

UNCTAD: Environmental Mandate & Activities

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Environmental mandate

UNCTAD is committed to contribute to achieve the goal of sustainable development, including through the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. To this end, it aims at undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, in order to promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. This commitment can be achieved, among others, by strengthening partnerships and taking further action through practical international cooperation. UNCTAD's mandate on Trade and Environment, to be achieved in cooperation with other relevant organizations, focuses on helping to ensure balance in the trade and environment debate by highlighting issues of concern to developing countries and strengthening the development dimensions. This requires special attention on:

- Identifying policies to address major constraints faced by many developing countries in responding to environmental challenges
- Enhancing understanding of the economic and social implications of trade measures for environmental purpose, including the effects of environmental requirements on developing countries' exports
- Identifying specific capacity-building needs of developing countries and promoting a broad programme of capacity-building on trade, environment and development.

Environmental activities

- Environmental Goods and Services
- MEAs (conceptual and ad-hoc agreements, Basel, Montreal, POPs, etc.)
- Organic agriculture
- Traditional Knowledge
- REACH and chemicals
- Gender and environment
- Biotrade
- Climate Change
- POPs
- Clean Development Mechanism
- Standards and trade
- Environmental requirements and market access
- Services from ecosystems and related economic instruments
- Economic instruments and MEAs
- Sustainable tourism, eco-tourism, fair trade, eco-labelling
- Research, policy-advice, Capacity-building, training and technical cooperation on above mentioned topics