

UNCTAD's input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027).

During the current reporting cycle, May 2024 to April 2025, UNCTAD carried out research and technical cooperation activities in support of the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The activities were in the following areas of policy focus of the UN System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, namely combating inequalities, supporting structural transformation, and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Combating inequalities

UNCTAD, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, organized an online seminar on “*Strategies and Initiatives to Reduce Poverty and Inequalities in Chad*” on 26 February 2025. The aim of the seminar was to identify and discuss recent policies and initiatives implemented by the government of Chad to reduce poverty and inequalities at the national level. The Minister of Finance, in charge of the Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, several high-ranking government officials, the private sector, and other local stakeholders participated in the seminar.

A policy-research report entitled “*Réduire la pauvreté et les inégalités au Burkina Faso: Analyses et options politiques*” was published in July 2024. The report focused on government policies and initiatives to reduce inequality and poverty in Burkina Faso. It finds that while some progress has been made in combating inequality and poverty at the national level, accelerating progress would require, among others, improving the quality of education and health services, lifting infrastructure constraints, making fiscal policy more progressive, reducing insecurity, creating decent jobs, and building productive capacities.

A second policy-research report on “*Combating inequality and poverty in the United Republic of Tanzania*” was published in January 2025. This report analyses the trends in poverty and inequality in Tanzania, revealing that the growth elasticity of poverty and inequality has changed over time. It then examined some of the potential explanations for the different growth patterns.

The report also discussed four policy areas (tax policy, social protection, agriculture and gender equality) that have a direct effect on the reduction of poverty and inequality and made policy recommendations on how to strengthen their impact.

UNCTAD's *Technology and Innovation Report 2025* on "Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development" focused on how Artificial Intelligence could be made inclusive and used in support of development. It finds that Artificial Intelligence is transforming economies, creating opportunities but also posing risks of greater inequality. In this regard, the report indicates that Artificial Intelligence can be a powerful tool for progress and can be made more inclusive through countries investing in digital infrastructure, building capabilities, and strengthening Artificial Intelligence governance.

Supporting structural transformation

The *Production Transformation Policy Review of Togo* was launched on 9 April 2025. The Review outlines strategic avenues for addressing the challenges of diversification and low productivity in the country, focusing on: the promotion of investment, innovation and integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); increased support from international partners; and the responsibility of the private sector. This review is the result of collaboration between UNCTAD, the OECD Development Centre, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

UNCTAD published a report entitled "*Productive Capacities Development: Challenges and Opportunities: The Case of Ethiopia*" in December 2024. The report provides data-driven and evidence-based articulation of the challenges facing Ethiopia in developing its productive capacities and kick-starting the process of structural economic transformation. It also provides details on how best to address the gaps, limitations and key binding constraints to Ethiopia's development through a comprehensive programme. A second report entitled "*Productive capacities development: Challenges and opportunities - the case of Kenya*" was published in January 2025. The report examines the challenges and opportunities in developing productive capacities in Kenya to advance structural transformation and economic diversification and address related gaps and necessary policy responses.

Addressing the challenges of climate change

On 15 November 2024, UNCTAD organized a side-event at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, under the theme “Leveraging carbon markets for the sustainable development of least developed countries.” At the event, panelists and participants discussed policies and strategies that least developed countries (LDCs) could put in place with the support of their development partners in order to leverage carbon markets so that they become part of their policy toolkit for the pursuit of sustainable development.

An Ad hoc expert meeting on “trade, investment, climate and sustainable development” was organised by UNCTAD on 31 January 2025 in Geneva. The event provided an opportunity for UNCTAD to introduce draft guides for consultation for policymakers to mainstream trade and investment policies to advance national climate and sustainable development plans, including nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and take advantage of new business and trade opportunities.