

countries, especially the least-developed ones, in deriving maximum benefit from globalization, becoming well integrated into the international trading system, increasing their export capacity, diversifying their commodity production, managing their debt, attracting capital, improving investment conditions and strengthening their technological capacities.

## United Nations Development Fund for Women

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An independent organization working closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was created in 1984 by the UN

UNCTAD works in close co-operation with a host of other organizations in the United Nations system, including the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as with a wide range of private and public agencies at both the national and international levels.

General Assembly in order to promote the economic and political emancipation of women in the developing world. Since 1997, UNIFEM has also assisted women in Central and East European countries.

UNIFEM seeks to ensure participation by women in every stage of the development process, and to act as a catalyst within the United Nations system in efforts to link women's needs and concerns with all questions of critical interest to them at the global, national and regional levels.

## United Nations Development Programme

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) began operating in 1966. This is the United Nations system's main technical co-operation and

co-ordination program. UNDP's chief objective is to help countries help themselves achieve people-focussed sustainable development. It is active in poverty eradication, job creation, women's advancement and restoration of the environment. In addition, UNDP is increasingly asked to provide assistance in organizing democratic elections, and to support post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction.

UNDP's operations are decentralized. It funds projects in over 170 countries through a network of 132 local offices. At

