



## **Announcement**

UNCTAD Trade and Development Board Meeting

Sixtieth Session, 16-27 September 2013

Palais des Nations, Geneva

### **Call for Expressions of Interest by Member States**

UNCTAD is pleased to invite Member States (developing countries and countries with economies in transition) interested in implementing an UNCTAD National Green Economy Review to send official written expressions of interest to UNCTAD's Secretary-General.

A description of UNCTAD's proposed National Green Economy Review projects, introduced at this meeting, follows.

## UNCTAD's National Green Export Reviews

Through **National Green Export Reviews (NGERs)**, UNCTAD works in a close partnership with countries seeking to strengthen their green economies. NGERs assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement green economy policies and establish regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and competitiveness of their green sectors. NGERs respond to emerging country demand for assessments of national potential to advance the development of national green sectors to generate new employment and export opportunities while promoting sustainable development.

### Motivation

Across countries, transitions to a green economy are expected to make increasing contributions to economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, and to environmental protection and social equity. A green economy is driven by both domestic and foreign demand for green goods and services, including more efficient and low-carbon energy and transportation, organic food, ecotourism, solid waste and water recycling, environmental consulting, and emerging categories that include green construction, sustainable harvested timber products and natural fibres. Many green categories represent just a small fraction of their 'brown' counterparts indicating a vast potential for growth. Whether in high-tech goods, commodities, basic manufactures or services, the export opportunities offered in a greening global economy are significant and expanding faster than overall world trade; a trend that is expected to continue.

A large un-tapped potential exists for developing countries to advance the development of their green sectors. Principal approaches towards this goal include the creation of an enabling environment through improved regulatory and institutional frameworks needed to support a national green economy and more liberalised environmental goods and services trade to enhance market access and investment opportunities. Importantly, a dynamic green economy can make significant contributions towards the achievement national development objectives relating to economic diversification, investment, poverty reduction, employment generation and an overall improvement of social welfare. As such, it can also make significant contributions to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### The NGER Process

The first step in any NGER project involves an official request from a government to undertake a project. NGERs are demand-driven. UNCTAD will then work with a designated national ministry supporting the project to identify a team of national experts to implement the project. Shortly afterwards, a national stakeholder workshop will be organised to launch the project.

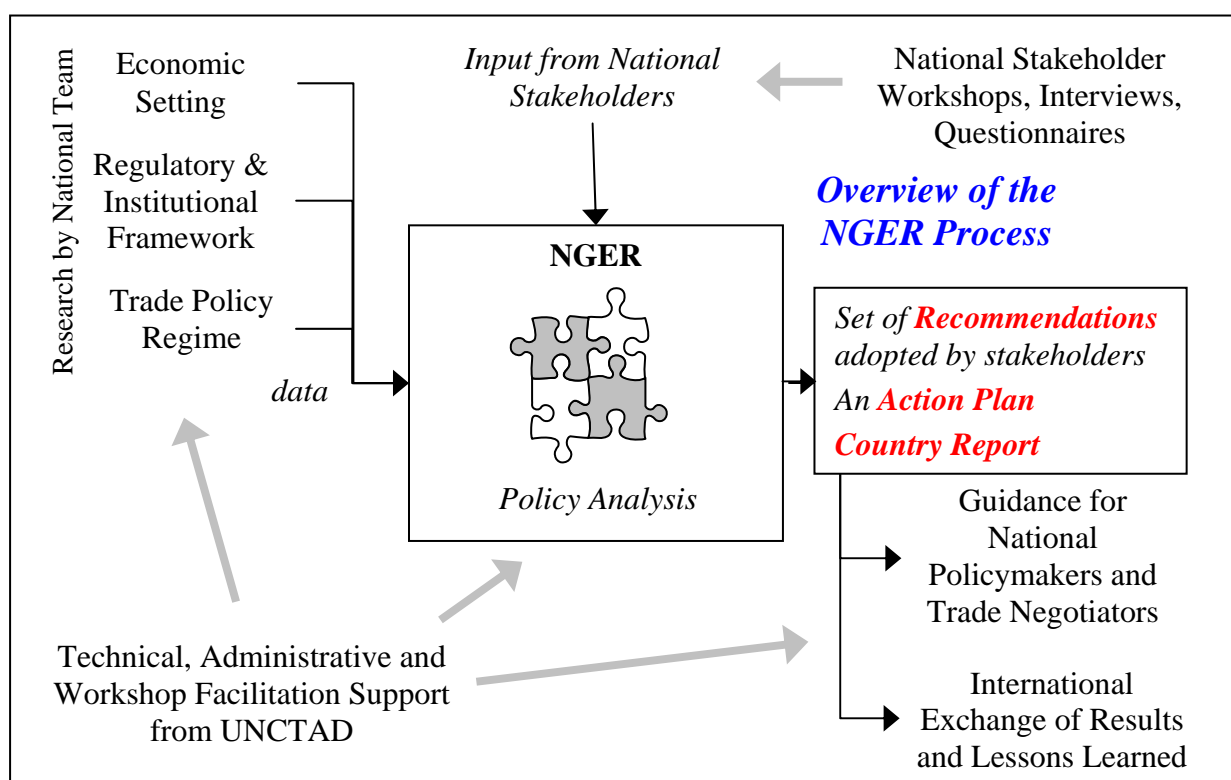
Some governments may request NGERs for a particular green sector in which they may already have considerable experience and a demonstrated comparative advantage, however, they may also request an NGER without having *a priori* identified green sectors of national interest. In both cases the NGER will employ UNCTAD's analytical [green product space](#) approach to validate the growth potential of pre-selected green sectors as well as to identify the full set of green sectors so that (additional) promising green sectors can be selected as the focus of the NGER. UNCTAD is able to support sector-specific NGERs in the full range of green sectors.

In close interaction with national stakeholders, and with technical support provided by UNCTAD and national and regional research institutions, national teams of experts will: 1) coordinate and conduct a series of activities described in NGER Terms of Reference, and, 2) prepare a final NGER Report. UNCTAD will provide technical and administrative support throughout the process, as well as various research methodologies, market studies, sector-specific questionnaires for use in national surveys,

analytical tools and negotiations updates needed to complete the study. UNCTAD also serves as a facilitator for the national workshops.

NGERs lead national policymakers and other stakeholders to examine a range of important issues for the green sectors under study within the context of the overall policy framework for each of these sectors. The participation of national stakeholders is integral part of the NGER. They are involved through NGER interviews, questionnaires, and its two national stakeholder workshops, one of which launches the national study and the other which concludes it. In the second national stakeholder workshop, stakeholders review a set of recommendations for the selected sector(s) proposed by national teams. These recommendations, and others proposed by workshop participants, are critically considered and discussed during the workshop resulting in a set of agreed recommendations that are adopted by stakeholders and submitted to the government for action. To the extent possible, national stakeholders further develop an action plan aiming to designate national entities responsible for leading the implementation of each adopted recommendation as well as an approximate timeframe and sequence for the implementation of each adopted recommendation.

Reports are published and disseminated by UNCTAD. At the national level the published report aims to provide sectoral analyses and insights to policymakers and trade negotiators in order to assist them with future development of regulatory, institutional and trade policy regimes. At the international level, through intergovernmental fora organised in Geneva, study results are also peer reviewed and discussed by researchers, national decision-makers and trade negotiators in the wider trade and development community. This provides an opportunity for the exchange of success stories and of lessons learned among countries.



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