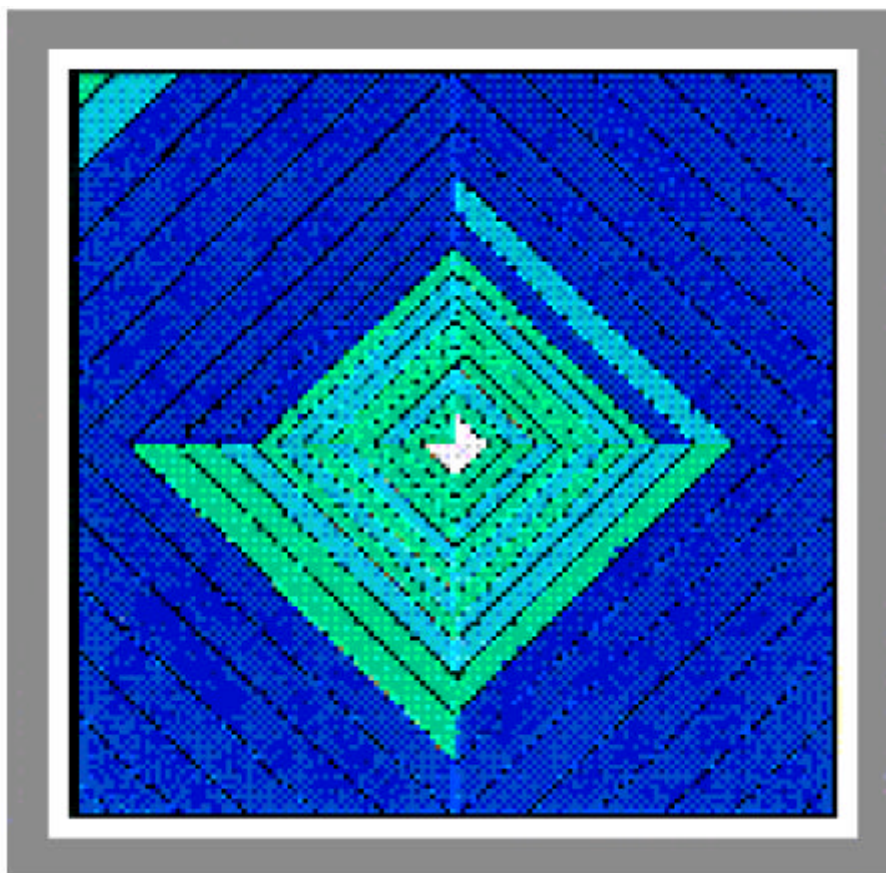


UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 1997



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Report by the secretariat of the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



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FOREWORD

The 1997 *Trade and Development Report* examines trends in the international economy with particular reference to developing countries, comparing current and past performances and assessing prospects for future development. It sheds light on the pressing policy issues facing developing countries and the wider international community.

Drawing upon themes set at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as on the work of the United Nations Regional Commissions and of the Specialized Agencies, this year's report focuses on the growing income gaps among and within countries.

Achieving more equitable growth remains a central aim of the work of the United Nations on development. This *Report* illuminates the key role played by investment in achieving rapid growth, as well as the contribution that appropriate government policies can make. A partnership between the United Nations, national governments and civil society can, and will, achieve the twin objectives of faster growth and greater income equality.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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Classification by country or commodity group

The classification of countries in this Report generally follows that of the UNCTAD *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1994*.¹ It has been adopted solely for the purposes of statistical or analytical convenience and does not necessarily imply any judgement concerning the stage of development of a particular country or area. As noted in the Foreword to the *Handbook*, the classification differs from that used previously, in particular as regards regional and total aggregates for developing countries.

The term “country” refers, as appropriate, also to territories or areas.

References to “Latin America” in the text or tables include the Caribbean countries unless otherwise indicated.

Unless otherwise stated, the classification by commodity group used in this Report follows generally that employed in the *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1994*.

Other notes

References in the text to *TDR* are to the *Trade and Development Report* (of a particular year). For example, *TDR 1996* refers to *Trade and Development Report, 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.II.D.6).

The term “dollar” (\$) refers to United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

The term “billion” signifies 1,000 million.

The term “tons” refers to metric tons.

Annual rates of growth and change refer to compound rates.

Exports are valued f.o.b. and imports c.i.f., unless otherwise specified.

Use of a hyphen (-) between dates representing years, e.g. 1988-1990, signifies the full period involved, including the initial and final years.

An oblique stroke (/) between two years, e.g. 1990/91, signifies a fiscal or crop year.

Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available, or are not separately reported.

A dash (-) or a zero (0) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A dot (.) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A plus sign (+) before a figure indicates an increase; a minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

Details and percentages do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.E/F.95.II.D.15.

Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (group of States)
ACR	accumulation/concentration ratio
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CEPAL	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe)
CEPR	Centre for Economic Policy Research (London)
CFA	Communauté financière africaine (franc zone)
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
c.i.f.	cost, insurance and freight
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of OECD)
DRF	Debt Reduction Facility (of IDA)
EC	European Community (or Communities)
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECAs	export credit agencies
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECGD	Export Credits Guarantee Department (United Kingdom)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECU	European currency unit
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EMS	European Monetary System
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism of EMS
ESAF	Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (of IMF)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
EXIM	Export-Import Bank (United States)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
f.o.b.	free on board
FY	fiscal year
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIPCs	heavily indebted poor countries
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System)
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LDC	least developed country
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
MBs	marketing boards
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
MFA	Multi-Fibre Arrangement
MFI	multilateral financial institution
MFN	most favoured nation
MTAs	Multilateral Trade Agreements
MVA	manufacturing value added
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement (Canada-United States-Mexico)
NBER	National Bureau of Economic Research (United States)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIEs	newly industrializing economies
NIESR	National Institute of Economic and Social Research (London)
NRI	Nomura Research Institute (Tokyo)
NTMs	non-tariff measures
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PPP	purchasing power parity
R&D	research and development
SAF	Structural Adjustment Facility
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SDR	special drawing right
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSA	sub-Saharan Africa
TBT	technical barriers to trade
TNCs	transnational corporations
TRIMs	trade-related investment measures
TRIPs	trade-related intellectual property rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
VAT	value added tax
WIDER	World Institute for Development Economics Research
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization