

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, and at a time of growing social and environmental challenges, investment policy-makers are increasingly working to ensure that investment contributes to inclusive and sustainable development objects-something that UNCTAD has been advocating for a long time.¹

Fragile Recovery: Recent activities

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has met with challenges in the last four years of global economic downturn which affected mostly vulnerable countries.² UNCTAD's efforts in 2012 and 2013 are centered on three pillars: policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation.³ The promotion of South-South cooperation for development, climate change adverse impacts on sustainable development and growth, price volatility of resources and energy, and the uncertainty of food security are all remaining challenges to this body.⁴

At the 2012 African Development Forum, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on October 25, 2012, UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi argued that "mineral resources in Africa are a blessing not a curse."⁵ He also mentioned that responsible policies taken by mineral rich countries are necessary to fully benefit from endowed resources.⁶ An equally important ingredient to the further sustained, inclusive development for mineral rich countries is foreign direct investment into the extraction of resources, taking advantage of new technologies and innovations in science.⁷ At a G20 meeting in Mexico City on November 5 and 6, 2012 at which UNCTAD representatives were also present, discussion focused around new trends such as economic policies increasingly shifting towards a more inclusive and sustainable development agenda.⁸ State representatives gathered at the meeting recognized that trade and investment are today indistinctly intertwined via global value chains, and that investment and trade policy must be mutually emphasized.⁹

On October 30, 2012, the Technology and Innovation Report 2012, subtitled Innovation, Technology and South-South Collaboration, was launched.¹⁰ UNCTAD's Secretary General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, stressed that existing links between developing countries hold promise for greater technological cooperation leading to an increased innovative capacity of the developing world.¹¹ At the occasion of the Report launch, UNCTAD's Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics noted that 55 % of global trade in 2010 had been between developing countries, and that South-South trading was gaining importance in technology transfer, technology diffusion and innovative capacity.¹² For instance, the major suppliers of high-technology and medium technology products for developing countries are indeed other developing countries.¹³ Looking forward, developing countries would benefit

¹ Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development, *Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD*, 2012, p. 2.

² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*, 2012, p. iii.

³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*, 2012, p. 10.

⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*, 2012, p. 8.

⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD S-G says, Resources are a Blessing not a Curse for Africa*, 2012.

⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD S-G says, Resources are a Blessing not a Curse for Africa*, 2012.

⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Secretary-General briefs Investment Commission on Recent Developments*, 2012.

⁸ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *G20 Fosters Synergies Between Trade and Investment Promotion*, 2012.

⁹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *G20 Fosters Synergies Between Trade and Investment Promotion*, 2012.

¹⁰ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD Report Calls for Harnessing the Potential of South-South Technological Collaboration*, 2012.

¹¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD Report Calls for Harnessing the Potential of South-South Technological Collaboration*, 2012.

¹² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *South-South Technology Collaboration Essential*, 2012.

¹³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD Report Calls for Harnessing the Potential of South-South Technological Collaboration*, 2012.

greatly from South-South collaboration considering their equals could provide a better understanding of development challenges and create new models for cooperation and technical assistance.¹⁴

The three pillars reaffirmed at UNCTAD XIII quadrennial conference, namely policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation, are all needed in addressing food insecurity and eliminating hunger.¹⁵ Principle five of the Technology and Innovation Report 2012 stresses the need for South-South cooperation in transition towards a green economy, encouraging the use of sustainable energy and renewable energy technologies in order to a greater agricultural output.¹⁶ The Doha Mandate recommends the greater integration of farmers into local, regional and international markets and promotes sustainable economic development through empowerment of women and youths.¹⁷ The *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* emphasizes the need for better coordination on investment, particularly in the promotion of green investment in finance of environmentally friendly growth, global cooperation on investment in agriculture to alleviate the shocks of food insecurity.¹⁸ The multi-year expert meeting on investment for productive capacity-building and sustainable development that was held in Geneva on January 28-30 2013, experts assessed the relationship between regional integration and foreign direct investment and how this relationship can further foster growth and sustainable development.¹⁹

The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is an institution focused on helping shape current international trade policy debates, with a focus on ensuring domestic policies and international actions are mutually supportive in creating sustainable development. UNCTAD comprises 194 Member States.

Format: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a Report Writing Committee.

Voting: In the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development each member has one vote and all decisions are decided by a majority vote of members present for procedural matters and a two thirds majority for substantive matters.

¹⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology and Innovation Report 2012*, 2012, p. 6.

¹⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*, 2012, p. 8.

¹⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology and Innovation Report 2012*, 2012, p xx.

¹⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*, 2012, p. 22.

¹⁸ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development*, 2012, p. 4.

¹⁹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Investment for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development: The Regional Context*, 2013, p. 1.

Annotated Bibliography

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *UNCTAD XIII Doha Mandate and Doha Manar*. Retrieved January 6, 2013, from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/iss2012d1_en.pdf
The Doha Mandate emerged from the UNCTAD's quadrennial conference reaffirming UNCTAD's core role in the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Key remaining challenges are mentioned and the document addresses those challenges with viable solutions for the next four years. UNCTAD's commitment to establish sustainable development and regional integration is stressed by this mandate.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (October, 2012). *Technology and Innovation Report 2012*. Retrieved January 9, 2013, from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tir2012_en.pdf
South-South cooperation has become increasingly important for the sustainable development of any emerging country. Recommendations for technology and innovative collaborations are discussed as key to further development of economic growth. Developing countries have surpassed developed countries as major trading partners with other developing countries. The report notes three developments in South-South collaboration: import of capital goods, participation in global production networks, and increasing South-South foreign direct investments.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2012). *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved January 9, 2013, from: http://www.unctad-docs.org/files/UNCTAD_IPFSD_2012.pdf
11 core principles which are the overarching objectives of direct investment towards sustainable development are given. Additionally, national policy recommendations that would accommodate and enhance the inflow of foreign direct investments are discussed as a national strategy for economic growth. Policy coherence, effective public governance and institutions, and dynamic policy making are all discussed as a way to support sustainable economic growth.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (April, 2008). *The Accra Declaration*. Retrieved January 6, 2013, from: http://unctad.org/en/docs/tdl413_en.pdf
The accord was the outcome of the UNCTAD XII conference in which recommendations for the years 2008 to 2012 were given with an emphasis on contributing towards equitable and inclusive access to benefits of globalization arising from trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation. Efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and measures to meet urgent humanitarian needs are discussed as priorities to be met. Globalization as inclusive is a requirement for sustainable and equitable economic growth for developing countries.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (November, 2012). *G20 Fosters Synergies Between trade and Investment Promotion*. Retrieved January 6, 2013, from: http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=351&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Investment%20and%20Enterprise:#UNCTAD%20Home
The meeting of the G20 sought to tackle uncertainty by enhancing trade and investment promotion strategies. Additionally, support for building the supply capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises and their close correlation to global companies is discussed at the meeting. The meeting also focused attention on economic policy shifts towards a more inclusive and sustainable development, in which new strategies in trade and investment promotion is required.

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Commission on Recent Development. Retrieved January 6, 2013 from:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=357&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home:#Investment%20and%20Enterprise

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http://unctad.org/meetings/en/Presentation/cii_staSG_en.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (October, 2012). *UNCTAD S-G says Resources are a Blessing not a Curse for Africa*. Retrieved January 9, 2013 from:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=338&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Africa%20and%20Least%20Developed%20Countries:#20:#UNCTAD%20Home:#1390:#Economic%20Development%20of%20Africa

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (January, 2013). *Investment for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development: The Regional Context*. Retrieved February 4, 2013 from:

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=202>

I. Concrete Measures to Promote South-South Cooperation for Development

The fifth annual Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo, held November 19-23, 2012 in Vienna, Austria, brought together delegations from 150 states to encourage further gains in South-South cooperation.²⁰ In his opening address, Ambassador John Ashe, the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations (UN) and President of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, emphasized the opportunities for South-South development in noting “by 2030, the global economy is predicted to expand five-fold, of which about two-thirds will be accounted by countries of the South.”²¹ With a predicted six-fold increase in international trade also dominated by states of the South, Ashe further surmised that the global South is “poised to be the main driver of global economic growth and governance” through strong South-South cooperation.²²

Under the theme “Investing in Energy and Climate Change: Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development” the GSSD Expo focused on Southern-grown development solutions (SDSs).²³ SDSs are key to sustainable development because they are tailored to the environment in which they will be used.²⁴ These are often simple technologies that, when deployed throughout the global South through partnerships and cooperation, have broad impacts on development and poverty reduction.²⁵ To facilitate transfer and broad use of these technologies, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) developed a four-pronged Multilateral Support Architecture.²⁶ The GSSD Policy prong, the SU/SSC’s research and development arm, enables policymakers to create informed policies and programs in the international system.²⁷ To fulfill those policies, the GSSD Academy identifies successful SDSs and disseminates them through an online platform.²⁸ SDSs and experts are submitted to the GSSD Academy and undergo a rigorous peer-review to promote only innovative technologies and insightful experts through a searchable, online solutions bank called the Solutions Centre.²⁹ Following the release of the nineteenth volume in 2011, the Solutions Centre now contains 350 peer-reviewed solution case studies submitted from over eighty developed and developing states.³⁰

The GSSD Academy is the first of three pillars in promoting policies set forth by the GSSD Policy prong.³¹ SDSs promoted through the GSSD Academy are further showcased at the GSSD Expo.³² The implementation of solutions occurs through the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE) where the actual exchange of technology, assets, and financing is transacted.³³ The SS-Gate was launched in 2006 as a pilot program of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and is co-sponsored by the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund.³⁴ By 2010, SS-GATE had established 25 workstations in 23 countries and had facilitated the exchange of \$1.3 billion worth of goods, services, technology, and financing.³⁵ Today that number has increased to 36 country centers facilitating 3,640 projects benefitting over 1000 small and medium-sized enterprises and 10 women’s business associations.³⁶

²⁰ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *GSSD Expo 2012 – Highlights*, 2012.

²¹ Ashe, John, *Statement of H.E. Ambassador John Ashe Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at the opening of the Fifth Global South-South Development Expo Vienna, 19 November 2012*, 2012.

²² Ashe, John, *Statement of H.E. Ambassador John Ashe Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at the opening of the Fifth Global South-South Development Expo Vienna, 19 November 2012*, 2012.

²³ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *Global South-South Development Expo*, 2012.

²⁴ Yumkella, Kandeh K., *Closing Address at the 2011 GSSD Expo in Rome*, 2011.

²⁵ Yumkella, Kandeh K., *Closing Address at the 2011 GSSD Expo in Rome*, 2011.

²⁶ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) Multilateral Support Architecture*, 2012.

²⁷ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *Global South-South Development Policy*, 2012.

²⁸ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *Global South-South Development Academy*, 2012.

²⁹ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *What is the GSSD Academy*, 2012.

³⁰ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *Global South-South Development Academy*, 2012.

³¹ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *What is the GSSD Academy*, 2012.

³² United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *What is the GSSD Academy*, 2012.

³³ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *About Us*, 2012.

³⁴ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *About Us*, 2012.

³⁵ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *2010 SS-GATE Convention held in Shanghai*, 2010.

³⁶ United Nations Development Program, *South-South Cooperation*, p. 10, 2012.

The SS-GATE currently focuses on five tracks: Small and Medium Enterprise Technology and Assets Exchange, Human Development Investment Exchange, Creative Economy Projects Exchange, Energy and Environment Projects Exchange, and Global Health Exchange, although future plans exist to expand into areas of infrastructure, education, and social services.³⁷ To demonstrate these tracks, the South-South Global Health Exchange (SS-GHX) collaborates with the Pan American Health Organization in delivering solutions to address the Millennium Development Goals.³⁸ Recently, the SS-GHX hosted a “Water and Sustainable Development: Elimination of Cholera in Hispaniola” at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.³⁹ The SS-GHX also supports the “Every Woman Every Child” initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.⁴⁰

³⁷ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *South-South Gateway to Sustainable Prosperity*, p. 4, 2009.

³⁸ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *About SS-GHX*, 2012.

³⁹ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *Newsroom*, 2012

⁴⁰ South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, *South-South Technology Transfer to Benefit Women’s and Children’s Health*, 2012.

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Ashe, John. (2012). *Statement of H.E. Ambassador John Ashe Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at the opening of the Fifth Global South-South Development Expo Vienna, 19 November 2012*. Retrieved January 15, 2013 from <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/gssdexpo2012/HLC%20Mr%20John%20Ashe.pdf>.

Ambassador Ashe's opening remarks highlight global trends that present strong opportunities for development through South-South cooperation. Ashe's speech also lists a number of UN organizations, agencies, and other partners working to further South-South cooperation. Importantly, for delegates, his remarks also place South-South cooperation in the broader context of sustainable development, climate change, and green energy.

South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange. (2012). *About SS-GHX*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://new.paho.org/ssghx/index.php/ss-ghx>

Problems often exist in achieving concrete results between the "macro-level" creation of international programs and "micro-level" implementation of solutions. The SS-GHX demonstrates one way that the SS-GATE works to ensure solutions are actually implemented. In promoting South-South cooperation, delegates should focus on concrete measures, like the SS-GHX, that lead to development on a more basic level.

South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange. (2009). *South-South Gateway to Sustainable Prosperity*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/e-library%20docs/ss%20gateway%20to%20sustainable%20prosperity.pdf>.

The SS-GATE is one of three pillars that implement South-South cooperation policies. This brochure highlights the various thematic areas that the SS-GATE focuses on. Delegates should take note of the thematic tracks and examples to better understand what concrete measures currently exist to then develop further actions and complementary projects.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2012). *Global South-South Development Academy*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://academy.ssc.undp.org/GSSDAcademy/default.aspx>.

Before highlighting solutions at the GSSP Expo or disseminating technologies through the SS-GATE, the GSSP Academy reviews proposals and experts to ensure their viability. The Academy's website provides an interesting view of topic proposals as well as documentation of partnerships between the Academy and sub-academies. While the Academy focuses on SDSs, delegates should consider what role both developed and developing states can play in supporting the Academy both thematically, through expert review and support, and financially.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2012). *Global South-South Development Expo*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.southsouthexpo.org>.

The GSSD Expo is another implementation pillar and is perhaps the most visible pillar to the international community. The Expo brings together delegations from across the globe and showcases successful solutions and technologies to encourage broader adoption. Delegates are encouraged to consider both the successes of the Expo in reaching stakeholders as well as consider ways to improve access to the Expo for developing states.

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United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *What is the GSSD Academy*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://tcdc2.undp.org/GSSDAcademy/howworks.aspx#howwork>.

Yumkella, Kandeh K. (2011). *Closing Address at the 2011 GSSD Expo in Rome*. p. 4. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.southsouthexpo.org>.

II. Harnessing Resource Extraction for Further Development Gains

Recent developments

The ECA Eighth African Development Forum on Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development (ADF VIII) was held in Addis Abbaba on October 23-25, 2012. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary-General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, spoke at the forum citing the Global Competitiveness Index.⁴¹ He pointed out the fact that Switzerland and Singapore lead this index and that it demonstrates that competitiveness is not based on how rich a country is regarding resources but how effective are their policies.⁴² The ADF is a United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) biennial multi-stakeholder forum created in 1999 for discussing the effectiveness of Africa's development policies and strategies on a certain topic.⁴³ The forum is convened in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), and other key partners to establish a regional development agenda.⁴⁴ In its mission to promote information sharing and the development of joint policies to address an issue, the topic chosen for ADF VIII was harnessing resource extraction for African development.⁴⁵ This topic was chosen at the Fifth Session of the Joint AUC-ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in March 2012.⁴⁶

ADF VIII was intended to highlight key aspects of mineral, land, forestry and fishery resource management and development.⁴⁷ There were several focus areas at the forum such as: policy issues; knowledge base and institutional capabilities; governance; human rights; and social issues.⁴⁸ As an outcome of the ADF VIII, the stakeholders who were present at the event developed a consensus statement that contained some new recommendations based on each of the resources that were part of the discussions.⁴⁹ Regarding mineral resources, the forum recommended various actions to be taken. Firstly, Member States committed to extend significant support to artisanal and small-scale mines as they also create employment and facilitate the participation of women and youth.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the forum recommended that governments strive to address technical equipment, skills and financial challenges which Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) fight every day. In addition to this, the forum recommended investment in tackling the institutional and human capacity challenges faced by stakeholders along the whole mineral sector.⁵¹ One of the most important aspects discussed was the provision and enforcement of a strong environmental management framework in the mining business.⁵²

Other outputs from the forum are the issue papers on every topic discussed at the event.⁵³ The mining issue paper stated that the continent must strengthen the African Peer Review Mechanism, mobilize support for the African Mining Vision, speed up the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre and extend support to Artisanal and Small scale Miners.⁵⁴ Further, considering land, the issue paper assured the following actions: implement the Nairobi Action Plan to Promote Land-Based Investments, carry out large scale land based investments according to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme in order to empower smallholder farmers and communities and protect national food security, call for actions of efficient landscape management, sustainable investment, reliable land tenure policies and benefit sharing with minorities.⁵⁵ In the

⁴¹ UNCTAD, *UNCTAD S-G says resources are a blessing not a curse for Africa*, 2012.

⁴² UNCTAD, *UNCTAD S-G says resources are a blessing not a curse for Africa*, 2012.

⁴³ Economic Commission for Africa, *Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development*, 2012.

⁴⁴ Economic Commission for Africa, *Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development*, 2012.

⁴⁵ Economic Commission for Africa, *Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development*, 2012.

⁴⁶ Economic Commission for Africa, *Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development*, 2012.

⁴⁷ Economic Commission for Africa, *ADF VIII*, 2012.

⁴⁸ Economic Commission for Africa, *ADF VIII*, 2012.

⁴⁹ Haylesus, S. *ADF VIII ends with consensus on how Africa should benefit from its natural resources*, 2012.

⁵⁰ Mogilska, M., Ott D., Schlupe M., *Urban Mining at VIII ADF, Meeting Report*, 2012.

⁵¹ Mogilska, M., Ott D., Schlupe M., *Urban Mining at VIII ADF, Meeting Report*, 2012.

⁵² Economic Commission for Africa, *Consensus Statement*, 2012.

⁵³ United Nations Environmental Program, *Addis Ababa Highlights*, 2012.

⁵⁴ Economic Commission for Africa, *Mineral Resources for Africa's Development: Anchoring a New Vision*, 2012.

⁵⁵ Economic Commission for Africa, *Land and Africa's Development Future: Governing the Risks and Opportunities of Large-scale Landbased Investments*, 2012.

fishery area the forum asks to enforce the “AU/NEPAD Pan African Fisheries Policy Framework and AU Plan of Action on Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing,” promote fisheries governance through effective financing, endorse the participation of small and medium sized companies, and considering fisheries in climate change adaptation plans. Finally, the last issue paper is directed to forest making the following suggestions: encourage the Green Economy Initiative and the role of UNEP in supporting African member states, establish and apply in a transparent manner Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management, support the implementation of the AU Green Wall Initiative.⁵⁶

Outlook: Important events in 2013

Resources and commodities are one of the most relevant topics related to development in the last years due to its importance especially for developing countries. According to the UNCTAD Report on Trade and Development, high prices experienced in markets benefit external and fiscal balances.⁵⁷ These benefits were reflected in fiscal stimulus policies to invest in infrastructure, domestic expenditure and growth.⁵⁸ There are several events taking place this year which will address the issue of harnessing resource extraction for further development gains.

The OILGASMINE 16th Conference will be held from November 20-23, 2013 in Niger.⁵⁹ This conference is organized jointly by the UNCTAD and the Government of Niger with the topic “Natural Resources Development: Governance in the Extractive Industries, Trading Prices and Markets.”⁶⁰ The objective of the conference is to endorse new partnerships and networks in order to promote the exchange of experience and knowledge.⁶¹ Members from the private sector, government and transnational corporations will discuss new approaches on the topic during the conference with the purpose of incentivizing investment in development programs in Africa.⁶² Another important forum that will take place this year is the Global Commodities Forum organized by UNCTAD from March 18-19, 2013 at the United Nations in Geneva.⁶³ This forum has as its main objective the discussion of solutions to current challenges that the commodity economy has, but the theme will be “Recommitting to commodity sector development as an engine of economic growth and poverty reduction.”⁶⁴ The focus of the forum will be risk management through mechanisms that can be used by small producers and developing countries to grow regardless of the volatility of commodity prices.⁶⁵

Lastly, the multi-year expert meeting on commodities and development will be held on March 20-21, 2013 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.⁶⁶ The objective of this meeting is to facilitate commodity dependent developing countries to acquire gains from global market integration and commodity markets.⁶⁷ It also aims to discuss the main problems of commodities such as the impact of the variability of commodity prices on vulnerable groups in order to meet development goals in consensus with the rest of the world.⁶⁸ This is an effort to create development strategies which are sustainable in time to promote economic diversity, added value and address poverty.⁶⁹ This event represents one of the most relevant forums where possible new ideas and policies will be developed.

⁵⁶ Economic Commission for Africa, *Forest Resources*, 2012.

⁵⁷ UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2012.

⁵⁸ UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2012.

⁵⁹ OILGASMINE Trade and Finance Conference, *Theme*, 2013.

⁶⁰ OILGASMINE Trade and Finance Conference, *Theme*, 2013.

⁶¹ OILGASMINE Trade and Finance Conference, *Theme*, 2013.

⁶² OILGASMINE Trade and Finance Conference, *Theme*, 2013.

⁶³ UNCTAD, *Global Commodities Forum*, 2013.

⁶⁴ UNCTAD, *Global Commodities Forum*, 2013.

⁶⁵ UNCTAD, *Global Commodities Forum*, 2013.

⁶⁶ UNCTAD, *Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*, 2013.

⁶⁷ UNCTAD, *Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*, 2013.

⁶⁸ UNCTAD, *Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*, 2013.

⁶⁹ UNCTAD, *Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*, 2013.

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http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII_Consensus_Statement_Final.pdf
This document is important as it reflects the general resolution of ADF VIII on the topic of “Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa’s Development.” The paper includes general information and recommendations on the following matters: Mineral Resources for Africa's Development, Land and Africa’s Development Future, Harnessing Fishery Resources and Forest Resources. The consensus statement will give delegates parameters and ideas to develop in their discussions.
- ADF VIII. (2012). *Forest Resources*. Retrieved in January 22, 2013, from:
http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue_Papers/ADFVIII-Forest-Issues-paper.pdf
Issue paper 4 was developed considering the topic of Forest Resources and different ways to use them in order to achieve development, a commonly used resource with no other objective than its consumption. It is a complete document that explains the management of this natural resource from legal, economic and social perspectives. Delegates will find the document easy to read as it is written in a question and answers format.
- ADF VIII. (2012). *Harnessing Fishery Resources: Swimming the Tide to Africa's Development*. Retrieved in January 22, 2013, from:
http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue_Papers/ADFVIII-Fishery-Resources-and-Africa-Development-Issues-Paper.pdf
The 3rd Issue Paper of the ADF VIII offers detailed information on a highlight topic during the meeting. Fisheries and aquaculture are considered renewable resources, therefore the importance for delegates to use this document as a guideline on what African countries agreed to work. The paper asserts that, while the fishery industry in Africa is strong, efficiencies could be created.
- ADF VIII. (2012). *Land and Africa’s Development Future: Governing the Risks and Opportunities of Large-scale Land-based Investments*. Retrieved in January 22, 2013, from:
http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue_Papers/ADFVIII-Land-Issues-Paper.pdf
This Issue Paper represents the product of days of work regarding land. The recommendations turned around the fact that, while land is very important for economies in Africa, the need for legislation that protects this vital resource prevails over economic considerations. Several innovative suggestions around land-based investments are made in order to reinforce this topic, and could be used in other contexts if needed.
- ADF VIII. (2012). *Mineral Resources for Africa's Development: Anchoring a New Vision*. Retrieved in January 22, 2013, from: http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue_Papers/ADFVIII-Mineral-Resources-Issues-paper.pdf
This is probably the most important resource to address due to the complexity of its market as well as the practices that are needed for its exploitation. The recommendations focus on the need to develop legislation to prevent mining exploitation and damage to environments and communities nearby.

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III. Food Security: Agriculture and Trade

The importance of food security remains critical to UNCTAD's agenda, especially the continued promotion of the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CFA) established by the Secretary-General's High Level Task Force in June 2008.⁷⁰ Efforts mandated by the CFA such as maintaining stable food prices and providing immediate needs to vulnerable populations require the cooperation of developed and underdeveloped countries. As global organizations gathered at the end of 2012, the international community called on governments to strengthen food security measures for the upcoming year.⁷¹ Within recent months, Member States formed partnerships with fellow international organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to tackle the issue of food security and agricultural development within formed regions.⁷² In Asia, Member States focused on continuing the promotion of the Kazan Declaration established at the December 2012 APEC gathering. Continuation of the declaration entails cooperation between international organizations, private sector institutions and Member States in strengthening food security initiatives and enhancing food safety standards.⁷³ Furthermore, Member States with growing economies, like China and India, face challenges with food security policies as income disparities between socioeconomic brackets intensify and stocks of core commodities falter.⁷⁴

Member States in the African, Pacific and Caribbean regions adopted similar strategies of collaboration to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote food security and sustainable management of crops and livestock.⁷⁵ Africa, in particular, maintains an active agenda for enhancing food security policies. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with UNCTAD and the FAO, recently launched plans to resume food assistance in southern Somalia after conflict halted operations for four years. The program aims to bolster food security by providing community members with hot meals, nutritional support and agricultural education.⁷⁶ Additionally, the UN announced a new initiative, implemented through a specialized UN agency – the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The initiative invokes a diaspora based model to target the promotion of food security in Somalia by encouraging Somalis living abroad to invest in farming and rural employment.⁷⁷ In neighboring Djibouti, UNCTAD members hosted a workshop in Djibouti City to discuss further refinements for Djibouti's Investment Policy Review. The workshop focused on plans to improve investment treatment and also create a friendlier investment climate. Tax and trade regulations, as well as environmental and agricultural policies arose as concerns in developing a sound investment policy.⁷⁸

Further regional cooperation in South Member States on matters of agriculture, trade, and technological innovation is expected for the upcoming year.⁷⁹ UNCTAD's 2012 Technology and Innovation report calls for a boost in agricultural investments and innovative agricultural technologies.⁸⁰ Technological innovation is vital for enhancing agricultural productivity. LDCs, particularly in rural areas, are plagued by low productivity levels as they utilize basic and outdated agricultural practices. Conversely, developed countries with modern technologies possess abundant agricultural productivity.⁸¹

Climate change reappeared on the agendas of agricultural and development organizations as the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Safety released a publication specifically addressing the concerns of climate change and food security. The report titled *Where the Rain Falls: Climate Change, Food and Livelihood Security, and Migration* stresses that climate change "affects nearly all aspects of food security – from production

⁷⁰ UNCTAD, Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development, Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, 2008.

⁷¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, 2012*.

⁷² Committee on World Food Security CFS, *FAO and ACP Countries Agrees Strategic Partnership, 2012*.

⁷³ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *2012 APEC Ministerial Meeting, 2012*.

⁷⁴ BBC News, *Asian Food Security Is a Major Issue, 2012*.

⁷⁵ Committee on World Food Security CFS, *FAO and ACP Countries Agrees Strategic Partnership, 2012*.

⁷⁶ UN News Centre, *As peace returns to Somali town, UN food relief agency resumes assistance, 2013*.

⁷⁷ UN News, *New UN Initiative encourages Somalis abroad to invest in farming projects back home, 2013*.

⁷⁸ UNCTAD, *UNCTAD Investment Policy Review discussed at Djibouti workshop, 2013*.

⁷⁹ UNCTAD, *South-South Technological Collaboration has Significant Potential, However It Is Not Being Effectively Harnessed, 2012*.

⁸⁰ UNCTAD, *Technology and Innovation Report, 2012*.

⁸¹ UNCTAD, *Opening Plenary General Statements by Member States: Barbados, 2012*.

and availability, to the stability of food supplies, access to food, and food utilization.”⁸² LDCs remain the most vulnerable to implications of climate change, as they possess higher levels of food insecurity. Increased flooding combined with greater variability of rainfall conditions significantly affects the survival of vulnerable populations.⁸³

Improvements in smallholder agricultural productivity can indeed enhance food security and bridge developmental disparities.⁸⁴ Future objectives specifically target an increase in public and private agricultural investments such as foreign direct investments in agricultural production or technical cooperation in food production and the strengthening of agricultural technologies.⁸⁵

Increasing food prices have heightened concerns for food security, as well as the number of land acquisitions by foreign investors. Large-scale land acquisitions point to an interest in demand for food crops, however such acquisitions generally result in negative outcomes on food security and land distribution, since local populations rarely benefit from land distributions or crop productions.⁸⁶ UNCTAD aims to promote cooperation between investors, land-owners and local populations to strengthen food security.⁸⁷

The future of food security turns to the private sector for investment assistance. As partial investments from the public sector contribute to agricultural development, a great amount of investment relies on the private sector. Foreign investment from private entities in agriculture grew as a result of rising commodity prices, profitable opportunities stemming from biofuel demand and strategic agreements with food importing countries. Continued investment will boost rural employment, build infrastructure and provide knowledge to communities to improve productivity. Conversely, efforts to boost agricultural sectors and integrate community farmers into the global supply chain poses risks ranging from treatment of land owners, adherence to property rights, environmental degradation, and most importantly the question of whether food productions from foreign investors is distributed to local populations or exported to consumers abroad.⁸⁸ The upcoming year looks to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships between international organizations and private sector actors while simultaneously incorporating the use of modern technologies to areas with low agricultural production.⁸⁹

⁸² Warner, Koko et al, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Safety, *Where the Rain Falls: Climate Change, Food and Livelihood Security, and Migration*, 2012.

⁸³ Warner, Koko et al, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Safety, *Where the Rain Falls: Climate Change, Food and Livelihood Security, and Migration*, 2012.

⁸⁴ UNCTAD. *Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi*, 2012.

⁸⁵ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *2012 APEC Ministerial Meeting*, 2012.

⁸⁶ UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2012.

⁸⁷ Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, Berliner Agriculture Ministers' Summit. *Keynote Speech of the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD*, 2013.

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http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Annual/2012/2012_amm.aspx.

This source highlights APEC's efforts with UNCTAD and other international organizations to work together in achieving sustainability growth in agriculture. APEC's partnerships aim to ensure cooperation to achieve food security within Asia and the Pacific Region. The document also reaffirms the implementation of the Kazan Declaration which promotes cooperating with private sector institutions and international organizations to provide food security through enhancing food safety standards, advancing transparency of markets and increasing agricultural sustainable productivity.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2012, October 31). *Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures*. Retrieved on January 10, 2013 from

<http://www.oecd.org/daf/internationalinvestment/8thG20report.pdf>.

The source provides delegates with recent insight into the OECD's outlook and expectations for the G-20's Trade and Investment Measures amidst a predicted forecast of economic decline. The report focuses heavily on members' commitments to improving trade and investment regimes and also provides details on the current challenges encountered in various trade regimes. Delegates can gain more details on specific trade and investment policies that challenge both OECD and non-OECD Member States and most importantly hinder improvements in areas such a food security and agriculture.

UNCTAD. (2012). *Trade and Development Report, 2012*. Retrieved on January 12, 2013 from

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The Trade and Development Report highlights the most recent challenges caused by the lagging economic crisis. LDCs face an uncertain future as they experience difficulties in sustaining minor economic growth. With regards to food security, delegates can reference the report for information on land distribution and food security concerns. The threat to food security has heightened as higher food prices lead to an increase in land acquisitions by wealthy foreign investors.

UNCTAD. (2013, October 31). *Technology and Innovation Report 2012*. Retrieved on January 12, 2013 from

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tir2012_en.pdf.

UNCTAD's most recent Technology and Innovation Report is crucial in understanding how technology and innovation can help bridge economic and development disparities, particularly collaboration between South-South Member States. Delegates can gain an understanding of technological innovations and the platforms implemented to facilitate the transition towards improved public health, food security and a stronger and "green" economy.

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture. (2013). Berliner Agriculture Ministers' Summit. *Keynote Speech of the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD*. Retrieved from on February 4, 2013 from

http://www.gffa-berlin.de/images/stories/GFFA2013/PDFs/Keynote%20Speech_en.pdf.

As the current Deputy Secretary-General, Petko Draganov addresses the most recent issues that threaten food security and agricultural development. Draganov stresses the importance of investment and education that will help advance economic development in LDCs. Climate change, population growth and increasing demand for biofuels continue to impede advancement in LDCs. The inclusion of cooperation with private sector investors and integration of the agricultural sector into global supply chains include a few noteworthy prospects given by Mr. Draganov. Delegates can gain insight into the recent developments facing UNCTAD and the Global Agricultural community from the January 2013 speech.

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