



Twelfth United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development



Accra Accord

This document is an abstract of the Accra Accord and presents only the articles related to the Business Facilitation Program - Please [click here](#) for a full version of the Accra Accord.

Introduction

Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development

6. **Good governance** at all levels, freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, **transparency**, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are essential to all countries to attain sustainable and equitable growth and development. Sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, further require sound economic policies and solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people. Both the role of the State and the role of the market are vital for designing and implementing successful development strategies, reducing poverty and attaining equitable income distribution, building physical and human infrastructure and addressing market failures where they occur.

8. In an increasingly complex global economy, UNCTAD has an important role to play as an institution with universal membership and a mandate to serve as the focal point of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Increasing interdependence in the globalized economy lends UNCTAD XII additional significance.

III. Sub-theme 3: Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development

B. Policy responses

123. Efforts at all levels to promote a conducive environment for development and to introduce reform and eradicate poverty need to be supported in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and commitments

125. Good governance at all levels and the rule of law can help create an environment conducive to the mobilization of resources for development, including FDI.

129. Countries can learn from the mistakes and successes of others, especially in an international setting that creates a global pool of existing experiences. Regional arrangements or South-South cooperation may help countries to deal with some issues, forge consensus and establish a common bargaining position.

130. National Governments, international institutions and the international community can help countries create an attractive investment environment by providing better information on national laws and regulations, as well as international agreements and on country opportunities and risks. Sovereign risk assessments made by the

private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis.

131. Improved partnerships with the private sector both at home and abroad can help to strengthen the integration of developing countries and local producers into global production systems. Developing internationally competitive small and medium-sized enterprises requires policies aimed at domestic entrepreneurial capabilities, business linkages and industry clusters.

135. North–South, and also South–South, partnerships and cooperation should be strengthened for the sharing of knowledge, innovation and technology transfer, and to address the gaps in science and technology, education and research in developing countries, especially LDCs.

138. At the national level, ICT policies and strategies need to create an enabling environment for the domestic information economy and a competitive ICT industry. **The main elements include** developing the ICT infrastructure and the telecommunications sector, upgrading digital skills, implementing a legal and regulatory framework to support **ICT-related business development**, trade and investment, **e-government** and technological innovation. These actions need to be integrated in national development plans or poverty reduction strategy papers, and ICT policies need to be regularly reviewed.

C. UNCTAD’s contribution

146. UNCTAD’s work on investment should continue to assist all developing countries, in particular LDCs and countries with special needs, in **designing and implementing active policies to boost productive capacities and international competitiveness**. Attention should be paid to the role of both North–South and South–South investment and domestic investment, both private and public. The work should have the objective of sustainable development and a **supportive investment climate** in national development strategies. UNCTAD’s activities in this area should address in particular the needs of LDCs, as well as the specific needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

148. **UNCTAD should provide a platform for an international dialogue on best practice in investment policies. An inventory of best policy practices could contribute to a dialogue on policymaking know-how.** UNCTAD, together with intergovernmental and regional organizations, particularly those from developing countries, and other partners, as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), should engage countries at every development level to help ensure an institutional environment conducive to FDI and development. In the context of developing best practices in investment policies, it should endeavour to work with relevant regional development banks such as the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank.

154. **UNCTAD should strengthen its activities in research and analysis, technical assistance and consensus-building with regard to stimulating enterprise development and business facilitation.** Measures should be identified to enable enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones in developing countries, to comply with international standards, promote their technological and innovation capacities, access new technologies and enhance their participation in global value chains. UNCTAD should analyse the linkages between small and medium-sized FDI and enhance the international competitiveness of firms from developing countries.

155. **UNCTAD should help developing countries, including by building their technical capacity, to improve their e-government practices in order to enhance the transparency and simplification of government procedures in areas such as investment and the creation and development of enterprises.**