific sessions on STI and digitalization were cancelled. At the same time, the subprogramme changed the approach and format of intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings under its direct responsibility from in-person to virtual. This included virtual meetings for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), eCommerce Week and the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation. These events featured dedicated sessions on COVID-19 and the CSTD session issued a call for technology solutions in tackling the pandemic and its impacts to be shared with developing country members. Other activities were also successfully organized online in the areas of trade facilitation and in the context of the Train for Trade and ASYCUDA programmes. Likewise, preparatory and validation workshops for policy documents developed by the subprogramme had to be transformed into online events. The pandemic also impacted the implementation of several technical assistance activities of the subprogramme, including the delivery of regional courses on key issues on the international economic agenda, which had to be postponed to 2021, as these courses rely heavily on onsite face-to-face interactions and networking among beneficiaries. In the area of e-commerce and the digital economy, planned e-commerce strategies were delayed due to the pandemic, as some workshops with Governments and other stakeholders had to be postponed. In the area of trade facilitation and transport, the number of seminars, workshops and training events delivered was also reduced due to the pandemic and the shifting of activities online often entailed a regional grouping for planned national-level events. In some instances, training material on trade facilitation and transport was also uploaded online for self-learning instead of being delivered in person. Such changes had an impact on the programme performance in 2020, as specified under result 2.

89. At the same time, however, the subprogramme identified both new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objective. The subprogramme prepared a large number of guidelines, surveys, policy briefs and other reports on the impact of the pandemic and ways to achieve a better recovery and improve resilience through STI and e-commerce. The subprogramme's research on e-commerce and the digital economy and technology has therefore highlighted the need for technology solutions in dealing with the pandemic and its impacts. The research showed the facilitating role of digital solutions and how e-commerce has helped countries cope with the pandemic, while stressing the need to bridge existing digital divides. Through its analysis, the subprogramme also advocated for protecting STI funding during and after the crisis and explored the role of science and technology policies in COVID-19 recovery. Moreover, the subprogramme's survey of e-commerce companies and third-party platforms highlighted several key obstacles and potential remedying policy measures related to addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in developing countries. In the area of trade logistics, including trade facilitation, customs automation, maritime transport and port management, the subprogramme developed a large and coherent package of mutually reinforcing adaptation measures to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus while ensuring that critical goods can move unimpeded, as specified under result 1.

Liquidity constraints

90. In 2020, liquidity constraints impacted the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included the delayed delivery of technical assistance and research projects due to the freeze in recruitment. It also included shorter and postponed intergovernmental meetings due to the lack of resources to purchase online interpretation services (Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation) and impacted the implementation of the work related to measuring e-commerce and the digital economy, including collecting and reporting on member State data in this area and facilitating the meetings of the working group on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy. Similarly, due to the liquidity constraints, certain requests from member States in relation to activities implemented in the context of the Train for Trade programme could

not be implemented, including adapting some components of the programme for delivery in other languages.

Result 1: Building the resilience of member States with regard to the pandemic in trade logistics

Programme performance in 2020

91. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries resorted to strict measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus at borders, seaports and airports. This greatly hindered the movement of goods, including essential food items and medicines. As part of rapid response measures, the subprogramme offered its support and expertise in trade logistics and transit, with a special focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Through the adoption of a coherent approach addressing complementary subsectors of trade logistics, the subprogramme aimed to reinforce the resilience of trade logistics overall in beneficiary countries. In close dialogue with its networks of practitioners in the field, the subprogramme developed a 10-point action plan identifying best practices and recommendations in trade facilitation, representing a trade facilitation COVID-19 crisis response package, and provided emergency advisory services in trade facilitation. These recommendations were complemented by concrete steps on the ground aimed at building the capacity of member States to facilitate remote working, physical distancing and paperless environments, in order to provide uninterrupted services at borders. In this context, the subprogramme also developed guidelines and provided capacity-building for customs administrations to adapt the use of ASYCUDA during the pandemic and in post-pandemic economic recovery.. In addition to these guidelines, the ASYCUDA programme surveyed more than 100 ASYCUDA-user customs administrations to better tailor assistance in implementing further paperless procedures, reviewing risk management and organizational arrangements for business continuity, adjusting ICT infrastructures and implementing tax policy changes to maximize the benefits of ASYCUDA in the specific context of the pandemic. With regard to ports, the subprogramme developed guidelines on best practices in port management against pandemics, disseminated through the Port Management Programme Network across 60 countries. The subprogramme also investigated the impact of COVID-19 on maritime trade, port calls and liner shipping connectivity, producing near real-time data of the maritime sector to facilitate decision-making on economic policies. It also supported the preparation of a call for action to Governments to facilitate crew changeovers and remove unnecessary regulatory obstacles to maritime transport during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Finally, the subprogramme led the development of a joint technical assistance project funded by the Development Account on improving trade and transport facilitation connectivity during pandemics, with the five United Nations regional commissions.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

92. This work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the use and adoption of the above guidelines and recommendations by member States during the pandemic that has ensured the continuation of trade flows, the resilience of trade logistics, the prioritization of medical products and other essential goods in transit at borders, the reduction of duties on such goods and the increased use of electronic payments at customs, to reduce the risk of the spread of the coronavirus associated with physical interactions. Other evidence includes the resolution 75/17 of the General Assembly on international cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”,² urging the designation of seafarers and other marine personnel as key

² “Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as other relevant entities of the United Nations system, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session through the International Maritime Organization report on the crew changes situation during the COVID-19 pandemic based on the work of the Seafarer Crisis Action Team and

workers, as tabled by Indonesia, a key global supplier of maritime labour force. The impact of the work on trade facilitation can be seen in the enhanced capacity of a wide range of stakeholders that participated in the empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees, including on how to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on trade facilitation. Furthermore, the Development Account project that brings together UNCTAD and the five United Nations regional commissions will have a significant impact on safeguarding well-functioning transport chains and the free flow of goods within and across regions, while also introducing innovative tools to facilitate electronic and contactless exchanges of information and the free flow of goods. While this impact is relevant at all times, it is especially so in times of pandemic (table 14).

Table 14

Performance measure: member States rapidly address the impact of the pandemic on trade logistics in a holistic manner

2018	2019	2020
Member States received tailored support at the national level in identifying their particular trade logistics needs and priorities, including the provision of, among others, relevant analysis and research; an intensive dedicated professional capacity-building programme for the members of national trade facilitation committees and their secretariats through the empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees; support for port communities in developing countries in delivering more efficient and competitive ports to increase trade flows through the Train for Trade Port Management Programme; and the integrated customs management system ASYCUDA	Member States received increasingly broader and multifaceted support by the subprogramme to manage and adapt to address the fast evolving trends that shape trade patterns and define the operating landscape of the trade logistics sector overall in a holistic, efficient and effective manner. Member States utilized research and analytical work, consensus-building activities and technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, particularly focused on building regulatory and institutional capacities, to develop and strengthen policies and promote technical skills and expertise and, finally, become better equipped to face any major shocks	Member States address the pandemic-related challenges in trade logistics by using and adapting a set of holistic guidelines and recommendations developed by the subprogramme, covering the entire spectrum of trade logistics sectors, ensuring the continuation of trade flows. This work to be continued in the recovery phase and beyond.

Result 2: Boosting digital readiness in developing countries (reflected in the programme plan for 2020) – A/74/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

93. In 2020, the subprogramme continued its work towards enhancing the capacities of developing countries to harness the evolving digital economy taking into consideration different levels of preparedness across countries. With seven new eTrade Readiness Assessments in 2020 (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Malawi, Mali, the Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania), the programme has now completed a total of 26 Assessments. These Assessments provided up-to-date diagnostics of how LDCs and other developing countries can harness the potential of the digital revolution for e-commerce, trade and development. At the same time, they identified specific needs and critical weaknesses of the national e-commerce ecosystems and proposed concrete actions for Governments to improve the situation. To accelerate the implementation of recommendations contained in the eTrade Readiness Assessments, a detailed mapping exercise to take stock of achievements to date and to identify the next steps was undertaken. In addition, the subprogramme delivered a report surveying the impact of the pandemic on e-commerce and identifying adequate policy responses, which drew on the networks and national capacities created in countries in the context of the eTrade Readiness Assessments. The subprogramme also continued to

through a dedicated section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Review of Maritime Transport*" (paragraph 7).

develop the eTrade for all initiative and eTrade for Women. The initiative saw the inclusion of two new partners (the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Labour Organization) and supported the organization of eWeek 2020, held in a virtual format, with 2,000 participants from 130 countries. One physical eTrade for Women master class was held for French-speaking countries in West Africa (26–28 February) and two online master classes were organized for countries in Eastern Africa (8–10 July) and South-East Asia (18–15 October). Furthermore, the subprogramme undertook several research and consensus-building activities, including various surveys dedicated to the impact of the pandemic on e-commerce and the digital economy, and the session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy was held with both physical and remote participation.

94. The above-mentioned work contributed to specific actions undertaken by 12 countries, using the eTrade Readiness Assessments as a basis for elaborating e-commerce strategies and policies, reforming the legal and regulatory framework for e-commerce and improving their interministerial coordination and multi-stakeholder dialogues, which met the planned target of the adoption of actions by member States, including of legal and regulatory frameworks and policy actions recommended by the subprogramme, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. In 2020, the eTrade Readiness Assessments contributed to actions related to infrastructure development in Burkina Faso, Samoa and Zambia, the development of national e-commerce strategies in Benin, Cambodia, Myanmar and Zambia, the development or introduction of privacy and data protection regulations in Madagascar and Nepal, measures in support of digital payment solutions in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Togo and Uganda and the establishment of an e-commerce consortium in Senegal. In some regions, including the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community and the Pacific Island Forum, the assessments also served as a basis for developing regional e-commerce policies. In addition, close dialogue with donors resulted in more support to the subprogramme's work on e-commerce and the digital economy and consideration of the expansion of the digital dimension in development assistance strategies. Nevertheless, due to the pandemic and liquidity constraints, it was not possible to achieve the planned target of improved availability of statistics, as some activities could not be implemented as planned in the proposed programme budget for 2020 and are now scheduled to be completed in 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

95. The subprogramme will continue the work related to boosting digital readiness in developing countries, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will complement assistance to national Governments with closer involvement at the regional level, thereby fostering intraregional trade and integration through e-commerce and digital trade. In addition, the subprogramme will continue its work on increasing the involvement of women digital entrepreneurs in national and regional policy dialogue and will continue its work on improving the availability of statistics. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 15).

Table 15

Performance measure: member States participate in and benefit from e-commerce and digital economy, based on subprogramme's work and initiatives

2018	2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Divides between and within countries in terms of readiness to participate in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy	Availability of information and tools through a multitrack approach of research and analysis, policy dialogue and technical cooperation, including the launch of new network of women in e-commerce	Actions taken by 12 member States, including the adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks and policy actions, using the eTrade Readiness Assessments provided by the subprogramme; and improved incorporation of e-commerce and digital economy issues in the development assistance strategies of development partners and donors	Increased implementation of recommendations by member States of eTrade Readiness Assessments and a growing community of women digital entrepreneurs trained under the eTrade for Women initiative.	Increased awareness of the role of e-commerce and the digital economy among regional economic communities; enhanced involvement of women digital entrepreneurs in national and regional policy dialogues; and improved availability of statistics through UNCTAD assistance

Result 3: Strengthened capacity of developing countries to comply with international and regional trade facilitation rules and standards (reflected in the programme plan for 2021) – A/75/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

96. The subprogramme has continued to assist the implementation of trade facilitation reforms at both the national and regional levels in alignment with the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. In particular, the subprogramme improved the capacities of the national trade facilitation committees of beneficiary countries to fulfil their obligations under the Agreement. In 2020, 32 countries received support through the UNCTAD empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees. The subprogramme also developed a regional approach in assisting regional economic communities to implement regional protocols related to regional value chains and intraregional trade. This was implemented with the East African Community, ECCAS and CARICOM in the case of the Pacer+ Regional Trade Agreement. Furthermore, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the subprogramme provided a rapid response to the increasing needs of the national trade facilitation committees and the stakeholders involved in the logistics supply chain, increasing transparency and coordination and accelerating trade procedures. To this end, the subprogramme developed new online training modules and information technology tools such as the reform tracker and trade information portals to enhance the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of trade facilitation reforms. Finally, the subprogramme provided rapid response measures through the preparation of guidelines and advisory services, for example to help improve coordination between administrations in charge of trade, customs and health. The subprogramme also contributed to the dissemination of new emergency guidelines on trade facilitation and health issued by respective authorities, using the trade information portals. The support on trade facilitation is provided in close coordination with the ASYCUDA, transport and e-commerce programmes.

97. The above-mentioned work contributed to improving the capacities of 32 national trade facilitation committees to identify their national implementation obligations under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which exceeded the planned target of 13, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. This was made possible by the renewed and increased extra-budgetary support of several development partners and effective partnerships with other international organizations and regional economic communities.

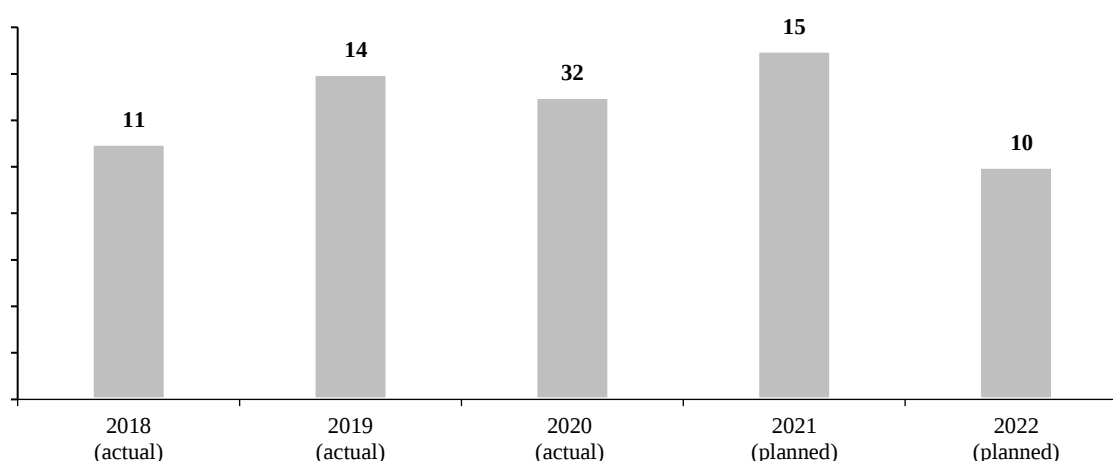
The COVID-19 crisis has clearly highlighted the need for more transparency and simplification in trade processes, to build the resilience of regional and global value chains.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

98. The subprogramme will continue the work related to the strengthened capacity of developing countries to comply with regional and international trade facilitation rules and standards, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to work with national trade facilitation committees and regional economic communities. So far, the subprogramme has secured resources to support the work of 10 national trade facilitation committees in 2022. However, it will continue to engage with development partners to raise support to increase the number of beneficiary countries and regional entities covered, while ensuring the sustainability of ongoing projects. In doing so, the subprogramme will further increase focus on the post-pandemic recovery and building regional supply chains in trade logistics, based on the trade facilitation-technology nexus. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (figure 4).

Figure 4

Performance measure: Number of national trade facilitation committees assisted by UNCTAD in identifying their national implementation obligations with regard to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization



Result 4: Empowering women digital entrepreneurs to build a more inclusive digital economy

Proposed programme plan for 2022

99. While digital technologies can be an enabler of women's economic empowerment, significant obstacles remain, including with regard to cultural norms, gender biases, lack of participation in decision-making processes, unequal access to the Internet, lower levels of digital skills and limited access to finance. Launched by the subprogramme in September 2019, the eTrade for Women initiative seeks to empower women digital entrepreneurs across developing and emerging economies and generate more inclusive digital ecosystems, in line with Goal 5 and Goal 8. To achieve its objectives, the subprogramme has partnered with seven influential women digital leaders from different regions and appointed them as eTrade for Women advocates, to act as role models and strive to make an impact beyond simply economic concerns. As part of their tenure, the advocates engaged in various multi-stakeholder policy dialogues at several high-level regional and global forums in 2020. Under the leadership of each eTrade for Women advocate in a respective region, the initiative organized three targeted skills-building and empowerment activities (regional master classes) in 2020 to increase women entrepreneurs' competencies and networks and is in the process of establishing eTrade for Women communities across regions to

contribute to and impact on local ecosystems. In addition, as a result of the master class networks, cross-border business opportunities have started to emerge between participants, laying the groundwork for more integrated digital ecosystems at the regional level.

Lessons learned and planned change

100. The lesson for the subprogramme was that to better enable changes in policies and regulations, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platforms need to be fostered. For example, policymakers at the national level developing regulatory policies may not be aware of the specific needs of small and medium-sized digital businesses and women digital entrepreneurs may not be included in consultations. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme has initiated dialogues between policymakers and women entrepreneurs at the local level, which contributed to a better understanding of the specific needs of small and medium-sized digital businesses and which will help inform decision makers in developing appropriate policy and regulatory responses. Such efforts have proven particularly useful in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which digital SMEs, including many women-led businesses, have played a critical role in adapting to the crisis. Another lesson for the subprogramme was that the engagement of advocates allowed the subprogramme to raise the profile and visibility of successful digital women entrepreneurs in developing and emerging economies, who act as role models for aspiring entrepreneurs and who are drivers of growth and inclusion in their communities. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme, through network effects, such as through the eTrade for Women communities, will aim to create positive spillovers impacting the current and next generation of women digital entrepreneurs, thereby positively contributing to and impacting local ecosystems.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

101. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by enhanced opportunities for women digital entrepreneurs to engage in policy dialogue initiatives on e-commerce, gender equality and inclusive development (table 16).

Table 16

Performance measure: Women digital entrepreneurs building a more inclusive digital economy and contributing positively to local ecosystems

2019	2020 (actual)	2021	2022
Increased awareness of Governments and the private sector on the role of eTrade for Women advocates to build a more inclusive digital economy	Improved capacities and competencies of at least 50 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities, to thrive in the digital economy	Improved business and leadership skills of at least 100 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities, including of the eTrade for Women advocates, to lead dialogues with policymakers on digital transformation. Establishment of eTrade for Women communities across regions to contribute to and impact on local ecosystems	Improved business and leadership skills of at least 200 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities. At least four eTrade for Women communities active across regions to contribute to and impact on local ecosystems and offer enhanced opportunities to engage in policy dialogue initiatives on e-commerce, gender equality and inclusive development

Legislative mandates

102. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development

69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
70/125	Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
73/17	Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets
74/197	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/26	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2019/24	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2019/25	Science, technology and innovation for development

Deliverables

103. Table 17 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 17

Subprogramme 4: Deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	25	10	24	21
1. Reports to the General Assembly on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and on science and technology for development	1	1	2	1
2. Reports to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its intersessional panels	6	3	6	6
3. Report of and background documents for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	4	0	4	-
4. Background note and reports for the Trade and Development Board	2	1	2	2
5. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat and reports for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings on issues related to science, technology and innovation	4	1	4	4
6. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat and reports for the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings	4	2	4	4
7. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat and reports for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy	2	2	2	2

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
8. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat and reports for the working group on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy	2	0	2	2
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	73	19	50	36
9. Meetings of the General Assembly (Second Committee) and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society	2	2	3	2
10. Annual session and intersessional expert panels of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development	16	3	16	16
11. Meetings of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	24	0	-	-
12. Annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	3	1	3	-
13. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	2	2	2
14. Annual session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and related expert meetings	7	1	7	7
15. Annual sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and related expert meetings on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	7	4	7	7
16. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy	6	6	6	6
17. Meetings of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy	4	0	4	4
18. Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat)	2	0	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	32	33	32	32
19. Projects within the Training Development in the Field of International Trade (Train for Trade) capacity-building programme: port management; issues related to trade, including e-commerce and statistics; and pedagogical methodology	7	7	7	7
20. Projects (national, regional and interregional) on transport and related services, including the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)	22	23	22	22
21. Projects within programmes on transport, trade facilitation and trade logistics	2	2	2	2
22. Projects within the programme on e-commerce and the digital economy	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	419	343.5	458	447
23. Train for Trade train-the-trainer events	55	54	55	0
24. Train for Trade national delivery workshops	260	222	260	300
25. Seminars, workshops, fellowships and training events on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	52	37	80	52

Category and subcategory		2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
26.	Ad hoc expert discussions on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation	1	1	1	1
27.	Ad hoc expert discussions on the role of technology (including information and communications technology) and innovation in development, including for the operationalization of technology transfer	1	1	1	1
28.	Seminars, workshops and training events on e-commerce and the digital economy for development, including on information economy statistics, economic, technical, legal and regulatory aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy for development and e-commerce and measuring the digital economy	10	9	10	10
29.	Training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda (paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action), regional and short courses	25	1.5	36	25
30.	Seminars, workshops and training events on science, technology and innovation and development	15	18	15	15
	Publications (number of publications)	24	20	25	23
31.	Technology and Innovation Report and overview	1	1	-	1
32.	Digital Economy Report and overview	-	-	1	-
33.	Review of Maritime Transport	1	1	1	1
34.	Science, technology and innovation policy reviews	2	4	3	2
35.	National e-commerce strategies	3	0	3	2
36.	Current Studies on Science, Technology and Innovation series	2	2	2	2
37.	Studies on transport and trade logistics and transport and trade facilitation series	2	2	2	2
38.	Reports on cyberlaws	2	2	2	1
39.	Train for Trade Port Management series	1	1	1	1
40.	Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments for the least developed countries and other developing countries	10	7	10	7
	Technical materials (number of materials)	12	9	12	12
41.	UNCTAD policy briefs on the following topics: science, technology and innovation; e-commerce and the digital economy; and trade logistics	4	3	4	4
42.	ASYCUDA in action compendium	1	1	1	1
43.	Year in review of the eTrade for All initiative	1	1	1	1
44.	Technical notes on information and communications technology (including e-commerce and the digital economy) for development	2	1	2	2
45.	Technical notes on trade facilitation	1	1	1	1
46.	Background notes for the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals	1	0	1	1
47.	Economic and maritime country profiles	1	1	1	1
48.	Report of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training	1	1	1	1

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
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Capacity and Human Resource Development

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: eCommerce Week, a multi-stakeholder forum organized over five days, with approximately 1,500 participants, over 270 speakers from more than 130 countries, in 60 substantive sessions; multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; sessions of the UNCTAD Advisory Group on Strengthening Training Capacity and Human Resource Development; and advisory services on science, technology and innovation policies for development, policy and practical aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy for development, measuring e-commerce and the digital economy, transport policies and international legal instrument standards and rules related to the facilitation of international trade, transport and transport security for port operators and the eTrade for All initiative

Databases and substantive digital materials: UNCTAD platform for learning and capacity-building managed by the Train for Trade programme, which trains approximately 1,500 beneficiaries per year; Train for Trade; port performance statistics platform; online repository on national trade facilitation committees; Global Cyberlaw Tracker; online e-learning modules for the courses on key issues on the international economic agenda; online platform for sustainable freight transport; and eTrade for All online platform

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Newsletters on ASYCUDA, eTrade for All and transport and trade facilitation; and brochures, flyers and information kits

External and media relations: Press releases, press briefings, interviews, press conferences and news items related to the issuance of major publications under the subprogramme and the organization of important events

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Train for Trade public website; Commission on Science and Technology for Development website; ASYCUDA website; Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet website; eTrade for All website; website on paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action; and online platforms for innovation policy learning

Subprogramme 5

Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

Objective

104. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance the effective integration of Africa, the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations (landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies) into the global economy through fostering structural transformation, reducing vulnerabilities and developing domestic productive capacities in the targeted groups.

Strategy

Planned activities

105. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue its research and technical cooperation activities to diversify the export and productive structures of the above-mentioned countries, including through contributions to the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, on the agreed outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries and on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The subprogramme will also continue to translate the policy guidance and recommendations emanating from research and analysis work into pragmatic and targeted technical cooperation programmes. In addition, the subprogramme will play an advocacy role in promoting consensus in the international development community regarding policy measures that best address the development problems of the above groups of countries, including at the multilateral level, through the identification of new issues and approaches, training and capacity-building workshops, as well as greater interaction with research institutes in the least developed countries and with development partners. The subprogramme will continue to strengthen efforts to provide domestic policy support and capacity-building to the targeted groups derived from its innovative research, advisory services and technical support. Through its research work, the subprogramme will also increase the availability of strategic policy-based options aimed at enhancing domestic productive capacities and facilitate their implementation through the development of demand-driven technical cooperation and programmatic support within the areas of expertise of the subprogramme. Furthermore, the subprogramme will broaden its country-based technical support to include aspects such as national strategies for the development of productive capacities and structural transformation, rules of origin, enhanced market access and preference utilization, value addition in strategic products and geographical indications, which will help member States, in particular the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations, to achieve progress towards achieving Goal 9 and Goal 17.

106. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by repurposing some of its planned research work to account for the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on economies in target countries in order to derive specific policy responses in the short, medium and long terms. The subprogramme will also adapt its technical cooperation to account for pandemic-related domestic shocks with a view to supporting Governments in policy design and implementation. Where relevant, the subprogramme will adapt or expand its methodological approach to research and technical cooperation and will design and implement specific ad hoc surveys to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 in the respective groups of countries.

Expected results

107. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in (a) greater structural transformation and inclusive growth in the least developed countries and other groups of countries in special situations at the domestic level; (b) greater capacity in countries to achieve Goal 9 and Goal 17, among others; and (c) improved development policy formulation and implementation capacities. The planned support on pandemic-related issues is expected to result in the targeted countries having greater capacities to develop and implement specific policy responses focusing on their productive capacities to account for current and future pandemic-related shocks, reduce exposure to external shocks and build resilience.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020

108. Owing to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the subprogramme postponed planned activities, including preparatory meetings in advance of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, workshops on trade-related issues relevant to LDCs such as on rules of origin, duty-free and quota-free market access and activities related to the Enhanced Integrated Framework and capacity-building activities planned for several landlocked developing countries on fostering productive capacities and structural transformation. The subprogramme rescheduled planned face-to-face workshops, training and capacity-building activities in targeted countries, when possible, and leveraged available technical tools to continue to provide training and advisory services through digital platforms. Furthermore, the subprogramme changed its approach and modified activities under the Development Account project on services trade in Africa, implemented jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, to include an analysis of the impact of the pandemic at the national and regional levels, focusing on specific services sectors and country case studies. This project extension aims to advance the policy responses needed to ensure that the sectors remain a part of inclusive and sustainable recovery solutions. The analysis has been informed by ad hoc business surveys and data collected on the impact of the pandemic on the services sectors in Ethiopia (transport services), Kenya (transport services), Mali (tourism), Nigeria (financial services) and Togo (financial services). These changes had an impact on the subprogramme's performance in 2020, as specified under result 3.

109. At the same time, however, the subprogramme identified both new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objective, namely by expanding its research focus, technical cooperation strategies and priorities. For example, the *Least Developed Countries Report 2020* included a new chapter that analysed the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on LDC economies and societies and provided targeted policy recommendations to LDC policymakers. In addition, the subprogramme expanded business analysis of the impact of the pandemic on selected services value chains in Africa and further prepared an ad hoc assessment of the Africa-specific development outcomes in relation to growth, food security, illicit financial flows and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as trade and fiscal revenue. The modified and new deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under result 1.

Liquidity constraints

110. In 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included delays in the research and preparatory work for the launch of *Economic Development in Africa Report 2020*, which had to be postponed, due to the recruitment freeze with regard to two senior research posts. It further delayed the recruitment of staff and consultants to work on *Economic Development in Africa Report 2021*, which raises the risk that this report may not be delivered at all, if the recruitment freeze is not lifted and adequate financial resources made available. Furthermore, due to liquidity constraints leading to the inability to travel and hire local experts to collect the necessary data and conduct related analysis, the subprogramme may

not be in a position to deliver the next set of vulnerability profiles, as mandated by the General Assembly, for LDCs meeting the criteria for graduation from the LDC category for the first time. This will have important repercussions, as the vulnerability profiles, together with impact assessments by DESA, represent direct inputs to the decision-making process of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) in its recommendations on the graduation of a country from the LDC category. The subprogramme will not be able to assist the above-mentioned countries in the development and implementation of their strategies for transition from the LDC category. The liquidity constraints have further prevented the subprogramme from disseminating the findings and policy recommendations originating from the two flagship reports (*The Least Developed Countries Report* and *Economic Development in Africa Report*) at the local level to Africa and LDC-based constituencies. This has restricted the access of the beneficiary countries to the targeted assistance that the subprogramme has provided. Although the subprogramme has increased its online training, advisory services and remote technical assistance, some countries with less-than-optimal infrastructure facilities have not adequately benefited from them. This has led to a disparity of benefits received, to the detriment of the poorest countries and those most in need. This is likely to have a negative effect on the achievement of Goal 1 and Goal 8 by beneficiary countries, as most of the policy recommendations focused on supporting African countries and LDCs in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, and on meeting the targets of Goal 17.

Result 1: Supporting eligible least developed countries with strategic policy-related advice on the extent of the impact of the pandemic on their graduation prospects

Programme performance in 2020

111. Countries found to be pre-eligible to graduate from the LDC category in 2018 by the Committee for Development Policy have all experienced socioeconomic setbacks directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and indirectly due to the economic recession in developed countries. The subprogramme updated the General Assembly-mandated vulnerability profiles to provide graduation-eligible LDCs a clear indication of how the current shock has affected their graduation prospects and their resilience-building and structural transformation-focused efforts. The profiles were originally submitted to inform the 2018 recommendations of CDP in relation to those LDCs that met the graduation thresholds for the first time. As part of the continuous monitoring of the performance of these countries, the profiles have been updated and will prove key in facilitating the decision of CDP on whether or not to confirm its 2018 graduation recommendations. In preparing the enhanced profiles, the subprogramme has leveraged use of the new UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index to assess the relative strengths and weakness of eligible LDCs to address the identified challenges and impacts of the pandemic.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

112. The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the provision to selected eligible LDCs of enhanced vulnerability profiles, as well as four specific impact studies on the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic in Angola, Bhutan, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. The enhanced vulnerability profiles and impact studies have benefited from systematic engagement with representatives of beneficiary Governments. The validation process for the vulnerability profiles and impact studies enabled the subprogramme to deliver targeted advisory services and provide virtual capacity-building and training on the development of policy options to address the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic (table 18). In addition, two specific studies on the possible impact of the loss of trade preferences due to graduation and the related erosion of trade preferences have been carried out for Cambodia and Myanmar.

Table 18

Performance measure: Policy recommendations to address the impact of the pandemic on graduation-eligible least developed countries

2018	2019	2020
Three LDC member States found eligible for graduation for the first time have their socioeconomic conditions and systemic trade and development vulnerabilities assessed and made available to the Committee for Development Policy in the form of country-specific vulnerability profiles	LDC member States found eligible for graduation have their socioeconomic conditions and vulnerabilities continuously monitored utilizing a robust methodology and analytical framework	LDC member States found eligible for graduation have access to updated analysis of the effect of the pandemic on their economies and targeted policy guidance in the form of revised vulnerability profiles, which are made available to CDP, along with country-specific impact studies

Result 2: Building productive capacities for economic transformation (reflected in the programme plan for 2020) – A/74/6 (Sect. 12)**Programme performance in 2020**

113. The subprogramme has designed and developed a programmatic approach to structural transformation focused on benchmarking and building productive capacities in LDCs, landlocked developing countries and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies, aimed at diversifying their economies and participating more fully in international trade. This work, as encouraged by resolution 2017/29 of the Economic and Social Council (paragraph 6), aims to measure progress in and identify obstacles to the development of productive capacities in targeted countries. The subprogramme has also enabled vulnerable countries to determine their starting and optimal positions with regard to the development of productive capacities and thereby able to identify the practical steps and areas in which targeted policies are most needed. This included the creation of a sound methodology to calculate the UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index and the calculation of indices for LDCs and landlocked developing countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme strengthened the institutional capacities of beneficiary countries to promote economic transformation and resilience-building efforts by training national statistical experts in the methodology for producing and analysing the Productive Capacities Index. In addition, the subprogramme published a practical manual on how to build and better utilize productive capacities in Africa and LDCs and produced topical reports on productive capacities for targeted countries.

114. The above-mentioned work contributed to building the capacity of national Governments in LDCs and landlocked developing countries in Africa and Asia to understand the importance of productive capacities for structural transformation, apply the UNCTAD methodology for calculating the Productive Capacities Index, evaluate the results of the index and design policies for addressing gaps in their productive capacities. Analysis based on the index has been incorporated into the revised vulnerability profiles for Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu, which exceeded the planned target of implementation of the index by landlocked developing countries, as it was extended to other non-landlocked LDCs, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The index will be made publicly available to all member States and interested users, to track development progress and identify areas of comparative strengths and weaknesses in the development, maintenance and use of productive capacities. The ample evidence base provided by the index enables beneficiary Governments to design and implement more targeted policies to support productive capacity development and monitor progress towards these results.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

115. The subprogramme will continue the work related to building productive capacities for economic transformation in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress

towards the objective, the subprogramme will train national policymakers, private sector actors and relevant civil society groups in the development challenges and vulnerabilities faced by beneficiary countries and on policy alternatives to build and strengthen productive capacities, applying the Productive Capacities Index for national policy formulation and monitoring progress towards the achievement of structural transformation. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (table 19).

Table 19
Performance measure

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Absence of benchmarking on productive capacities	Availability of a methodology for calculating a productive capacity index	Implementation of the UNCTAD Productive Capacities Index by landlocked developing countries and non-landlocked LDCs	Productive Capacities Index calculated for all countries, realizing its policy relevance	At least five beneficiary countries design and implement policies for productive capacity development using the analysis in the Productive Capacities Index and its related technical assistance and advisory services

Result 3: Building economic resilience in the least developed countries (reflected in the programme plan for 2021) – A/75/6 (Sect. 12)

Programme performance in 2020

116. The subprogramme has continued to support LDCs in their efforts to economically diversify their production structures in order to achieve graduation with momentum out of the LDC category and enhance their regional and multilateral integration efforts. This has contributed to enhancing their understanding of their vulnerabilities and the need to diversify their economic structures in order to build resilience. This support included the subprogramme contribution to the diversification of the economy of Angola away from its heavy structural dependence on oil, through the implementation of the European Union-UNCTAD joint programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. This was achieved through targeted technical assistance and capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening entrepreneurial capacity and emerging economic activities in the green economy and creative industry. Due to pandemic-related restrictions, the subprogramme participated in several virtual dissemination events and exchanges with the respective national resident coordinators, private sector and relevant government officials, including in Angola, Bangladesh, Haiti, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

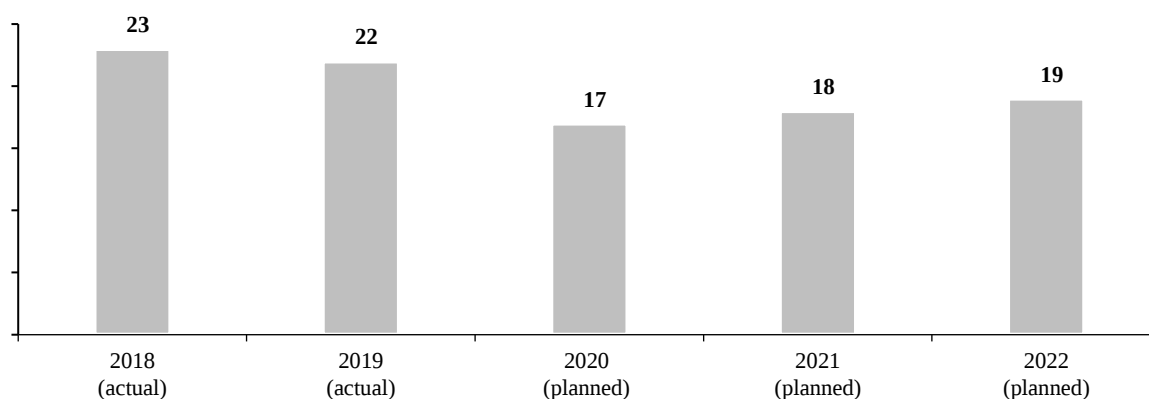
117. The above-mentioned work contributed to enhancing awareness of the need for economic resilience in LDCs but did not meet the target of increasing the number of countries that have experienced a reduction in their export concentration index, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. LDCs have been adversely affected by pandemic-related shocks twice: once directly through the impact on their medical systems and capacity to respond to the immediate health crisis and second through related effects from reduced trade, falls in commodity prices (primarily oil), lockdown measures in developed and neighbouring countries, falling investment levels and reduced remittances. This has resulted in decreased economic output and activities, resulting in a reconcentration of exports, as well as greater unemployment and higher poverty rates.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

118. The subprogramme will continue the work related to building economic resilience in LDCs, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue its research and technical assistance work in LDCs to build resilience by diversifying their productive structures, assuming that a new crisis will not unfold following the current epidemic. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (figure 5).

Figure 5

Performance measure: Total number of least developed countries experiencing a reduction in their export concentration index



Note: The data have been updated to reflect changes in the estimation of the export concentration index.

Result 4: Facilitating the participation of African countries in regional and global value chains through the strengthening of regional inter-State coordination mechanisms

Proposed programme plan for 2022

119. With adequate support to coordinate the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, African countries, and landlocked developing countries in particular, could enhance their integration into regional and global value chains and address the trade and development challenges they face. African countries, and landlocked developing countries in particular, struggle to put in place effective trade facilitation measures. These countries could significantly boost their exports and reduce bottlenecks affecting their regional and international trade exchanges, if they were able to improve their trade and transport logistics, lower non-tariff barriers and reduce delays and uncertainty along major corridors, including through their transit neighbours. Building on the subprogramme's expertise and long-standing technical assistance in the field of regional and multilateral trade negotiations, particularly in customs matters, as well as its expertise in transit, transport and trade facilitation negotiations in the context of the West Africa Trade Facilitation Programme, the subprogramme will facilitate the accrual of benefits for African LDCs and landlocked developing countries arising from regional and global value chains, as well as to facilitate implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Lessons learned and planned change

120. The lesson for the subprogramme was that coordination of transit strategies and the creation and implementation of an inter-State coordination mechanism across neighbouring countries is vital for their insertion into regional and global value chains, which contributes to their structural transformation. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will enhance cooperation at the national level in beneficiary countries between the different government and private sector actors involved, including ministries of commerce, transport and planning, as well as chambers of commerce and other actors from the private sector (e.g. carriers and shippers). It will further facilitate regular exchanges among neighbouring countries on the above issues. An improvement in inter-State trade facilitation and transport logistics would help reduce border delays and uncertainties along the major corridors and could lead the beneficiary countries to boost their regional and international exports and better position them in regional and global value chains.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

121. This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the increase in inter-State trade in the three beneficiary countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger) as

a result of increased dialogue between the members of the interministerial working group to formulate and implement a road map for a functional inter-State transit programme; and more-coordinated transport logistics within countries and implementation of a functional inter-State transit programme at the border, which will facilitate commercial exchanges, and reduce the cost and time to trade (table 20).

Table 20

Performance measure: Increase in inter-State trade due to more coordinated transit, transport and trade facilitation logistics at borders

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lack of implementation of a transit and transport coordination mechanism among the beneficiary countries	Recognition by the ministries of commerce, transport and planning, chambers of commerce and private sector actors of the need for a transit and transport coordination mechanism due to UNCTAD sensitization on the issue	Sensitization of the beneficiary countries through the established interministerial working group to the benefits originating from implementation of the regional convention on transit (ECOWAS Inter-State Road Transport and WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation	Inventory of existing protocols for inter-State road transit in Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger and validation by the beneficiary countries, through the established interministerial working group, of a road map for a functional inter-State transit programme	Increase in inter-State trade between the three beneficiary countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and the Niger) resulting from UNCTAD policy guidance and advisory support made available for the coordinated implementation of inter-State transit and transport policies

Legislative mandates

122. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

67/221	Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
68/18	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category
69/137	Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
69/217	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
74/232	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
74/234	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2017/29	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session
2018/27	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twentieth session
2019/8	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session

Deliverables

123. Table 21 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 21

Subprogramme 5: Deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	10	7	9	4
1. Reports for the Economic and Social Council, including on vulnerability profiles	3	3	5	1
2. Report of and background documents for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	2	1	-	-
3. Reports for the Trade and Development Board, including the overviews of the <i>Economic Development in Africa Report</i> , on UNCTAD-wide activities for least developed countries, UNCTAD-wide activities in support of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of Africa, indicators and benchmarks on productive capacity in landlocked developing countries and the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	5	3	4	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	31	16	8	9
4. Meetings of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its Committee for Development Policy	2	2	1	2
5. Meetings of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including preparatory meetings	22	7	-	-
6. Annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board	5	5	5	5
7. Meetings of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance	2	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	3	4	4	7
8. Projects on trade, transit and development to build national capacity	2	2	2	5
9. Projects on the Enhanced Integrated Framework	1	2	2	2

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	19	17	18	25
10. Workshops on trade issues relevant to least developed countries, including on duty-free and quota-free market access, diagnostic trade integration study and post-diagnostic trade integration study and trade activities under the Enhanced Integrated Framework and structural transformation and progress towards post-LDC status	14	13	14	14
11. Workshops on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024; the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; issues of thematic or sectoral relevance to landlocked developing countries; the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020; the agreed outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs; and trade and poverty	3	2	3	9
12. Workshops on matters relevant to development in the least developed countries and in Africa	2	2	1	2
Publications (number of publications)	9	8	10	12
13. <i>The Least Developed Countries Report</i> and its overview	2	2	2	2
14. <i>Economic Development in Africa Report</i>	1	1	1	1
15. Report on building and measuring productive capacities	1	1	-	1
16. Report on enhancing coherence between trade and industrial strategies for poverty alleviation in Africa and a special issues paper on Africa	1	1	1	1
17. Research and analytical studies on duty-free and quota-free market access and rules of origin	1	1	1	1
18. Lessons learned on geographical indications and related analysis for the least developed countries	1	1	2	1
19. Sectoral, statistical and thematic issues of interest for landlocked developing countries: policy implications for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Sustainable Development Goals	1	1	2	1
20. Challenges faced by the least developed countries in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and actions to take in the context of the final appraisal of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020	1	0	1	-
21. Research papers on economic development issues in LDCs and Africa	-	-	-	4
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	6	8
22. Research papers on trade and poverty	2	2	2	2
23. Research papers on trade and development in vulnerable economies, including small island developing States	2	2	2	4
24. Enhanced Integrated Framework-related publications, including on transit, transport and trade facilitation	—	—	2	2

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
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C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services to ministries of trade, transport and planning on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and to national statistical offices on measuring productive capacities for landlocked developing countries; advisory services on smooth transition strategies for graduating and graduated least developed countries; advisory services on trade and development issues for small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries; advisory services on trade issues relevant to LDCs, including duty-free and quota-free market access, to LDCs and the Enhanced Integrated Framework; consultations on UNCTAD activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and consultations with United Nations partner agencies and African countries for the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Lectures on issues related to the least developed countries and African development, globalization, development strategies and policy coherence for the benefit of member States, targeting a minimum of 100 combined participants; and at least two policy briefs related to *The Least Developed Countries Report* and the *Economic Development in Africa Report*

External and media relations: At least one press release each on *The Least Developed Countries Report* and the *Economic Development in Africa Report*, at least two opinion pieces on salient policy recommendations from the flagship reports and other topical research, two press conferences on *The Least Developed Countries Report* and the *Economic Development in Africa Report* and at least four interviews on research results and policy proposals