



UNITED NATIONS  
**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE

### Guides and information:

- Handbook reference materials
- Datasets and databases

### Capacity building and training:

- Development of research and policy tools
- Capacity building programmes

### Policy advice and networking platforms:

- Advisory services
- Networking platforms

## Trade, investment and innovation as powerful engines for growth and sustainable development.

## WORKING TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing various forms of assistance to member States to promote growth and development through regional cooperation. This assistance is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, placing the principles of inclusivity and sustainability at the centre of the work done by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division. In all cases, the focus is particularly on securing benefits for least developed, landlocked and other countries with special needs.

We provide policy insights on how to realize the available opportunities for trade, investment and innovation. Our programme provides expert advice, technical assistance and capacity building for policymakers, negotiators and other relevant officials of member States. We work in partnership with many international and regional organizations to provide comprehensive assistance, whenever possible as part of integrated approaches.

Three important features define our capacity development work:

### Demand driven

Our actions are planned in response to requests from our member States and aligned to identified needs.

### Individually tailored

Recognizing that no countries face exactly the same challenges, or face the same set of institutional, regulatory, economic and social circumstances, we tailor our advice, training and assistance to the unique needs of each country.

### Integrated treatment of economic policies

ESCAP's areas of assistance cover the full range of trade, investment and innovation issues.

## OUR FOCUS

ESCAP's trade, investment and innovation policy advice and capacity building covers varied topics at the regional and international levels. Our focus is on issues of particular relevance for developing economies including:

### Trade-related strategies

We prepare member States for trade negotiations (both WTO and PTAs); assist with policy implementation; and evaluate impacts. Workstreams cover all major trade policy instruments such as tariffs, non-tariff measures, subsidies, countervailing measures, and trade defense measures.

### Trade facilitation and paperless trade

We assist countries in simplifying and harmonizing regulatory procedures to make trading easier for all, and bring them together to enable the electronic exchange of data and documents across borders to cut trade costs, increase compliance and support e-commerce development.

### Preferential market and investment access for developing countries

We inform member States on how to make the most of opportunities provided by preferential treatment for developing countries, reciprocal as well as non-reciprocal, and we build their capacity and capability to use such preferences to the maximum benefit for all.

### Competitiveness and integration into regional and global supply chains

To enhance opportunities for intra-regional trade and regional integration, we assist with SME development and crafting inclusive investment policies.

### Innovation and technology

We provide advice on innovation and technology policy, helping governments to put in place concrete strategies and instruments to build innovation capabilities, to take advantage of available technologies, and to facilitate inclusive innovation, our aim is to enable member States at all levels of development to maximise science, technology and innovation as a mean for the achievement of the SDGs.

## CONTACT US

If you would like to learn more about ESCAP's work programme on trade, investment and innovation, please get in touch with us using the contact details provided below:

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