

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND GUIDE



NHSMUN 2010

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS • MARCH 17-20, 2010

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 36th Annual Conference • March 17-20, 2010

October 2009

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University of Pennsylvania

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Director-General
Dartmouth College

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Chris Talamo
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Dear Delegates,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you to 2010 National High School Model United Nations Conference! My name is Jenny Gai and I am the Under-Secretary General for the ECOSOC Special committees. I have been participating in NHSMUN for five years as both a delegate and a staffer and I still can't get enough. While NHSMUN is well known for being a challenging and rigorous conference, I firmly believe that what you put into it is what you get out. Having participated in a number of MUN conferences in high school, including NHSMUN, I was always amazed at the breadth of knowledge I gained after every conference, regardless of whether or not that knowledge was paired with an award. Because NHSMUN deemphasizes awards, the research that you do is for *you*, and in turn will only better facilitate your participation during debate and open your eyes to some of the world's most relevant and current issues.

Outside of NHSMUN, I am a junior at the University of Pennsylvania where I study biochemistry and environmental studies. I have yet to decide which path to follow—medicine or law/policy making. I am inclined to say that I can do both, but I'd like to have accomplished something by the time I'm 35 other than getting up to attend morning classes. For the moment, I am quite content with the idea of being a student for a little while longer. In the fall, I spent the semester studying at the University of Melbourne. I absolutely fell in love with the city's vibrant and diverse atmosphere, and the rest of Australia was pretty fabulous as well. Interestingly, I had to fly back to the States twice for NHSMUN related activities and racked up over 35,000 frequent flyer miles. It's a good thing I love to fly!

Besides jet-setting and schoolwork, I play ultimate frisbee for Penn's women's team, Venus. For those of you looking for a sport, I highly suggest ultimate. It is the perfect balance of athleticism, competition, and team cohesion. This past year, Venus made a fantastic showing at Nationals, tying for 5th overall. I also played for Melbourne while I was abroad and made it just in time for the Australian University Games in the Gold Coast. It was basically a five day tournament for all university sports teams within Australia and New Zealand to converge and compete in one venue—crazy good fun!

Hopefully, this letter has given you a glimpse into my life inside and outside of NHSMUN and it hopefully has not deterred you from getting to know me better. I have had the distinct privilege of working closely with your Directors and Assistant Directors—each of whom is not only a phenomenal person, but also an immense resource of information on the topics.

I absolutely cannot wait for the conference and I look forward to getting to know all of you. If you have any questions about NHSMUN or studying abroad (or really anything at all), please don't hesitate to shoot me an email at jygai34@gmail.com. Once again, welcome to NHSMUN 2010!

Sincerely,

Jenny Gai



NHSMUN is a project of the International Model United Nations Association, Incorporated (IMUNA). IMUNA, a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization, is dedicated to furthering global issues education at the secondary school level.



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Dear Delegates,

Hello and welcome to NHSMUN 2010! My name is Talya Bobick and I will be your director for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). I am a sophomore at New York University, studying International Relations with a focus in International Economics. This is only my third year at NHSMUN, but I absolutely love it. I attended the conference as a senior in high school as a delegate in DISEC, and served as Assistant Director on the World Food Programme at last year's conference. As a high school student I participated in many model United Nations conferences, but in college my focus (aside from NHSMUN) has shifted to mock trial. When I'm not busy with NHSMUN or mock trial, you can find me rooting for the Red Sox and living life in New York City. The city is a wonderful place, and I encourage you all to explore it (safely, and after the conference is done with, of course!).

I am extremely eager to work with this committee, and I am sure that the two topics I have chosen for UNCTAD will stimulate debate and get all of your minds working. The first topic is technology transfer and capacity building in developing nations and the second is increasing economic development of least developed countries through regional trade agreements. Both topics are extremely relevant to UNCTAD and the international community as a whole and I have no doubt that you will come up with great solutions for either topic.

The following pages are just a glimpse at the hours of research done for you prior to the conference; I sincerely hope that you will read this background guide through thoroughly and use it as a jumping off point for your own research. For this committee to be a success, you must all know and understand the topics and your respective positions fully. If you have any questions at all concerning the topics, the committee, the conference, or anything else NHSMUN related, do not hesitate to call, email, or Skype me. I will always be available Tuesdays from 3:30 until 5:00pm EST for NHSMUN calls. But, like most of you, I'm attached to my phone so if you call me at any other point I'll be sure to get back to you as soon as I have a free moment.

Good luck researching! I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and a successful UNCTAD at NHSMUN 2010.

Sincerely,

Talya Bobick
trbobick@gmail.com
404.291.3502

Apt 8BS, South Tower
47 West 13th Street
New York, New York 10011

A NOTE ON RESEARCH AND PREPARATION

Delegate preparation is paramount to a successful and exciting National High School Model United Nations 2010 Conference. We have provided this Background Guide to introduce the topics that will be discussed in your committee; these papers are designed to give you a description of the topics and the committee. They will not give you a complete description of the topic areas and they will not contain the most up-to-date information, particularly in regards to rapidly evolving issues. We encourage and expect each delegate to fully explore the topics and be able to identify and analyze the intricacies of the issues. Delegates must be prepared to intelligently utilize their newly acquired knowledge and apply it to their own countries' policy. You will find that your state has a unique position on the topics that cannot be substituted for or with the opinions of another state.

The task of preparing and researching for the conference is challenging, but it can be interesting and rewarding. We have provided each school with a copy of the **Delegation Preparation Guide**. The Guide contains detailed instructions on how to write a position paper and how to effectively participate in committee sessions. (**Note:** some position papers have unique guidelines that are detailed within respective committees' Background Guides.) The Guide also gives a synopsis of the types of research materials and resources available to you and where they can be found. A brief history of the United Nations and the NHSMUN conference are also included. The annotated rules of procedure complete the Delegate Preparation Guide.

An essential part of representing a nation in an international body is the ability to articulate that state's views in writing. Accordingly, it is the policy of NHSMUN to require each delegate (or double-delegation team) to write position papers. The position papers should clearly outline the country's policies on the topic areas to be discussed and what factors contribute to these policies. In addition, each paper *must* address the Research and Preparation questions at the end of the committee Background Guide. Most importantly, **the paper must be written from the point of view of the country you are representing at NHSMUN 2010** and should articulate the policies you will espouse at the conference. All papers should be typed and double-spaced. The papers will be read by the Director of each committee and returned at the start of the conference with brief comments and constructive advice.

You are responsible for sending a copy of your paper to the Director of your committee. Additionally, your delegation is responsible for bringing a bound copy of all of the position papers—one for each committee to which your school has been assigned—to **the conference** (to be submitted during registration). Specific requirements of the bound copy have been sent to the faculty advisor/club president. In addition to position papers, each delegation must prepare one brief summary statement on the basic economic, political, and social structures of its country, as well as on its foreign policy. Please mail country summary statements to the Director-General of NHSMUN 2010 at the address below. All copies should be **postmarked** no later than **February 16th** and mailed to:

Jerry Guo, Director-General
Hinman Box 658
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755

Talya Bobick, Director
Apt 8BS, South Tower
47 West 13 St
New York, NY 10011

(Country Summaries)

(Individual papers)

Delegations are required to mail **hard copies** of papers to the Director-General and Directors.
NHSMUN Staff will not consider e-mail submissions as an adequate substitution.

Delegations that do not submit position papers to Directors or Summary Statements to the Director-General will be ineligible for awards.

COMMITTEE HISTORY

In the early 1960s, a concern arose in the international community over the relatively weak status of international trade between developing states. To act on this concern, several developing states created a conference devoted specifically to identifying and solving problems related to international trade that were being experienced by states in their bloc (“A Brief History”). Consequently, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was formed as a formal organ of the United Nations General Assembly, created through General Assembly Resolution 1995(XIX) on 30 December 1964. This resolution established the committee’s mandate of and the logistics of its decision-making bodies (Smith 13). Member States meet at a quadrennial conference to discuss current issues and to formulate global policy responses, along with setting the committee’s agenda (“UNCTAD Conferences”).

At the UNCTAD’s first gathering, UNCTAD I, held in Geneva before its formal creation as a permanent body, the developing states that attended passed a set of resolutions that established several principles to guide the UNCTAD’s basic mission. These principles deal primarily with sovereignty, equality, and the need for development to be a key issue in the United Nations General Assembly. In the 1960s and until the mid-1970s, the first Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, Argentinean economist Raul Prebisch, helped the UNCTAD push for a new policy—a mix of Keynesian economics and the dependency theory—to help promote development while simultaneously calling attention to superfluous international restraints on development caused primarily by barriers to trade (Smith 13-14).

The early years of the UNCTAD also saw two major developments that still guide the United Nations as a whole: the development of criteria for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the formation of the Group of 77 (G-77). In 1971, the UNCTAD created three criteria to characterize a country as “least developed,” pinpointing such a country as one in particular need of aid (“A Brief History”). Today, there are 50 states that fall under this category. The UNCTAD works in conjunction with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) to form policy reports and fund programs, such as the Multifunctional Platform in Senegal, to economically aid these states (“Criteria”). Prior to the creation of these criteria, the developing states of the UNCTAD signed the Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries, which allowed for states of the economic south to voice their own economic concerns and suggestions. The G-77 is currently comprised of 130 members even though the name remains the same (“About the Group of 77”).

Through the late 1970s, the UNCTAD’s actions were large-scale and influential. UNCTAD II saw the negotiation of the international community’s first Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which grants developing countries reduced or zero tariff rates over the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates for selected products originating in the aforementioned developing country and sold internationally (“About GSP”). Another noteworthy action of the UNCTAD was the creation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC), a program that was set in place to provide the means of implementing significant international commodity agreements. However, beginning in the early 1980s, a collaborative effort by major economic powers to deprive the United Nations of its economic functions began to deteriorate the UNCTAD’s mandate and consequently its influence. Specifically, reports and policy formed at the Cartagena and Midrand Conferences, held in 1992 and 1996 respectively, shrunk the UNCTAD’s mandate and steered its scope away from the guidelines set out in UNCTAD I in 1964 (Boutros-Ghali 4-5).

Since the turn of the new millennium, the UNCTAD has reorganized itself to support economic development while abiding by its reduced mandate through more flexible mechanisms. The UNCTAD has become increasingly involved with working toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in several ways; the most prominent work the UNCTAD has done in respect to achieving these goals is by trying to create a non-biased global trading system (Smith 84-85). The most recent UNCTAD conference was UNCTAD XII, held in Accra, Ghana, which led to the Accra Accord and the Accra Declaration. Following the conference’s focus on globalization and the role trade can have in eradicating poverty, the Accra declaration concentrated on four sub-themes. These sub themes are:

1. “Enhancing coherence at all levels for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in global policymaking, including the contribution of regional approaches
2. Key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy
3. Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade, and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development
4. Strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact, and institutional effectiveness” (UNCTAD/IAOS/2008/2)

UNCTAD’s activities are centered around the promotion of international market interaction and cooperation between developing and developed states through global policy formation. Through both short-term and long-term solutions, UNCTAD helps to successfully integrate developing states into the international economy in ways such that they can continue to grow and develop both economically and socially.

SIMULATION

In our simulation of UNCTAD, a number of different delegations will represent the member states of the committee. Discussion between these parties will be facilitated by the Dais, which consists of the Director and the Assistant Director (AD). The role of the Dais is to moderate debate and provide substantive guidance. Read this section thoroughly prior to the start of debate. I will provide time at the beginning of the first committee session for you to ask questions concerning the flow of debate, the procedure of the committee, and the policy report process.

Unlike many other United Nations committees, UNCTAD declares its progress and solutions in the form of policy reports, rather than resolutions. As a trade organization that operates on the basis of consensus building, UNCTAD's conferences work toward the development of reports on the present and future work of the organization. A key difference between these policy reports and resolutions is simply the organization and formatting of the document itself—each section of the report is a numbered paragraph rather than a clause.

The format of a policy report is as follows:

I. Introduction

1. Provides the context for the issue(s) being addressed.
2. Discuss UNCTAD's intentions in addressing the issue(s).
3. Establish the committee's aims for resolving the issue.

II. Policy Analysis

4. Describes and analyzes the policies.
5. Discuss the impacts these policies will have on the issue(s).

III. Policy Recommendations

6. Offers various members' recommendations.

IV. Technical assistance

7. Reports on what practices and techniques can be implemented to resolve the issue(s).
8. Discuss the feasibility and success of such assistance.

V. Additional Research

9. Provides important research that is pertinent to the issue(s).

VI. Multilateral Discussion

10. Describes members' policies with regard to offering aid.
11. Lists the ways in which various countries, organizations, and other agencies will provide assistance.

VII. Conclusion

12. Summarizes the committee's efforts and offers further recommendations.

The introduction is comprised of several preambulatory paragraphs that provide the context for the issue being addressed and summarizes UNCTAD's intentions and goals. Following the introduction, there are several numbered subtheme paragraphs that address particular dimensions of the issue using policy analysis, policy recommendations, technical assistance, additional research, and further multilateral discussion. When preparing for the conference, it is imperative that you look at the Accra Accord of 2008, as it demonstrates the format and content that should go into an effective UNCTAD policy report.

The process of drafting a report will be similar to that of a resolution in other committees; delegates will write working papers comprised of draft paragraphs and continue to work on separate pieces of the report until the committee is satisfied and ready to have the draft considered as part of the final report. The members of the committee may find it beneficial to split into groups while working on policy report subtopics. While this is not official procedure of UNCTAD, allowing different groups to work on separate sections of the policy report may aid in enhancing the depth and comprehensiveness of the document. Should the delegates choose

to work in this manner, all sections will be brought before the committee as a whole for discussion and revision.

When members of the committee are satisfied with a completed section, the Director will accept a subtopic (or single paragraph in some cases) to be included, ultimately compiling a report comprised of draft paragraphs and subtopics upon which the committee will vote on as a whole. Only **one** comprehensive report will be voted on by the Conference. Because UNCTAD operates on consensus, all members must consent to the passing of the report. This means that for a report to be passed by the Conference, each member must vote yes or abstain; abstentions do not indicate a negative vote. While conflicting perspectives and minority opinions may be noted at the end of the document if necessary, only a single, consistent set of recommendations can be adopted by the conference.

As a reminder, all working papers and draft paragraphs are expected to be a collaborative work by delegations of the committee. In order to achieve consensus within the committee, it will be important to work together throughout each phase of debate. The final report will represent a collaborative effort by all delegations in addressing the issue(s) at hand, not the work of a few individual representatives. As such, pre-written working papers are strictly prohibited at the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) conference.

To encourage participation and the development of consensus, our debate will take many forms. Formal debate will be facilitated by the Dais and will involve a speakers' list with a set speaking time; any delegate wishing to speak may request to be added to this list. To encourage more open debate, the Dais will allow the committee to move into moderated caucus for a specified duration, often at the request of a delegate. A moderated caucus will involve a speaking time and a set topic to focus debate, but will not involve a set speakers' list. Each delegate will be recognized at the discretion of the Dais to speak for the specified amount of time. The third main form of debate is an unmoderated caucus. Unmoderated caucuses have a set time frame but limited involvement of the Dais. This type of caucus can be used for smaller group discussions and to develop working papers and draft paragraphs.

The most productive and efficient committees use their time not only to debate differences of opinion, but also to identify areas of agreement. Successful delegates will adhere to country policy while remaining flexible in order to reach an agreement on how the Conference can best address the topic at hand. During debate, I encourage you to recognize the role that blocs will play; understanding which countries share similar goals can be important in building consensus and generating realistic and comprehensive solutions. All delegates hold an equal opportunity to stand in opposition to the recommendations of the Conference, so it is important that all delegations participate actively to voice their opinions, while considering the perspectives of all others.

As always, feel free to ask any questions that you may have about the topics, the flow of debate, the rules of procedure, the drafting of policy reports, or anything else about which you may be unsure.

Something that will aid in delegate preparation is a new program NHSMUN is starting this year: blogs. Each Director and Assistant Director will maintain a committee blog covering new developments and critical analysis of issues related to the topic. Delegates are encouraged to comment on the staff's posts and ask questions; starting a dialogue before the conference will lead to more comprehensive and effective solutions. View the committee blog at:

<http://nhsmun2010unctad.wordpress.com>

The staff will update the blog at least three times a month. **Delegates are highly encouraged to stay updated on new posts and whatever information the dais provides.**

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEVELOPING STATES

TOPIC A

Introduction

Over the past several years, the technology has come to greatly affect all states both socially and economically, through technological advances like the computer, the Internet, and even music playing devices that can surf the Internet. The Internet is a key component in economic development due to the fact that the stock market and many international markets all operate on an almost entirely electronic level. The Internet offers a vast platform of accessible information. However, without the proper policies, knowledge, and simple ownership of the various aspects of technology, states can be left in the technological and economic dust. Because of this, it is necessary that every state understand the full potential of technology and the necessity of technology ownership in developing states to encourage its economic development. UNCTAD's purview of trade and development has expanded to include virtual trade, as it is a key component of how information and ideas are shared in today's world. Developed states have already moved ahead in what is now known as the digital age, taking full advantage of technological potential such as e-commerce, e-governance, online education, and more. Additionally, developing states have the potential to benefit greatly from advances in technology, as they support ongoing economic growth and allowing for these states to expedite their overall development.

A key component to the digital age is e-governance. For developing states, a competent, mobile government is imperative to successful development of the country's economy. The evolution of the Internet, along with other information communication technologies (ICTs) has allowed for any government to be most effective and efficient if given ICT tools conducive with each state's specific economic needs. These same tools can be applied to commerce, both domestic and international. Using ICTs to develop the economy is an important way of making sure that the state's economy develops at a pace that is able to compete at the international level.

Today's world depends heavily on the use and success of ICTs. Developing states already struggle to compete in the international markets, as their development can be hindered by inadequate technological services. In order to allow developing states to expand their economies, technological infrastructure and policy must be formed. The formation of UNCTAD's Division on Investment, Technology, and Enterprise Development (DITE) demonstrate UNCTAD's commitment towards improving access to technology. DITE, while already having conducted research and written reports concerning technology transfer and infrastructure, has the potential to move forward and provide guidance given the complexities of technology transfer and capacity building when put into practice.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

History of Technology Transfer

Given the centrality of technology to development, and the necessity of technology acquisition by developing states as a means of furthering development, it could be assumed that such countries should be able to benefit from the transfer and diffusion of the best available technology. Unfortunately, UNCTAD research has shown that this has not always been the case. Most of the world's advanced technology is generated privately by transnational corporations (TNCs), whose principal research and development activity is located in developed countries. This focus on developed countries creates an asymmetrical balance between technology possession and the location of technological need (UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28 1).

TNCs are among the main sources of new technology for developing countries. TNCs transfer technologies directly to foreign host countries in two ways: internalized to affiliates under their ownership and control, and externalized to other firms ("World Investment" 203). Through internalized transfer, it is difficult to measure

and assess the amount of technology transferred because it takes the form of foreign direct investment (FDI) and this number is not exclusive to technology alone (UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28 12). Externalized modes of TNC technology transfer can take a variety of forms: franchising, capital goods sales, technical assistance, and more. National firms can also transfer technology in this manner; however, TNCs are very important in high technology areas (UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28 13).

The encouragement of technology transfer to developing countries has been a recurrent issue in international economics for the past four decades (UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28 20). The draft UNCTAD Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology addressed the issue from a variety of perspectives: the legitimization of specific domestic policies to promote the transfer and diffusion of technology; rules governing the contractual conditions of the transfer of technology transactions; special measures on differential treatment for developing countries; and measures that would strengthen international cooperation (Muchlinski 427-429). Within the past decade, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies has been added to the agenda of international investment agreements (IIAs) in the context of technology transfer. One of the results of this environmentally friendly push has been a greater emphasis on the need for TNCs to ensure that the technology they transfer to developing states in particular is conducive to good environmental management, therefore promoting sustainable development (UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28 21).

In June 2001, UNCTAD sponsored an expert meeting that focused on international arrangements for the transfer of technology. Specifically, the meeting centered discussion around best practices for access and measures to encourage the transfer of technology with a goal of capacity-building in developing countries, especially in least developed countries. The results of the meeting were documented in a 14-page report, outlining both the outcome of the meeting along with the chairperson's summary of the discussions. There were several important outcomes of the meeting as noted by the many experts who attended; however, perhaps the most valuable outcome was noted in paragraph four, which expressed the experts' opinions of the best practices that can contribute to generating "favorable conditions and opportunities for transfer of technology and capacity building" (TD/B/COM.2/33 2). Some of the practices noted in this section of the report included international instruments with built-in implementation mechanism, making the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement more conducive to the transfer of technology, setting up interministerial coordination committees at the national and regional level with regard to the interface between commitments in the TRIPS Agreement and the national implementation requirements, designing measures and specific incentives for home-country enterprises, and many more (TD/B/COM.2/33 3). The meeting concluded with the experts unanimously advocating that UNCTAD should provide assistance to developing countries to strengthen their ability to discuss and negotiate technology transfer in international instruments (TD/B/COM.2/33 4). UNCTAD has the capability to assist developing states in adopting some of the cited best practices, and to promote and sponsor new research to adapt these best practices given today's modern technological advancements.

E-Commerce

E-commerce is an innovation of the tech revolution; its adoption by developing states will be critical in ensuring economic and technological parity. The most basic definition of e-commerce is "any use of information and communications technology by a business that helps it improve its interactions with customers or suppliers". This broad definition includes business and consumers transactions (B2C), business-to-business transactions (B2B) and business to government and vice versa (G2B) (Payne 6). While the impact of e-commerce on the business sector has been largely accepted, doubts have arisen about the impact of e-commerce on macroeconomic growth, particularly on productivity growth (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 26). In the E-Commerce report published in 2001, UNCTAD performed a quantitative analysis that focused on the impact of e-commerce on the global economy by observing two potential scenarios: first, if developing countries were to continue to fall behind technologically, and second, if they were to catch up with already developed states. The bare bones results of this analysis showed that because e-commerce reduces costs and increases efficiency, e-commerce has the potential to become an important tool in development (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 27).

Benefits from e-commerce to any one country depend on the volume of demand and supply of goods and services that can be traded on the Internet (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/3 15). For this reason, e-commerce policy must be carefully crafted and watched. A key issue in setting up e-commerce as an industry is observing which resources are best suited for ICT use. To do this, one should compare the rate of return of a resource in e-commerce in comparison to the rate of return in other activities; by looking at such comparisons, resources will not be unnecessarily committed to the ICT sector (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/3 19).

The key participants in evolving e-commerce in developing states are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); SMEs account for 60-70% of all employment in developing states (Payne 8). The use of ICTs in customer or supplier relationships is key to improving business, both domestic and international (Payne 2). Aggregate employment and the use of ICTs by SMEs is the reason why they can play a large part in the development of e-commerce. However, a recent survey conducted by the OECD showed one major obstacles to using e-commerce was the lack of understanding of electronic commerce techniques and the infrastructure and technology required for successful e-commerce policies (Payne 5). Once this large obstacle is overcome, businesses can use e-commerce policy to find new customers on a larger, potentially international scale, serve customers better, improve efficiency and offer entirely new products and services (Payne 8).

E-Tourism

In most developing states, the tourism industry's role as a major employer and subsequent recipient of foreign currency plays a main role in the state's economy. Tourism is one of the main sources of revenue of the fifty LDCs, yet profit leakages (stealth loss in profits from missed payments, corruption etc) in this sector can total up to 85 % in some African LDCs (UNCTAD E-Tourism Initiative). An important tool for keeping policies regarding tourism current and profitable is using e-commerce to aid in the tourism sector, or e-tourism (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 27). The tourism industry is very information-intensive and a substantial amount of resources are required for successful advertising, market research, and consumer profiling. All over the world, these resources are becoming more quickly adapted to the use of the Internet (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 28). The concept of e-tourism combines sustainable tourism with ICTs. The use of ICTs to promote tourism allows for minimal costs to the tourist sector and the autonomy of the tourism enterprises. By using the Internet, states are in charge of their own advertising and promotion, which provides for less repatriation of profits (UNCTAD E-Tourism Initiative).

E-Government and E-Procurement

The 2004 UNCTAD E-Commerce Report defines e-government as an institution that is "Internet based, providing solutions that link the back and front office of government, including by moving from paper-based to electronic processes, and always considering the best interest of citizens" (E-Commerce 133). ICTs, in particular the Internet, have huge potential to expand the organization and services of a government. E-government projects in developing states already include public information such as tax self-assessment and online health information, facilitation of payments such as paying fines, and other general government services such as the reporting of crimes (E-Commerce 135). The virtual nature of the World Wide Web allows for the Internet to cross otherwise impenetrable boundaries, providing the opportunity for reorganizing far reaching government services. Though both the public and the private sector of developed states use the Internet to market goods and services, in developing states, it is often the government and the public sector that lag behind the private sector (E-Commerce 134).

While e-governance has the ability to improve the economic sector of a developing state, it is often economic concerns that impede e-governance growth. While over time, new technology can help to reduce the cost of government activities, there are short term costs that governments are sometimes unwilling to pay. As online services become more prevalent relative to personal transactions, the decreasing cost becomes apparent. In spite of this fact, governments of developing states are hesitant to put funding towards something that does not have immediate monetary returns (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 134). A study conducted by Brown

University showed that only 16% of government agencies around the world offer online services (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 136). With UNCTAD sponsorship and promotion, best practices and policies can be formed as a resource for national governments, which will help to promote the use of e-governance and increase the amount, and hopefully, the overall efficiency of governments using the Internet for e-government.

There are several levels of service a government could offer. The most basic level, which is extremely viable for developing states given certain technological limitations, is one-way communication; essentially, the most simple e-government function is to provide information. At the next level, citizens can download basic forms, but still must complete and deliver them by hand. The final level involves two-way information transactions that would allow virtual interactions between citizens and governments (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 136). By carefully implementing these three steps, e-governance, and in fact overall governance can become more effective and efficient. The careful implementation of government services can be secured by following a set of criteria, as the United States has done. New York, USA's criteria include the impact and visibility of the service, the ease of implementation, the revenue and cost of programs and the impact on the citizen (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 136). In following these criteria, any government services that are put online are sure to be at the very least efficient.

There are a myriad of political, social, economic, and technological challenges that e-governance systems face in developing states. For example, within the economic purview there are potential strengths, such as transparency for businesses, weaknesses, such as ample investment, opportunities, such as higher cost efficiency, and threats, such as corruption (Backus 3). Once these challenges are overcome, e-governance can begin to be implemented.

In the UNCTAD E-Commerce Report in 2004, a plan for developing an e-procurement strategy was authored. There are key mechanic elements of e-procurement that include electronic payments and electronic invoices (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 144). This plan outlines the six basic phases that a state should go through to obtain a successful e-government. However, these stages are vague and non-state specific, making it hard for developing states to abide. The stages are as follows:

- Phase 1 – Goals and visions
- Phase 2 – Regulatory Framework
- Phase 3 – Analysis of Existing Processes
- Phase 4 – Process Re-engineering
- Phase 5 – Choosing a Solution and Platform
- Phase 6 – Formulation and Implementation of a Plan

These stages need to be tailored to fit each state's specific economic needs, and are not always effective (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 140).

Since 2004, UNCTAD has completed a significant amount of research and analysis on E-Commerce and developing states, after which it published a report entitled "E-Commerce Strategies for Development" in which it outlines areas of E-Commerce, such as e-business and ICT development, and how certain policies should be considered by developing states in order to improve their economies. UNCTAD has commended the use of E-Commerce in developed states, but is still working to promote E-Commerce in developing states who would truly benefit from the technology leap.

Free and Open Source Software

Free and open source software (FOSS) is made with its source code open to the public, yet it has the potential for large business profits that can be extremely helpful to the agenda of a developing state. The idea of FOSS is that anyone can edit, use, or redistribute the source code and licenses. This prescription prevents the software from becoming proprietary software. Because of the openness of FOSS, governments must fully

understand the implications of FOSS so they can create efficient guidelines and procedures for using FOSS (TD/B/COM.3/EM.21/2).

The concept of FOSS is relatively new to the United Nations; the first meeting designated to discuss FOSS was in late 2004. Shortly after, in the “E-Commerce Strategies for Development,” UNCTAD published the experts meeting and the results of the debate. At the expert meeting on FOSS, it was noted that the FOSS process influenced technology development as a whole, especially in developing states where technological advances are increasing at a more rapid pace (TD/B/COM.3/EM.21/3 3). The only real results to come out of the debate, however, were merely suggestions as to what the United Nations should do to ensure that FOSS does not become unprofitable or something that cannot be monitored. While these suggestions has lead to Brazil signing an agreement with UNCTAD about training and education in FOSS, there has not been much more activity concerning FOSS despite its rapid growth and spread (“Brazil”).

Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Reviews

Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Reviews (STIPs) are designed to help developing states that often have fragmented technology systems. STIPs are an interactive process during which scientific and technological institutions are examined. After reviewing the county’s unique scenario, the STIP report provides suggestions as how to formulate better policies and technological systems given the available resources of a state. STIPs are conducted at the request of a state, and with a backing of the UNCTAD Secretary-General. To date, only five STIPs have been conducted: Colombia, Jamaica, Iran, Iraq and Angola. STIPs are available to any developing Member State of the United Nations who wishes to have an STIP conducted (“Science, Technology”).

Intellectual Property Rights

An issue that is a key aspect of technology transfer is intellectual property (IP) rights. IP rights are divided into two categories, the copyright branch of IP rights and the industrial branch of IP rights—both of which are extremely relevant to technology. The copyright branch includes literary and artistic works, regardless of the form they take, whereas the industrial branch deals more with patents, trademarks, and industrial designs (WIPO Intellectual 3). The recent surge of technology has become so prominent, technology IP rights was awarded its own section in the WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook. This section of the handbook explains the necessity of policy to protect the technology sector of IP. As it explains, much has already been done in terms of technology for IP rights through the TRIPS agreement; for example, Article 27.1 of the TRIPS Agreement requires that patents be available in all fields of technology, without discrimination as long as they are new, involve inventive steps, and are capable of industrial application (WIPO Intellectual 445). UNCTAD took note of the growing importance of technological IP rights, and acting under the new mandate instituted by the Accra Accord and by the requests of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Development Agenda and the World Health Assembly’s Resolution 61.21, implemented the Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property Rights Division on Investment and Enterprise (“Development Dimensions”).

The IP Programme’s initiative is to help developing countries participate effectively in international discussions on IP rights and, at a more local level, to help ensure that their IP policies are consonant with UNCTAD development goals and objectives. The Programme has four main objectives:

1. “To deepen the understanding in developing countries of the relationship between IP and development,
2. To identify ways and means to use flexibility in international IP architecture to promote technological capabilities,
3. To examine the implications of regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements for developing countries’ IP policies,
4. To provide a forum for exchange of experiences and best practices in the formulation of development-oriented IP policies.” (“About the Programme”)

5.

Each of these specific objectives is easily applicable to technology transfer and capacity building in developing states, particularly the second objective. Using the mandate of the second objective, UNCTAD has much potential to influence IP rights in the international spectrum, particularly in developing states.

Issues for Developing Countries: Online Higher Education

Education is a primary example of everyday life that can be improved by the use of ICTs, particularly in developing states. The online education sector includes not only textbook learning such as secondary education and tertiary education, but more specifically it includes specialized professional training and lifelong-learning. Lifelong-learning refers to the “necessity to continually update and learn new skills through either corporate workplace learning or access to community education” (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 95). However, despite improvements in online education in each of these areas, developing countries can benefit from online higher education, or post-secondary education. Higher education helps to promote training and education of professions that are essential to the growing economic and social development of a country.

Participation in education programs is extremely limited in developing states, specifically in respect to post-secondary education, due to the fact that access to these education programs is extremely limited. While it will be beneficial to expand online higher education in developing states, investment should be based on those programs that can help promote sustainable economic growth. The expansion of online education requires careful examination and consideration of constraints in both the public and private sectors, as well as individual and institutional resources (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 97). Public spending on higher education is an investment that undoubtedly aids the poor more than those privileged enough to purchase their own education (UNESCO Institute). For this reason, there is little debate as to whether the state should play a role in higher education. In order to benefit development, the state must realize that many of its citizens would not be able to afford education on their own and that subsidizing it would improve overall standard of living.

In 20 years, the number of higher education students has increased from 48 million to 102 million students per year globally, with the greatest increase being in developing regions (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 99). Some developing states such as India have pursued government led education initiatives, while others such as Chile have pursued a more privately funded route. Over 70 % of Chile’s total higher education budget comes from private sources (UNESCO Institute). This increase in higher education has large impacts for international trade, especially in developing states. International trade in higher education services takes place through four main modes of supply:

1. “Cross border supply: the provision of online degrees to students in another country
2. Consumption abroad: students move abroad to take courses
3. Commercial presence: a university setting up a campus in another country
4. Presence of natural persons: professors moving between institutions of different countries” (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 99)

Developing states are taking part in the use of the Internet for higher education for a number of reasons. The use of the Internet makes it possible for more people to have access to a greater amount of specific education, increasing the number of citizens receiving a higher quality of education. In addition to this, the use of the Internet is extremely cost efficient. For a country striving to improve its economic and social capacity, the Internet proves to be a method that improves the quality of life without imposing a large cost on the economy. Because this type of learning using ICTs exists, governments simply need to improve Internet access and complimentary infrastructure and HR training in order to allow their citizens to take steps towards receiving a better, more effective higher education.

CURRENT STATUS

The e-tourism sector has recently received a push from United Nations officials, and e-tourism seminars are being held more often in developing states around the world. In the last week of April 2009, UNCTAD held

an e-tourism seminar in Nouakchott, Mauritania with the objective “to provide the Mauritanian public and private tourism stakeholders with ICT tools and knowledge to strengthen and promote together their local tourism offer” (“E-Tourism Training”). The e-tourism initiative has led to many case studies such as one on Mauritania following the workshop. It is undoubtedly clear that these initiatives help to spread e-tourism ICT knowledge. The training seminar explained the key benefits of ICTs for tourism, how to evaluate and choose the most relevant business models and ICT applications, how to collect standardized tourism data using the UNCTAD FOSS Data Collector, how to foster public-private partnership around ICTs in the tourism sector, and how ICTs can enhance tourism destination positioning and marketing (“E-Tourism Training”). Just two months following the seminar in Mauritania, an e-tourism training course was held in Burkina Faso. From 8-12 June 2009, UNCTAD ICT experts presented information to professionals and decision makers from both public and private bodies in the tourism sector on ICT tools that can be used to enhance tourism. One of the specific subjects taught to participants was the use of free and open source software that was developed by UNCTAD to serve as a focal point for the e-tourism platform (“E-tourism Training”).

Both developing and developed states in Latin America who are members of the *Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración* (ALADI) have expressed interest in the development of Internet-based commerce. In order to help ALADI members prepare for the future use and success of a large e-commerce system, UNCTAD conducted a regional study connecting ICTs and law reform. Based on a comparative review of the laws and bills of eleven ALADI Member States in the form of electronic transactions, UNCTAD drew a series of conclusions that will help ALADI states form policy to regulate e-commerce effectively. While this was only the first study of its kind, UNCTAD plans to prepare another similar study in the third quarter of 2009 (“Study of the Perspectives”).

In respect to the current status of STIPs, UNCTAD strongly suggests that developing states undergo a STIP in order to better their scientific and technological situation. This past March, an Iraqi delegation met with UNCTAD officials to finalize details in order to allow UNCTAD to perform a STIP in their country. This is the first STIP performed since that of Angola, which concluded with a report in May 2008 (“UNCTAD, Iraqi”).

STIPs were among one of many subjects discussed at a weeklong commission session held in Geneva the last week in May 2009. UNCTAD and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) sponsored a conference where the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) discussed the basic findings of the STIPs. This conference and the inclusive discussions are part of a larger debate on how to enhance developing countries’ domestic ability to use science, technology, and innovation to spur the economic growth and development that raise living standards (“Including All”).

Conferences are being held world wide to discuss the rapidly changing advances of e-commerce. From 25-27 September 2009, the International Conference on eCommerce, ePayment & application was held in Marrakech, Morocco. At this conference, both academics and professionals presented research on what they had found to be effective tools and strategies in the e-commerce sector including e-governance, e-procurement, e-tourism, e-commerce management and infrastructure (“Programme”). Research that was presented also awards the opportunity for companies to exhibit e-commerce networking strategies and how these strategies can be applied to economies of all levels (“Research and Markets”). The most successful of this research and of the papers presented were recently published in a special edition of the *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce* (“International Conference”). This recent resurgence of research in the e-commerce field is sure to lead to strategies and techniques concerning e-commerce and e-governance that can be taken from one country and applied to another.

Technology transfer to developing states has evolved into three types of technology transfer between the economic North (developed countries) and the economic South (developing countries). The three types of transfer are North-South transfer, both from North to South and South to North, and South-South transfer. With the recent economic crisis, more South-South cooperation is being encouraged, specifically in regards to technology transfer. In February 2009, the head of UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Board made a statement encouraging South-South cooperation in all economic sectors, including technology transfer, to

compensate each other for predicted losses in technology transfer from developed countries (“More ‘South-South’ action”).

BLOC POSITIONS

There are two large blocs that must be considered when dividing the international community into groups concerning this topic: technologically rich developed states and technologically poor developing states. The regional categories must be considered as well, but technology transfer and capacity building is focused in developing states, as those who are developed have already created effective policy and structures for technological economic advancement. Developed states are making an effort to advance technologically, accepting workshops and teaching seminars to improve upon their Internet-based goods and services. As a whole, developing states have been an integral part to this teaching. Countries such as China share information on their ICT sector and technology-based government initiatives along with the obstacles the government took to achieving the success that they have earned (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 225). With case studies from already developed states, UNCTAD has been able to craft seminars to teach developing states, such as the aforementioned seminars in Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

Technologically Rich Developed States

North America and the European Union contain the largest, most developed states that have made the most headway in the online education sector. The United States is one of the most significant producers of e-learning materials and distance education packages (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 100). The United Kingdom is one of the leaders in developing ICT infrastructure and applying ICT application to accreditation services (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20 104).

The United Kingdom is a member of the European Union (EU); the majority of the EU Member States have already developed strategies for e-governance. The EU has stated that e-government is a major component of the eEurope initiative and the European Commission has made a point to benchmark e-government progress every six months (UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1 134). The eEurope Action Plan outlines five priorities for which every EU member should create policy: “promotion of content, services, and applications; the provision of interactive public services on-line, promoting gains in productivity while ensuring equity; the reinforcement of digital inclusiveness in all its aspects, individual, social, geographical, in education and in training; the promotion of broadband Internet access which will need to be in place to ease the widespread deployment of resource-intensive services; and the building up of an acceptable level of trust and confidence in cyberspace” (The eEurope Initiative).

Of major concern to these states is the issue of intellectual property rights. TNCs *could* establish research and development operations in developing states, and they could easily transfer technology that would greatly improve situations in developing states. But in countries with arbitrary rule of law and weak IP rights, they suffer the risk of losing research, capital, and perhaps even their core businesses at the hands of those who would steal information and technology. Before these states will be willing to part with any technology, the issue of IPR will have to be dealt with.

Technologically Poor Developing States

Generally, technologically poor developing states are seeking to obtain technology however possible. Any one of the techniques described in this guide would be beneficial to economic growth and development; each country will tailor their needs to their unique economic situations.

Just as the EU as a whole has taken a regional approach towards the advancement of e-governance and e-commerce, the members of the ALADI took the same approach in asking UNCTAD to conduct the aforementioned study on cyberlaw harmonization. ALADI member countries are part of a variety of international, regional, and sub regional institutions. The results of this study have been proliferated throughout these various organizations, removing various disparities between laws and policies between the

states and organizations. Because a key concern of ALADI members was the regulation of electronic transactions in e-commerce, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law stepped forward with a series of formerly written documents to help regulate electronic interaction. The study noted that the countries in the region have already begun to reform their laws, which requires efforts in cooperation by all levels of government (“New UNCTAD Study”). This type of cooperation is encouraged by UNCTAD in all developing states.

COMMITTEE MISSION

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a committee comprised of both developing and developed states. With the debate structured around technology transfer and capacity building for developing states, it is imperative that both developed and developing states understand their individual role in forming a policy report that benefits each member of this committee. Developing states are in need of aid in order to build technological infrastructure, as well as developing programs suitable to use with their limited technology. Developed states have already taken advantage of the growing technology field, and some of the techniques used in developed states can be adapted to fit the needs and requirements of a developing state. While the expert meeting on technology transfer was useful for this past decade, since the meeting was held in 2001 there have been many technological advances that outdate some of the recommendations and findings of this meeting. With technology transfer evolving to include two-way North-South transfers it is imperative that the committee evaluate new, more modern, best practices for technology transfer.

According to the WSIS Plan of Action, e-government strategies are needed to make public administration in developing states more transparent, efficient, and democratic in order to maximize the benefits of the information society. Newly formed e-government applications should also strive to strengthen the relationship between the government and its citizens. A major component of forming technology policy is to keep in mind the fact that technology is always changing and advancing. Therefore, e-procurement strategies should always be changing and updating to fit the trend modern technology.

Developed states should take a look at what technologically based strategies have worked, and see how they can be adapted to fit developing states. Every country has something to contribute as to how developing states can effectively use technology in their countries in order to better their development and economy. UNCTAD needs to strive to form policy that will encompass both the private and the public sector, using resources from every country to form an effective economic development solution.

INCREASING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGH REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

TOPIC B

INTRODUCTION

In the economic world, countries are typically classified into one of two categories: developed (the economic “north”) or developing (the economic “south”). However, in a world where countries like Somalia are in such extreme poverty, it is necessary to establish a third category to distinguish those countries just with a lag in economic growth from the countries that are in dire need of assistance. These latter states are now identified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), a term coined by the United Nations in 1971.

In order to be categorized as an LDC, a country must satisfy three criteria: (1) a low-income criterion; (2) a human capital status criterion; and (3) an economic vulnerability criterion. The low-income criterion is based on a three-year average estimate of the gross national income (GNI) per capita; a country must have under US\$745 for inclusion and above US\$900 for graduation. The human capital status criterion involves a composite Human Assets Index (HAI) based on indicators of nutrition, health, education, and adult literacy rates. The final criterion of economic vulnerability involves an Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) based on indicators including population size, merchandise export concentration, instability of agriculture production, instability of exports goods and services and three other similar factors. To graduate from the list, a country must succeed in moving away from two of the three categories (“Least Developed Countries – Criteria”). While the first two criteria require a more complex remedy, the economic vulnerability criterion is relatively straightforward and can be improved upon using sound economic policy. Economic policies in LDCs must be carefully crafted, for they must take into account the general lack of infrastructure, while still creating sustainable and economically viable options. One of the ways LDCs can break out of the economic vulnerability category is through Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs).

Current established RTAs have demonstrated a wealth of potential benefits; however, LDCs and developing states have not always used them as efficiently or effectively as possible. By using RTAs, LDCs have the potential to connect with other countries no matter the mark while making valuable inroads in the global economy. Although RTAs provide for a more local market than an international one, they create a diverse enough market for LDCs to expand their trade patterns and overall market access. In short, RTAs have the potential to help LDCs out of the economic vulnerability criterion when applied effectively and strategically.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

History of Regional Trade Agreements

There are two major types of regional trade agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO): customs unions and free trade areas. RTAs must be consistent with WTO regulations governing such agreements. For example, parties to a RTA must have established free trade on “substantially all” goods within the regional area within ten years of signing the agreement, and that the participating parties are prohibited from raising their tariffs against countries outside the agreement (“The WTO & Free Trade Agreements”). In order to keep RTAs in compliance with United Nations standards and to ensure that they benefit all parties involved, the WTO General Council established the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (CRTA) in February 1996. The two main duties of the CRTA are to examine individual RTAs and to consider systemic implications of the agreement for the multilateral trading system (MTS). The CRTA developed a regular schedule for the submission of biennial reports which applies to the RTAs with whom an examination report is associated (“Regional Trade Agreements – the WTO”). In addition, the CRTA developed a standard format for the submissions, of agreements in the area of goods and services to facilitate and improve the examination process (WT/REG/W/15). In order to deal with systemic issues, “issues of

cross-cutting concern,” the committee established a three-pronged approach encompassing the legal analyses of relevant WTO provisions, horizontal comparisons of RTAs, and a debate on the context of economic aspects of RTAs (“Regional Trade Agreements – the WTO”).

Over the past decade, RTAs have become a major feature of today’s MTS. Between January 2004 and February 2005, a total of 43 RTAs were reported to the WTO (Crawford 1). Since the surge of RTA formation in 2004-2005, the trend in increasing numbers of RTAs has continued; as of December 2008, 421 RTAs had been reported to the WTO. Some of the well-known RTAs include the European Union (EU), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area (AFTA) (“Regional Trade Agreement Gateway”).

Current Regional Trade Agreements

Perhaps one of the most well known RTAs governing international trade is NAFTA, a free trade agreement reached between the United States, Canada, and Mexico on 1 January 1994. NAFTA created the world’s largest free trade area, currently linking over 444 million people who produce US\$17 trillion worth of goods and services annually. Since the agreement’s creation, trade between NAFTA parties has soared, demonstrating the great potential of well-crafted RTAs. For example, United States goods and services trade with NAFTA totaled US\$1 trillion in 2007. Not only has NAFTA increased the amount of imports and exports remaining in the region, which bolstered its strength and capabilities, but it has also increased the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the region. For example, between 2006 and 2007, US FDI in NAFTA countries rose 11.3% (“North American”).

Another successful RTA is the Southern Common Market, better known by its Spanish initials as MERCOSUR. The South American based RTA comprises Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil. The objectives of MERCOSUR are mainly to ensure the free transit of production goods, the fixing of a common external tariff, the coordination of macroeconomic and sector-specific policies of Member States, and the commitment by the Member States to make the necessary adjustments to their laws in relevant areas to the integration process (“Southern Common Market”). MERCOSUR has led to the creation of several regional organizations such as the Mercosur Trade Center (MTC)—an organization that offers specialized services designed to help businesses in the MERCOSUR network increase profitability and competitiveness by making use of the its trade agreements (“Mercosur Trade”). By allowing for the creation of organizations such as MTC, MERCOSUR members provide their citizens with the ability to profit within the region, while creating a secure means of reaching out to the global market.

The Treaty of Asunción and the Ouro Preto Protocol established the institutional structure that has helped to make MERCOSUR so successful in both the regional and international scale. The agreement itself is divided into six groups, each with a specialized function. The Common Market Council, the highest-level agency of MERCOSUR, holds the responsibility of ensuring that the agreement’s policies comply with the objectives and time frames set forth by the Treaty of Asunción. The remaining five groups include the common market group, the administrative office and socioeconomic advisory forum, work subgroups, the joint parliamentary committee, and the trade commission. Each has its’ own function and the six groups work together to ensure the economic stability and success of MERCOSUR policies (“Southern Common Market”).

Like NAFTA, MERCOSUR has proven itself to be highly effective. By 1995, tariffs on approximately 95% of intra-MERCOSUR trade were eliminated; MERCOSUR members went on to establish a common external tariff (CET), with tariff rates ranging from 0% to 20% (TD(XI)/BP/11 9). MERCOSUR has made significant achievements with agreements with outside countries and regions. In November 2003, the Brussels Program was announced, forming a programme of work between MERCOSUR and EU states. In addition to the EU, as of December 2003, MERCOSUR signed trade liberalization agreements with each of the countries of the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) uniting many of the major Latin American Markets (TD(XI)/BP/11 10).

The Doha Declaration

In November 2001, the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO convened in Doha, Qatar, where the delegates of the conference subsequently created the Doha Declaration. The declaration is comprised of 52 paragraphs covering 21 subjects involving negotiations, actions under implementation, analysis, and monitoring. The 29th paragraph of the Declaration deals with WTO rules with respect to RTAs. WTO rules state that regional trade agreements must meet certain conditions; however, interpreting the wording of these specific rules has proven controversial and has been a central element in the work of the Regional Trade Agreements Committee; the language concerning the clarification and improvement of disciplines and procedures under existing WTO provisions can be interpreted to lead to many different conclusions (“Doha Declaration Explained”). In the Declaration, the members of the conference agree to negotiate a solution to fix the trouble of interpretation, noting the role that these agreements can play in fostering the developmental aspects of RTAs (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1).

Transparency Mechanisms in RTAs

After the surge of RTA formation began, the WTO General Council established, on a provisional basis, a new transparency mechanism for all RTAs; this mechanism requires an early announcement of any RTA and notification to the WTO Secretariat. This decision was reached on 14 December 2006 by the Negotiating Group on Rules (WT/L/761). The Negotiating Group of Rules is a group of delegates designed to start negotiations in the area of WTO Rules relating to various agreements of WTO Implementation Agreements and provisions. One specific region of negotiation is the WTO provisions applying to regional trade agreements (“The Rules Negotiations”). Members of the WTO are to review and, if necessary, modify the decision and replace it by a permanent mechanism adopted as part of the overall results of the Doha Round (“Transparency Mechanism”).

The early announcement stage requires that members participating in new negotiations with the goal of creating an RTA or members who are parties to a newly signed RTA should inform the WTO Secretariat of such negotiations and conclusions. Information sent to the Secretariat should include the official name, scope, date of signature, relevant contact points, and any other unrestricted information. The second step is the notification stage. Members of an RTA should notify the WTO no later than the time of the parties’ ratification of the RTA or any decision on the application of relevant parts of the agreement. Parties involved in the specific RTA should specify under which provision of the WTO agreements the RTA is notified and are required to provide the full text in a United Nations official language. The CRTA is responsible for implementing the transparency mechanism with regard to the majority of RTAs, those falling under The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XXIV and the General Agreement of Trade in Services (GATS) Article V; however, the Committee on Trade and Development is responsible for the implementation of the decision with regard to notifications falling under the Enabling Clause (WT/L/761).

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

At the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001, the “Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010” was officially adopted. The Programme outlines the objectives of the document, a 7-commitment framework for partnership, and finally arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring and review. Specifically, Commitment #5 is focused on different methods through which LDCs can enhance the role of trade in development (A/CONF.191/11 2). The Programme specifically mentions RTAs in two sub clauses. It takes into account limits and barriers LDCs face as a result of their lack of development and instructs that appropriate account be taken in regional integration relative to each LDC’s capabilities. The Programme also instructs that LDCs be integrated into the world economy through the aim of multilateral trade rules using RTAs as the main framework (A/CONF.191/11 37).

South-South Trade: Expansion and Limitations

South-South trade is defined as the trade between developing states; much of this trade is accomplished through the use of RTAs. The same concept can be applied within groups of LDCs or between LDCs and other developing or developed states. Since the 1990s, south-south trade has greatly increased in both significance and breadth (TD(XI)/BP/11 5). The significance of South-South trade can be measured by determining what percentage of total trade in a developing state comes from south-south trading. Between 1990 and the end of the decade, south-south trade rose from 34 % to approximately 40 % (TD(XI)/PC/1 38). Furthermore, South-South trade has grown by an average 13 % per year since 1995, in comparison to the annual 9 % growth in world trade and 10 % growth in trade among developed countries. Regionally, the volume of south-south exports went up by 7 percentage points in developing Africa, 4 percentage points in developing Asia, and 2 percentage points in developing countries of the Americas during the same time period (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 5).

There are a myriad of factors that have been attributed to the growing trend of south-south trading. One of the key factors is that despite overall trade liberalization in recent years, many basic markets in developing states still face trade barriers when attempting to enter developed states' markets, making it more profitable to trade with other developing states (TD(XI)/BP/11, 5). Trade agreements made solely between developing states make their markets less susceptible to shifts in demand in larger, developed countries. Many developing states' economies are small and quite limited; South-South RTAs allow for the specialization of markets in these types of economies which provides a way in which small economies can overcome constraints of a limited domestic market (Bhagwati).

South-South RTAs have been shown to increase trade and create new trade policies. The study that showed this increase in trade also suggests that both the regional and sub-regional South-South RTAs can be used to integrate developing states and LDCs into the global economy (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/22 12). The key to maximizing the success of South-South RTAs lies in the future implementation of the agreements; an article in *Rio Trade Week* indicated that internal liberalization programs and a wider range of economic objectives are rarely developed through current South-South RTAs and could improve the effectiveness of South-South RTAs if implemented (TD(XI)/BP/11 7).

An untapped resource available to participants of south-south trade is the Global System of Trade Preference (GSTP). The GSTP was created in 1988 as a framework for the exchange of trade preferences among developing states to promote South-South trade. Participation of the GSTP is reserved exclusively for members of the Group of 77 and China. In order for the GSTP to remain with a stable base for preferential trade, tariff preferences are bound and form part of the agreement. In addition to this, a key feature of the agreement is that the GSTP is required to supplement and reinforce regional economic groupings of developing countries UNCTAD/PRESS/IN/SPA/2004/001). The GSTP provides a complementary avenue for developing states, in particular LDCs, to expand South-South trade (TD(XI)/BP/11 8). In particular, a recent study approximates that a 30% reduction in tariffs among GSTP members would result in an increase in GSTP trade of anywhere from US\$ 7.5-8.5 billion (UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/1).

South-South trade is made possible particularly through the use of South-South foreign direct investment (FDI). Total FDI from developing states and transition economies has increased significantly; the trend of increasing FDI moved in conjunction with the rising sense of awareness and use of South-South Trade. Total South-South trade rose US\$300 billion in the last 20 years. Between 1985 and 2007, South-South FDI increased from a total of US\$4 billion to US\$304 billion, respectively (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 3). Countries with the highest share of South-South FDI, as a proportion of total inward FDI, are known as "host countries" and include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, and several Latin American states (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/24).

National corporations of developing countries are driven by several factors to invest beyond their national boundaries and specifically in other developing states: a broad access to markets, technology and natural resources, and building brand names are among the few. Regional integration processes involved in South-

South cooperation, such as facilitating trade flows, help to accent intraregional investment and production networks (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 4). Both intraregional and interregional investments between developing states tend to be particularly strong in sectors such as manufacturing, finance, telecommunications, the extractive industries, infrastructure, and real estate (“World Investment Report 2007”).

Along with the lack of thoroughness of many contemporary South-South RTAs, there are several other barriers that must be overcome in order to maximize the efficacy of these agreements. LDCs’ economies are, by definition, economically vulnerable as defined by the United Nations (“Least Developed”). One of the most vulnerable sectors of least developed economies is the private sector. Their firms often lack sufficient information and access to the programs developed and designed to help South-South trade. If the private sector was to be provided with sufficient market information and that information was put to good use, it could create a large leap in both the value and volume of South-South RTAs.

Another barrier to the creation of effective use of RTAs for economic development deals with the often-limited technological capabilities of all developing states, LDCs in particular. In order to build trade capabilities and create stable and effective financial institutions to pay increased attention to liberalization of investment and labor markets, technological and scientific cooperation must be strengthened (TD(XI)/PC/1 40).

Downsides of RTAs

The arguments against RTAs are the same as arguments against any free trade agreement; the common refrain of lost jobs with lost protectionism. One of the central principles of any RTA is the elimination of economic barriers like tariffs that “protect” certain domestic industries. For example, the United States commonly places tariffs on imported steel, which make foreign steel more expensive and domestic steel comparatively cheaper. This strengthens domestic steel manufacturers. By having barriers up for a while, the domestic industry will be allowed to strengthen, and with time, be competitive with foreign industries. If in an LDC, a fledgling industry were to be exposed to the global markets upon starting, it would almost certainly be eliminated, as existing firms have a comparative advantage.

Assessing whether this is actually the case and whether the jobs lost to loss of protection outweigh the jobs gained from free trade will be a major point of contention in debate and one that should be dealt with immediately if the UNCTAD is to develop a technical plan to implement more RTAs.

CURRENT STATUS

United Nations economic analysts initially believed that developing countries would continue to experience buoyant growth despite the economic downturn, as their markets are not as linked to the developed markets spreading crisis. However, as noted at a meeting in February 2009 in Geneva, the effects of the economic crisis have spread to the developing countries through both financial and new open trade channels (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 2). With the current financial crisis evolving into a global recession that will affect the capacity of transnational corporations in developing countries to invest in other developing countries, South-South FDI could quickly recede. With more than 40% of FDI from developing countries going to LDCs, such a slowdown could be devastating to South-South FDI and in turn, to South-South trade (“World Investment Report 2007”). The current economic crisis has the potential to negatively affect key factors that have been the core of the South-South trade growth. Examples of this past growth include, “the rapid economic growth of a number of emerging markets in the South, the increase in production-sharing schemes within the South, and improvement in trade facilitation and transport among developing countries” (TD/425).

The economic decline has already affected exports from emerging economies of the economic South such as textiles and clothing and other light manufactured goods; these goods account for over 40% of exports from the South to the North. The economic crisis also hit LDCs indirectly through demand shock. For example, a decrease in demand in the United States for a good manufactured in China will consequently decrease

Chinese demand for parts and components imported from neighboring LDCs in Asia (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 6). Additionally, LDCs have felt the impact of the drop in commodity prices, as they are heavily dependent on commodity exports and are therefore invariably affected by an immediate reduction in export earnings. Specifically, recent reports show that in a period of five months food prices dropped significantly; the price of rice dropped on average 28%; the price of maize by 20%, and the price of wheat by 16%. In addition to food prices, vegetable oil and oil seeds dropped 28% and during that period of time, the price of crude oil dropped 24%. Due to the fact that LDCs typically do not have a sizeable domestic market to serve as leverage to tide over their shrinking external trade prospects, the effect of the plummeting price of commodities is severely detrimental to LDC economies (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 7).

In February 2009, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB) hosted an expert meeting on international cooperation, specifically South-South cooperation and regional integration. During the meeting, it was suggested that UNCTAD establish a task force to assist developing states in enhancing country-specific and region-specific diagnostic kits to determine how a country or region has been affected by the recent economic crisis and to propose remedial policy options and strategies (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/3 7). Experts also came to an agreement that in order to promote integration of LDCs in trading networks, capable developing countries and developed countries should provide duty-free quota-free market access to all products from all LDCs. FDI options were also explored, yet experts warned about the means of distribution of FDI in LDCs; participants of the meeting were careful to outline potential dangers of poorly distributing funds in an LDC and the effects that may come such as bigger gaps in income inequalities (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/3 12)

BLOC ANALYSIS

Developing Countries

The recent global political economy has turned the international atmosphere into one conducive for South-South trade cooperation. Developing states in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have all forged a common understanding on the importance and value of global South-South Cooperation. For example, Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke of a "new trade geography" at the UNCTAD XI. He described this phenomenon as enhancing trade cooperation between developing countries such as Brazil and India (Khor). He reinforced his statements on South-South trade by saying that this new trade geography would be aimed at reducing dependence and uniting developing states to negotiate global or regional agreements in more equitable conditions (TD(XI)/BP/11 8).

In the rest of the world, regional integration in Africa, Asia, and Latin America has contributed to an increase in the attractiveness of these regions for South-South FDI. Specifically, regional integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is making these regions more attractive for South-South FDI. Furthermore, in Latin America, intraregional investment has led to South-South investment in industries such as food and beverages, engineering, telecommunications, retail, and more (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 11).

Least Developed Countries

LDCs have been working towards a well-functioning RTA for some time, the problems are the difficulties faced by LDCs and their limited economies. Africa's LDCs heavy concentration in commodity trade further hinders intraregional trade, giving these countries fewer opportunities for product differentiation and trade. While LDCs are in favor of RTAs, existing problems arise in the fact that a number of Africa's RTAs are overlapping agreements that tend to be internally inconsistent. RTAs such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Cross-Border Initiative for Easter and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community, and others often require Member States to meet conflicting obligations and administrative strategies. As a result, many of the individual agreements reduce the gains from regional collaboration and undermine the incentives for joint investments (Bigman 267-269).

Another key issue of a RTA system that works well for LDCs is to ensure that through the RTA the LDC is benefiting on the development side, not just on the trade side. Several members of the Group of 77 endorsed the 2005 UNCTAD publication, *Competition Provision in Regional Trade Agreements: How to Assure Development Goals*. The purpose of this UNCTAD publication was to highlight the fact that although developing states have begun to negotiate more RTAs, often times developing states and LDCs in particular do not benefit in the development sector as much as they could. The publication addressed issues that, while having been addressed in developing states, still plague LDCs: consumer protection, competition, and RTAs; proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements containing provisions on Competition Law and Policies; implementation costs and burdens of international competition law and policy agreements; and other topics (UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2005/1).

Developed Countries

Developed countries have always taken advantage of the ample opportunities offered by RTAs. With the surge of South-South trade, developed countries have found it imperative to aid in the development of RTAs. For example, many developed European states have taken on a new project to examine the implications of deep integration for developing countries in North-South RTAs. Specifically, the project will analyze a new strategy to expand the European Union's RTAs. The project will take a comparative approach in the analysis of RTAs with developing countries in Asia and Africa, helping build consensus for future negotiations in the WTO for a new framework for North-South RTAs (Van Langenhove).

The northern member states of UNCTAD have supported the concept of RTAs for LDC development, most recently at the Accra meeting during an interactive thematic round table session. During this session, developed countries came out in favor of helping to develop the private sector, which was deemed key in adopting effective RTAs. Developed states also recognized that previous North-South regional trade agreements included provisions that sometimes hindered developing states from granting more favorable market access to other developing states; all participants were in agreement that both North-South and South-South trade agreements should be "complementary and development-oriented." After supporting the development of this sector, the developed states all agreed with the rest of the participants that the ultimate goal of the promotion of South-South trade was the development of developing states and LDCs (TD/L.408).

COMMITTEE MISSION

Until the recent surge of South-South cooperation, there has been very little effort towards the formation of a successful and efficient system of RTAs between developing states, particularly in LDCs. In order to create an effective RTA system, it is imperative that the international community works together. Previous RTAs have been extremely successful in enhancing trade capabilities and markets in the region along with successfully integrating the local economies into the global market. FDI is extremely important to LDCs and is something that should not be overlooked in forming an effective RTA system for these economies. With the heightened amount of FDI seen just within the NAFTA states, it is clear that RTAs have the potential to create a tremendous amount of economic prosperity. However, there are also reasons why some RTAs have not been as successful as others. When formulating a system that will be effective for LDCs to improve economic capabilities, it is also important that the UNCTAD look at the specifics of how developing economies have been helped by RTAs that include the influence of developed states. While LDCs are considerably less developed than developing states, techniques can be applied to help the LDCs graduate from the LDC list. Using successful tactics will be just as useful as creating new ones. When creating new tactics and adapting old ones, it is necessary to remember the LDC economic vulnerability criterion—the tactics must be tailored to help LDCs effectively graduate this condition. Because they qualify for this condition, they often lack economic infrastructure that must also be created in order for RTA tactics to be effective. An effective strategy for RTA development to improve the economic conditions of LDCs is essential to improving the economic development of LDCs and the place of their economy on the global stage.

RESEARCH AND PREPARATION QUESTIONS

As mentioned in the Note on Research and Preparation, it is imperative that delegates answer each of these questions in their position papers.

TOPIC A

1. How has your country employed E-Commerce in order to help your national economy?
2. For developing states: how do you believe developed states' technological capacities can help your country?
3. For developed states: What technology practices have you developed that can be effective in developing states?
4. How has your tourism sector been influenced by E-tourism?
5. What are some new ways in which developing states can use e-governance for a more successful governing body?
6. What can UNCTAD do to further develop online higher education programs in developing states?
7. How can free and open source software be used to enhance developing states' economies?
8. Keeping in mind that UNCTAD is consensus based, what are some e-procurement strategies that can be used in a policy report addressing technology transfer and capacity building?

TOPIC B

1. What is your country's position on the use of RTAs to increase economic development?
2. Is your country currently a member of any RTAs? If so, which ones? If not, what are some characteristics of RTAs you would change in order to find them effective?
3. What are some ways in which the transparency mechanism of RTAs can be altered in order to make it more effective?
4. Does your country engage in South-South or North-South trade? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of this trade?
5. How should foreign direct investment be used in LDCs to help economic development?
6. What has your country done to help the development of LDCs?
7. What type of RTA guidelines system can UNCTAD set up in order to ensure that RTAs signed with LDCs have the economic development of the LDC as the key goal of the RTA?

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been hand-selected by Directors to further aid in delegate preparation. Please make a concerted effort to read and analyze these documents prior to the conference.

TOPIC A

“About the Group of 77.” The Group of 77 at the United Nations. 30 June 2009
<<http://www.g77.org/doc/>>.

An article outlining the establishment, goals, activities and structure of the Group of 77.

"Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Reviews (STIPs)." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 25 June 2009

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3434&lang=1>>.

An overview of past and present work with STIPs and a general explanation of how they work.

“Study of the Perspectives of the Harmonization of Cyberlaw in Latin America”. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 2 July 2009

<http://www.unctad.org/sp/docs/webdtlktcd20091_sp.pdf>.

The study completed by UNCTAD outlining ways to create sound ICT policy in order to successfully implement an e-governance and e-commerce program in ALADI member states.

TOPIC B

“About the Group of 77.” The Group of 77 at the United Nations. 30 June 2009
<<http://www.g77.org/doc/>>.

An article outlining the establishment, goals, activities and structure of the Group of 77.

"Least Developed Countries - Criteria for Identification of LDCs." UN-OHRLLS. 14 July 2009

<<http://www.unohrlls.org/en/ldc/related/59/>>.

A list of criteria for a country to be placed on or removed from the LDC list.

“The World Trade Organisation (WTO) & Free Trade Agreements.” Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. 30 July 2009.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/wto_agreements.html>

An overview of the WTO rules and committees dealing with free trade agreements.

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“About GSP.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 24 July 2009.

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=2309&lang=1>>

A one page summary of the history, key functions, and current statuses of world wide GSP schemes.

“About UNCTAD.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 30 June 2009

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=1530&lang=1>>.

A basic description of UNCTAD's key functions and formation.

Boutros-Ghali, Boutros. “Reinventing UNCTAD.” 20 Feb. 2006. South Centre. 29 June 2009

<<http://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/0220revitalizing.pdf>>.

A report written by the former Secretary-General of the United Nations comprised of a very detailed history of UNCTAD and what worked and has not worked.

“A Brief History of UNCTAD.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 1 July 2009

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3358&lang=1>>.

A limited timeline of the phases of UNCTAD's history.

“The Criteria for the Identification of the LDCs.” United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries. 2 July 2009 <<http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/ldc/ldc%20criteria.htm>>.

A list of the criteria a country must meet to be considered a Least Developed Country .

Smith, Karen, and Ian Taylor. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Routledge, 2007.

A comprehensive, well-researched book outlining all the important information relevant to what UNCTAD has become today.

“UNCTAD Conferences.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 2 July 2009

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3361&lang=1>>.

A quick description of the quadrennial conference and links to the most recent UNCTAD conferences.

UNCTAD/IAOS/2008/2. “The Accra Accord and the Accra Declaration.” 25 Apr. 2008.

The agreements and documents that are the results of the most recent UNCTAD Conference.

TOPIC A

UN Sources

“About the Programme.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 23 Aug. 2009.

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3424&lang=1>>.

A summary of the mission and objectives of the Intellectual Property Programme Division on Investment and Enterprise.

“Development Dimensions of Intellectual Property Rights.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 24 Aug. 2009.

<<http://unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intItemID=3423&lang=1>>.

An introduction to the recently instated UNCTAD IP Programme and recent publications and meetings of the programme.

“Science, technology, and innovation policy reviews (STIPs).” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 8 July 2009.

<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3434&lang=1>>.

The UNCTAD home page of STIPs outlining their basic concept, mandate, purpose, and process

TD/B/COM.3/EM.21/3. "Report of the Expert Meeting on Free and Open-Source Software: Policy and Development Implications." 29 Oct. 2004.

A report detailing the expert's findings of how FOSS influences technological development.

TD/B/COM.2/33. "Report of the Expert Meeting on International Arrangements for Transfer of Technology: Best Practices for Access to and Measures to Encourage Transfer of Technology with a View to Capacity-Building in Developing Countries, Especially in Least Developed Countries." 7 Aug. 2001.

A report summarizing the discussions and findings of the expert meeting regarding best practices of technology transfer in developing nations.

TD/B/COM.3/EM.21/2. "Free and Open Source Software: Policy and Development Implications." 17 Aug. 2004.

A report detailing what FOSS is and its implications in terms of international policy development

TD(XI)/BP/6. "UNCTAD's E-Tourism Initiative." 26 Apr. 2004.

Comparative report on trends in tourism and e-tourism.

UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/3. "E-Commerce, WTO, and Developing Countries." 2000.

A paper outlining how e-commerce can affect developing nations and what each country should watch for when creating potentially effective policy dealing with e-commerce.

UNCTAD/ITES/IIT/28. "Transfer of Technology." Oct. 2001.

A paper discussing the issue of technology transfer in international investment agreements through explaining the issue, analyzing technology transfer, and studying the interaction of technology transfer with other concepts.

UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/1. "E-Commerce Report 2001." 2001.

A report on the use and progress of e-commerce in 2001, focusing on measuring e-commerce, e-tourism, e-government, and other leading electronic sectors of that year.

UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/20. "E-Commerce and Development Report 2004." 2004.

A report on the progress of e-commerce in 2004, focusing on ICT use for economic development, e-business and SMEs, online higher education, e-government, electronic privacy rights, and other prominent electronic sectors of that year.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Financing Education - Investments and Returns: Analysis of World Education Indicators. 2002 ed. Annapolis. 2003.

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/TEMPLATE/pdf/wei/WEI_ExecSummary_Eng.pdf>.

An analysis of education indicators as developed by OECD and UNESCO; the book examines in detail both the investments and returns to education and human capital.

WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E. "Plan of Action." 12 Dec. 2003.

A plan of action stating how the World Summit on the Information Society and the information sector as a whole will work to achieve various development goals.

World Investment Report 1999: Foreign Direct Investment and the Challenge of Development. 1999.

A summary of the international communities' investment, focusing on using FDI for development around the world.

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A brief, yet comprehensive, report on what e-governance is and how it can function in developing nations.

"Brazil, UNCTAD sign agreement on Free and Open-Source Software." United Nations Conference on

- Trade and Development. 16 Nov. 2005. 2 July 2009.
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A press release summarizing the FOSS agreement signed between Brazil and UNCTAD.
- "The eEurope Initiative." Information Society Technologies. 25 Nov. 2002. 2 July 2009
<<http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn/eeurope.htm#2002ap>>.
A web site explaining the eEurope initiative and it's various phases and objectives.
- "E-Tourism seminar on ICT for Development in the tourism sector." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 26 Apr. 2009. 28 June 2009
<<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?m=17075&intItemID=1942&lang=1>>.
An outline of the events, targeted participants, and key issues of the e-tourism seminar held in Nouakchott, Mauritania.
- "E-tourism training course in Burkina Faso." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 5 June 2009. 1 July 2009.
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A press release describing the details of the e-tourism training course recently held in Burkina Faso.
- "Including all in benefits of science and technology is theme of week-long commission session." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 25 May 2009. 1 July 2009
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A press release detailing the studies and cases reported by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during a 5 day conference in May 2009.
- "International Conference on eCommerce, ePayments, and Applications." Educasphere. 27 Sept 2009.
<<http://icep.educasphere.com>>.
An overview of the conference's main points and achieved goals.
- "More 'South-South' action called for as poor countries face global financial crisis." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 5 Feb. 2009. 23 July 2009.
A press release summarizing the call-to-action made by the President of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board for more South-South cooperation.
- Muchlinski, Peter T. Multinational Enterprises and the Law. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1999.
A book detailing various international groups and their actions in accordance with international law.
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/CONF.191/11. “Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.” 1 June 2001.

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TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2. “South-South Cooperation and Regional Integration: Where We Stand and Future Directions.” 5 Feb. 2009.

An update on South-South cooperation, how it has been affected by the current economic crisis, and possible future trends.

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/3. “Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South-South Cooperation and Regional Integration on its First Session.” 26 Mar. 2009.

An summary of the findings of the expert meeting including incorporating LDCs and developing nations into new South-South trade given the current economic crisis.

TD/L.408. “Emergence of a New South and South-South Trade as a Vehicle for Regional and Interregional Integration for Development.” 24 Apr. 2008.

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UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2005/1. “Competition Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements: How to Assure Development Gains.” 13 Oct. 2005.

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UNCTAD/ITCD/TAB/1. “The Potential for GSTP Trade Expansion.” 1998.

The first in a study series of South-South Trade analysis showing the potential of South-South trade if partnered more closely with GSTP.

UNCTAD/PRESS/IN/SPA/2004/001. "Global System of Trade Preferences." 16 June 2004.
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