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Proposed programme budget for 2024

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2024

Part IV

International cooperation for development

Section 13

International Trade Centre

Subprogramme 6 of programme 10

Trade and development

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* [A/78/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information (part II) is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the Assembly.

*** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements (part III) is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly.



Foreword

In 2024, the International Trade Centre (ITC) will keep delivering transformative and sustainable trade that helps to put the Sustainable Development Goals back on track and to build inclusive and prosperous economies.

The Centre's strategic vision for the third year of implementation of its strategic plan for the period 2022–2025 remains firmly grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Centre's interventions to accelerate progress towards the Goals will be further integrated and scaled up through the implementation of specific sub-strategies, aimed at accelerating digital trade, environmentally sustainable trade, and trade for women and youth. Increased attention will be placed on the needs of the most vulnerable.

At least 80 per cent of the Centre's country-level assistance will be provided to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, small and vulnerable economies, countries in armed conflict or at risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict, and sub-Saharan Africa.

To improve efficiency in line with its commitment to deliver value for money, ITC will continue to improve its data management, risk management, monitoring and evaluation practices. ITC will further engage in purposeful partnerships and expand its participation in United Nations system-wide activities.

ITC is thankful to the Member States, its partners and beneficiaries, for their continuous confidence and support. ITC looks forward to tackling trade challenges together for building resilient and sustainable economies.

(Signed) Pamela **Coke-Hamilton**
Executive Director, International Trade Centre

A. Proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance in 2022

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

- 13.1 The International Trade Centre (ITC) is responsible for the business aspects of trade development, as the joint technical cooperation agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The mandate derives from the priorities established by the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on 19 March 1964 and the General Assembly on 12 December 1967 (Assembly resolution [2297 \(XXII\)](#)). Since 1 January 1968, ITC has operated under the joint auspices of GATT/WTO and the United Nations. In its resolution [1819/LV](#) of 9 August 1973, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the Centre's mandate as the focal point for technical assistance and cooperation activities for trade promotion within the United Nations system of assistance for developing countries.
- 13.2 In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States explicitly recognized trade as a key engine for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication, specifically through target 8.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase Aid for Trade support, and targets 17.10 and 17.11 of the Goals, for an open, rules-based, transparent and fair trading system and a significant increase in exports from developing countries.
- 13.3 Against the backdrop of trade tensions and the severe negative impact on trade and development caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the General Assembly, in its resolutions [77/151](#) and [77/160](#), reiterated this position for the target beneficiaries of ITC – micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises – which make up over 90 per cent of the world's businesses, account for over two thirds of employment and form the economic backbone of every community.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 6

Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Objective

- 13.4 The objective, to which ITC contributes, is to enhance inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, through increased business capacities of those enterprises to trade and through a conducive business environment and strengthened institutional ecosystems for those enterprises.

Strategy and external factors for 2024

- 13.5 To contribute to the objective, ITC will provide advisory services, training and awareness-building to enterprises, business support institutions and government agencies in areas that are key to the international competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. In particular, ITC will:
- (a) Build enterprise-level capacities in the areas of market analysis, value addition, quality, e-commerce, marketing, access to finance and investment, climate resilience and environmental risk mitigation, including on how to sustain the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the recovery from the pandemic;

- (b) Provide micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises with market knowledge and new market linkage opportunities, including through initiatives such as the Switch ON e-commerce initiative and #FastTrackTech, which digitally connect enterprises to foreign markets, and the “Alliances for Action” initiative, which matches businesses and develops public-private partnerships in targeted value chains and helps micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to strengthen existing and open new trade channels;
- (c) Enable business transactions and investment for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a focus on growing local, regional, South-South and global value chains for women-owned businesses, youth entrepreneurs, refugees, internally displaced persons and artisan and farmer communities, including through the ITC SheTrades, Ye! (young entrepreneurs) and Responsible Sustainable Ethical Trade initiatives;
- (d) Work to strengthen the governance, performance, advocacy capacities, quality and scope of services and interconnectedness of national, subnational and regional business support institutions and ecosystems, including trade and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce, sector associations, youth and women’s business groups, cooperatives, incubators and technical and vocational training providers, including through tailored advisory services, assessments and workshops;
- (e) Support policymakers in leading public-private dialogues and consensus-building and decision-making processes that foster the growth and internationalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through the promotion of the benefits of a universal, rules-based, open, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO;
- (f) Scale up its comprehensive and globally accessible trade intelligence that addresses information gaps, including analytical tools such as the ITC Sustainability Map, which houses information on voluntary sustainability standards and compliance requirements.

13.6 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Increased resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to external shocks and their enhanced competitiveness, sustainable business practices and integration into regional and international value chains that generate business transactions, investments, sustainable jobs and higher incomes, especially for women, youth and people in vulnerable situations;
- (b) Improved usefulness of services provided by business support institutions to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including enhanced management and operational functioning of the service providers;
- (c) Better-informed government decision makers, with options for new or improved inclusive trade-related policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks that contribute to an enabling environment for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in international trade;
- (d) Increased awareness among policymakers, business support organizations and businesses related to trade opportunities and challenges for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, market access conditions and sustainable business practices.

13.7 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2024 is based on the following planning assumptions:

- (a) Extrabudgetary resources will remain stable;
- (b) Programming countries will maintain political, economic and social conditions that allow for the implementation of development interventions;
- (c) International trade and investment conditions do not deteriorate significantly compared with 2023.

13.8 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ITC will maintain and develop partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and trade and development organizations to advance the 2030 Agenda. ITC will continue to develop partnerships

that contribute to the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, to scalable initiatives, especially for the least developed countries, and to the implementation of WTO ministerial discussions and outcomes, including on e-commerce, investment facilitation, women and trade, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and trade. ITC will continue to work with the private sector to support market access and provide supplier programmes for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially women-owned enterprises.

- 13.9 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ITC will continue to coordinate with United Nations agencies, including through membership in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and United Nations regional and country teams. ITC will collaborate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and WTO, and with other agencies and initiatives, such as the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- 13.10 ITC integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. ITC will mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment through an approach designed to address specific barriers for women in trade, for example, by supporting a network of women's business associations that will advocate for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in policies. ITC will improve ecosystems for women's entrepreneurship, working with local institutions as "SheTrades hubs". ITC will advance its SheTrades Outlook tool to include an expanded repository of country-specific information on including a gender perspective in trade policies and practices.
- 13.11 In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ITC will address disability inclusion in its operational planning process and will focus on disability inclusion in the monitoring of its projects.

Impact of the pandemic and lessons learned

- 13.12 The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2022 did not have a significant impact on the implementation of mandates. However, in order to support Member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, within the overall scope of the objectives, a new programmatic initiative, the Vaccine Investments and Trade Ecosystems in Africa project, was initiated. The initiative aimed to strengthen the African value chains of vaccines and related supplies. A pilot project, focused on Nigeria, engaged with the vaccine industry cluster and with regional and international public and private actors and coordination mechanisms, including the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing, and facilitated agreement on a strategic road map for the vaccine industry cluster, contributing to the country's economic recovery efforts, by building a diversified industrial base in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- 13.13 ITC continues to mainstream lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a fast-paced and uncertain business environment, there is an increased demand for easily accessible and timely trade intelligence. ITC had integrated into its Market Access Map a COVID-19 trade measures dashboard in 2021. On the basis of these lessons learned, in 2022, ITC integrated another real-time dashboard, providing data on temporary trade measures related to armed conflict, and will continue to leverage this approach to provide timely trade intelligence for new and emerging situations, including future crises that may arise.

Evaluation activities

- 13.14 The following evaluations completed in 2022 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2024:
- (a) 2022 annual evaluation synthesis report (meta-evaluation of the 2021 evaluation findings);

- (b) Evaluation of the project “Colombia PUEDE: peace and unity through productive development and commercialization”;
 - (c) Evaluation of the Centre’s work in the impact area “sustainable and resilient value chains” through the final evaluation of the “Netherlands trust fund IV – export sector competitiveness programme”;
 - (d) Evaluation of the Centre’s work in the impact area “sustainable and resilient value chains” through the midterm evaluation of the textiles and clothing programme for the Middle East and North Africa (MENATEX).
- 13.15 The results and lessons of the evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2024. For example, the 2022 annual evaluation synthesis report revealed evidence of “expertise” and “agility” in relation to the Centre’s organizational strengths outlined in the strategic plan. These aspects will serve as the foundation of the Centre’s value proposition. Many reviewed initiatives made effective use of synergies and made encouraging advancements in providing value for money. While the Centre’s initiatives effectively supported women’s participation in trade, environmental concerns received less attention. In response, ITC is advancing an approach for mainstreaming the environmental dimension of sustainable development into all its projects.
- 13.16 The following evaluations are planned for 2024:
- (a) Annual evaluation synthesis report (meta-evaluation of the previous year’s evaluation findings);
 - (b) One evaluation at the corporate level;
 - (c) One evaluation of an ITC programmatic approach;
 - (d) One large project evaluation.

Programme performance in 2022

Enhanced commitment for accelerating industrialization and value creation through increased focus on four strategic sectors in Africa

- 13.17 Africa accounts for just 2.3 per cent of global exports, and only 14 per cent of the continent’s exports are destined for other African countries. ITC identified and subsequently examined 94 high-potential value chains in Africa for sustainable development and reduction of import dependency, in support of the continental strategies for integration and industrialization. The findings were published in the report *Made by Africa: Creating Value through Integration*, which informed a dedicated workshop during Africa Industrialization Week in November 2022, contributing to the sub-theme of “regional industrial value chains” of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification. Among the identified value chains, and following a collective consultative process, the stakeholders identified four strategic sectors: automotive, pharmaceuticals, cotton clothing and baby food. Each sector links at least five African countries from different regions and has substantial value addition and job creation potential for women and youth.
- 13.18 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 13.1).

Table 13.1
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
–	–	<p>At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification, African Union leaders committed to 10 key action points, one of which was to accelerate commodity-based industrialization through regional value chains, prioritizing the health and pharmaceutical, automotive, food and nutrition, cotton and mineral beneficiation industries.</p> <p>The African Union Commission issued a report informed by the Centre’s work with recommendations on strengthening the selected strategic regional value chains.</p>

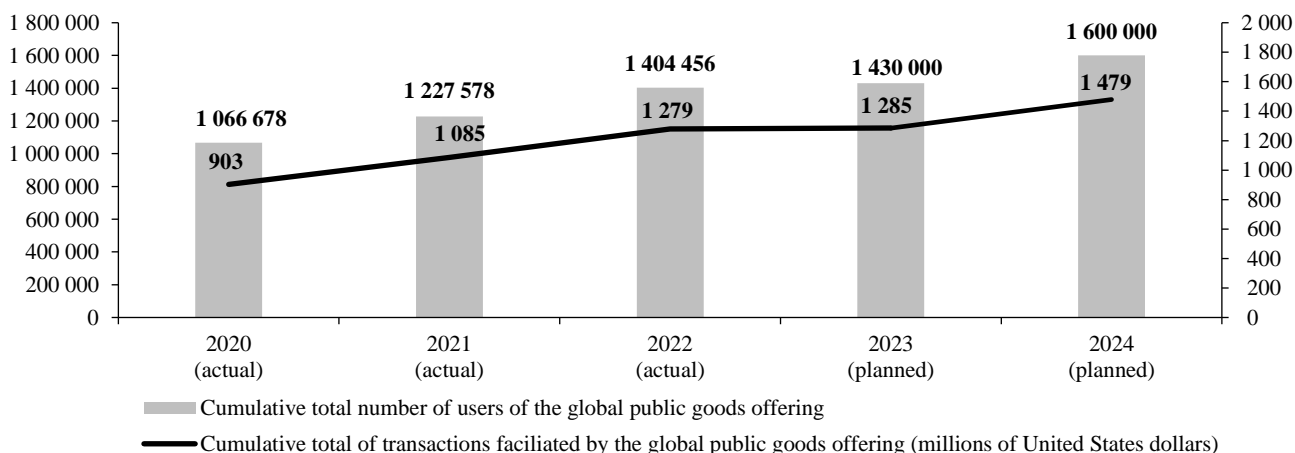
Planned results for 2024

Result 1: increased demand for trade intelligence as a global public good, enabling decisions for global trade recovery

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 13.19 The Centre’s work contributed to 1,404,456 users increasing their trade and market knowledge and facilitated \$1,279 million worth of transactions, which exceeded the planned target of 1,225,000 users and \$1,093 million of transactions.
- 13.20 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.I).

Figure 13.I
Performance measure: number of users of and total volume of transactions facilitated by the International Trade Centre’s global public goods offering (cumulative)



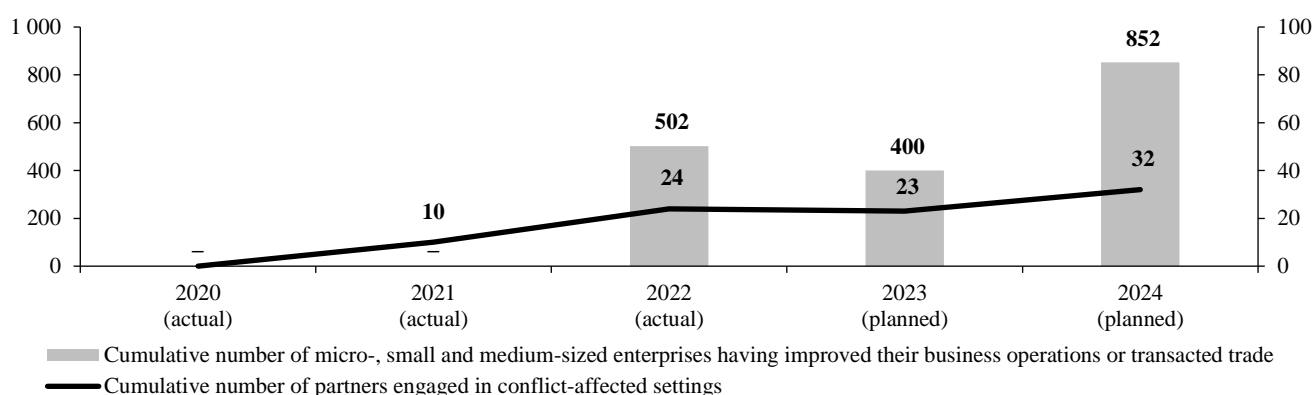
Result 2: partnerships for enhanced trade and more resilient micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 13.21 The Centre’s work contributed to 502 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that improved their business practices or transacted trade, and 24 partners that were engaged in hard-to-reach areas in Iraq, which exceeded the planned target of 150 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and 18 partners.
- 13.22 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.II).

Figure 13.II

Performance measure: number of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that improved business or transacted trade, and partnerships for trade in conflict and post-conflict situations (cumulative)



Result 3: strengthened digital trade capacity of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises

Proposed programme plan for 2024

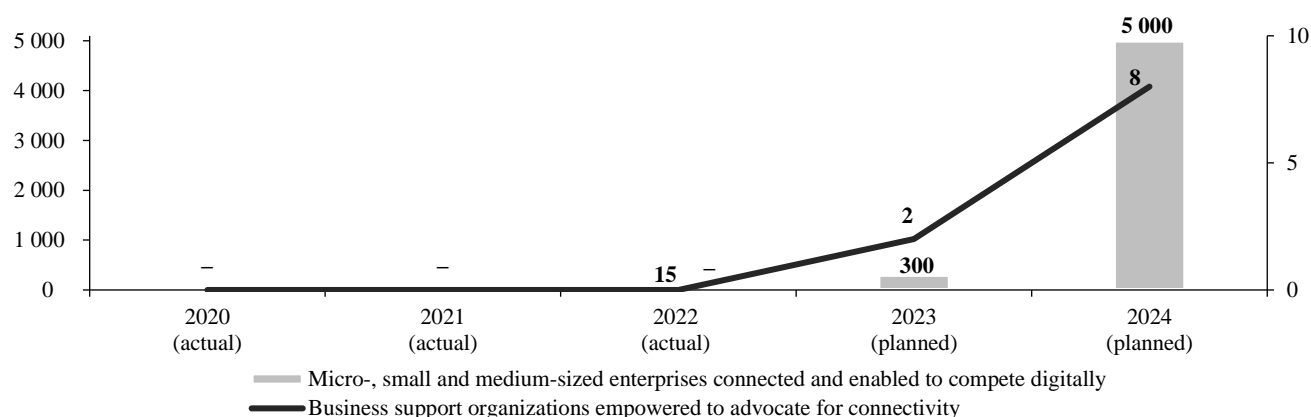
- 13.23 Research on global connectivity shows that 96 per cent of the 2.9 billion people who are still offline live in the developing world.¹ The programme, through data contained in the report *SME Competitiveness Outlook 2022: Connected Services, Competitive Businesses*, showed that when companies have access to high-quality information and communications technology, transport, finance and business services, they perform better in many aspects critical to their competitiveness. ITC has mainly focused on the direct mobilization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through its ecomConnect platform and capacity-building on the use of digital tools for e-trade.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 13.24 The lesson for ITC was that, complementary to its existing focus on e-commerce and digital entrepreneurship, it needed to coordinate and scale up activities at the level of policymaking, partnerships and thought leadership. In applying the lesson, ITC will increase its partnership-building, policy advisory, advocacy and capacity-building efforts in the area of digital trade and connectivity, including through the use of research and membership in global forums. ITC will empower business support organizations to promote connectivity in digital trade and increase its outreach towards micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and will use partnerships and networks to make market connections.
- 13.25 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.III).

¹ International Telecommunication Union, *Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2021* (Geneva, 2021).

Figure 13.III
Performance measure: micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises enabled to digitally compete and business support organizations empowered to advocate for connectivity



Legislative mandates

13.26 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to ITC.

General Assembly resolutions

2297 (XXII)	International Trade Centre	73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
66/288	The future we want	73/291	Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
67/213	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	74/231	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	74/235; 77/181	Women in development
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	75/202; 77/150	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	75/203; 76/190; 77/151	International trade and development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	75/211; 77/160	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
71/243; 75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	75/225; 77/174	Towards a New International Economic Order
71/279	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	75/231	Industrial development cooperation
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	76/198; 77/156	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
		76/202	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
		76/203; 77/245	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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76/204; 77/164	Disaster risk reduction	76/220; 77/184	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
76/205	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind	76/221; 77/185	South-South cooperation
76/207	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development	76/224	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
76/213	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development	76/258	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
76/217; 77/246	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	77/177	Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
76/218; 77/179	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)	77/178	Promotion of sustainable and resilient tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1819 (LV)	United Nations export promotion programmes	2022/18	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
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World Trade Organization ministerial declarations and decisions

WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1	Doha Ministerial Declaration	WT/MIN(15)/DEC	Nairobi Ministerial Declaration
WT/MIN(05)/DEC	Doha Work Programme: Ministerial Declaration	WT/MIN(17)/DEC	Joint Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment
WT/MIN(11)/W/2	Elements for political guidance	WT/MIN(22)/24	Outcome document of the twelfth Ministerial Conference
WT/MIN(13)/DEC	Bali Ministerial Declaration		

Deliverables

13.27 Table 13.2 lists all deliverables of ITC.

Table 13.2
Deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2022 actual</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	4	4	4
1. Reports to the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	3	3	3	3
2. Annual report on the activities of ITC to the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	8	8	8
Meetings of:				
3. The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and formal meetings of the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	4	4	4	4
4. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
5. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
7. The WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	1	1	1	1

Part IV International cooperation for development

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	130	151	135	140
8. On trade-related technical assistance	130	151	135	140
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	3 500	3 663	5 000	5 000
9. Training events on trade intelligence, policy and strategy	700	1 080	1 200	1 200
10. Training events on business support institutions and ecosystems	350	815	800	800
11. Training events on value chains and sustainability	2 450	1 768	3 000	3 000
Technical materials (number of materials)	30	31	30	30
12. <i>SME Competitiveness Outlook</i> flagship report	1	1	1	1
13. Books on trade-related subjects	4	4	4	4
14. Papers on trade-related subjects, such as inclusive and sustainable trade, trade and market intelligence, competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and competitiveness of women-owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises	25	26	25	25

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advice to policymakers, trade support institutions and enterprises to address the international competitiveness challenges for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to facilitate public-private dialogue on improvements to the business environment and to ensure that trade supports inclusive and sustainable development; advisory services to disadvantaged groups among micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, such as women and youth-owned enterprises, on improving their productive capacity and market access; advisory and advocacy services for policymakers and business support institutions on how to consider the needs of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and disadvantaged groups in their service offer; and advocacy that allows for the systematic inclusion of such enterprises and disadvantaged groups in policy and strategy processes.

Databases and substantive digital materials: databases and other online tools to make global trade more transparent and facilitate market access and business and policy decisions. Databases cover trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures, export potential, procurement opportunities, rules of origin, private standards and knowledge on sustainable trade and youth and women entrepreneurship. They include the SheTrades database for over 48,000 active women entrepreneurs, “SheTrades Outlook”, the ITC “SME trade academy”, the Ye! community and platform for over 40,000 young entrepreneurs, the Benchmarking for Trade platform, the African Trade Observatory, the Quality for Trade platform, ecomConnect and the suite of trade intelligence tools (Market Access Map, Trade Map, Standards Map, Investment Map, Global Trade Helpdesk, Export Potential Map, Procurement Map, Trade Strategy Map, Sustainability Map and ePing).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: special events, including the World Export Development Forum, the Trade for Sustainable Development Forum, the world trade promotion organizations network conference and awards; the *International Trade Forum* magazine; Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day; newsletters on trade-related subjects for over 16,000 recipients; and information materials and outreach, including on export strategy, trade support networks and capacities, entrepreneurship, skills and export development opportunities, world trade trends, the multilateral trading system, regional integration, technical regulations and standards for export, and trade and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: ITC website and social media accounts, engaging sustainable micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, women entrepreneurs and youth.

Library services: on-demand services for ITC clients related to trade information.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2024

Overview

13.28 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 are reflected in table 13.3.

Table 13.3

Overall United Nations grant to ITC: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2022 expenditure ^a	2023 appropriation	Changes			Total	Percentage	2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other			
Grants and contributions ^b	19 073.4	20 457.6	–	–	–	–	–	20 457.6
Total	19 073.4	20 457.6	–	–	–	–	–	20 457.6

^a At the time of reporting, the expenditures presented in this table and subsequent tables are not final and may be subject to adjustments that could result in minor differences between the information contained in the present report and the financial statements to be finalized by 31 March 2023.

^b Represents the United Nations share of the ITC full regular budget disbursed as a grant.

- 13.29 The General Assembly, in section I of its resolution [59/276](#), endorsed the revised administrative arrangements for ITC as set out in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/59/405](#)). In conformity with those administrative arrangements, the regular budget of ITC is denominated in Swiss francs and is funded equally by the United Nations and WTO. The United Nations share of the ITC full regular budget is disbursed as a grant.
- 13.30 The grant proposed for 2024 amounts to \$20,457,600, before recosting, reflecting no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2023. The full regular budget requirements of ITC amount to SwF 37,936,500 (before recosting), net of projected miscellaneous income of SwF 200,000. The United Nations grant remains at 50 per cent of the ITC full regular budget, or SwF 18,968,300. After applying an exchange rate of SwF 0.9272 to \$1.00, the United States dollar equivalent is \$20,457,600. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.
- 13.31 The General Assembly, in its resolution [77/267](#), decided to lift the trial period on the annual budget cycle and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the annual programme budget for the United Nations. WTO, however, maintains its biennial budget cycle. As in previous years, the present budget proposal for 2024 is put forward under an interim arrangement agreed with the WTO secretariat.² The difference in the budget cycles of the two parent organizations has implications on the administrative arrangements relating to the ITC budget. The United Nations Secretariat and the WTO secretariat will conduct a joint review of the administrative arrangements, which will be suitably updated and presented to the General Assembly and the WTO General Council for consideration in 2024.
- 13.32 The total resource requirements for 2024 for ITC, comprising its full regular budget in Swiss francs and projected extrabudgetary resources in Swiss francs, are reflected in tables 13.4 and 13.5 and figure 13.IV. For increased clarity and transparency, details of ITC post resources to be provided for by the proposed grants from the United Nations and WTO are presented in tables 13.6 and 13.7 and annex I, notwithstanding that these posts are not part of the approved or proposed staffing table of the United Nations regular budget.

Note: The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

² The WTO General Council will consider the budget proposal of ITC for the biennium 2024–2025 in the WTO format in December 2023. The proposed amount will be based on twice the amount of the present proposal for 2024, i.e., the same amount for 2024 and for 2025.

Part IV International cooperation for development

Table 13.4

Evolution of financial resources by source of funding: ITC full regular budget and extrabudgetary resources

(Thousands of Swiss francs)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2022 expenditure ^a	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Programme of work								
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	36 360.9	37 936.5	–	–	–	–	–	37 936.5
Subtotal, 1	36 360.9	37 936.5	–	–	–	–	–	37 936.5

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2022 expenditure	2023 estimate	Change		Percentage		2024 estimate
Programme of work							
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	109 809.9	97 356.0	–	–	–	–	97 356.0
Subtotal, 2	109 809.9	97 356.0	–	–	–	–	97 356.0
Total	146 170.8	135 292.5	–	–	–	–	135 292.5

^a Overall level of 2022 expenditure (net of miscellaneous income) incurred in Swiss francs, of which the United Nations share amounts to SwF 18,180,500, equivalent to \$19,073,400.

Table 13.5

Evolution of financial and post resources: ITC full regular budget

(Thousands of Swiss francs/number of posts)

Component/subprogramme	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	28 505.3	29 780.0	–	–	–	–	–	29 780.0
Non-post	7 855.6	8 156.5	–	–	–	–	–	8 156.5
Total	36 360.9	37 936.5	–	–	–	–	–	37 936.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		91	–	–	–	–	–	91
General Service and related		69	–	–	–	–	–	69
Total		160	–	–	–	–	–	160

Table 13.6
Proposed posts and post changes for 2024: ITC full regular budget

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2023	160	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 21 P-5, 29 P-4, 20 P-3, 14 P-2/1, 69 GS (OL)
Post changes	–	–
Proposed for 2024	160	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 21 P-5, 29 P-4, 20 P-3, 14 P-2/1, 69 GS (OL)

Table 13.7
Proposed posts for 2024 by source of funding: ITC full regular budget and extrabudgetary resources

(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

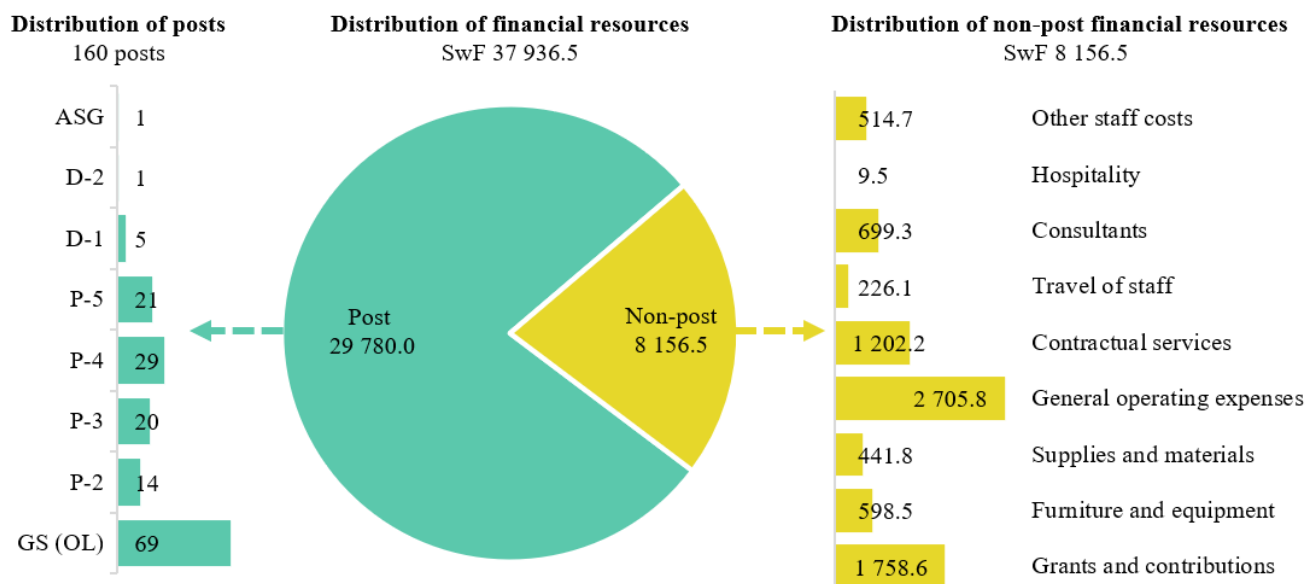
Component/subprogramme	Changes				Total	2024 proposed
	2023 approved	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Programme of work						
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	160	–	–	–	–	160
Subtotal, 1	160	–	–	–	–	160

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2023 estimate	Change	2024 estimate
Programme of work			
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	20	–	20
Subtotal, 2	20	–	20
Total	180	–	180

Figure 13.IV
Distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting): ITC full regular budget

(Number of posts/thousands of Swiss francs)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 13.33 As reflected in table 13.4 (2), extrabudgetary resources amount to SwF 97,356,000.
- 13.34 The extrabudgetary resources would complement regular budget resources and would be used mainly to implement technical cooperation projects, complementing and leveraging the core expertise and global offering of ITC provided through regular budget resources, at the request of Member States. Initiatives aim to accelerate digital trade, environmentally sustainable trade and trade for women and youth and are committed to economically empowering women, youth and people in vulnerable situations, including people in poverty, refugees, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. ITC continues to negotiate with donors for the funding of large-scale integrated projects.
- 13.35 The extrabudgetary resources under the present section are subject to the oversight of ITC, in accordance with the delegation of authority by the Secretary-General, and their use is guided by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Other information

- 13.36 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 72/219, the Centre will continue to integrate environmental management practices into its operations. Lowering its greenhouse gas emissions has been a priority for ITC for a number of years, and recent initiatives include improving the awareness of staff on plastic use and providing guidance on sustainable alternatives to plastic. In addition, ITC automated its lighting system to further reduce its carbon footprint.
- 13.37 Information on the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 13.8. ITC continued to disseminate a monthly newsletter addressed to all ITC personnel that provides the actual compliance rates and the category of non-compliance justifications

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broken down by division. Additionally, divisional directors and section chiefs are provided with details of individual staff compliance rates on a weekly basis. Furthermore, the enterprise resource planning system has been used to document the reasons for non-compliance, including factors that are beyond the control of ITC.

Table 13.8
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2021</i>	<i>Actual 2022</i>	<i>Planned 2023</i>	<i>Planned 2024</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	100	100	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	39	69	67	100	100

Annex I

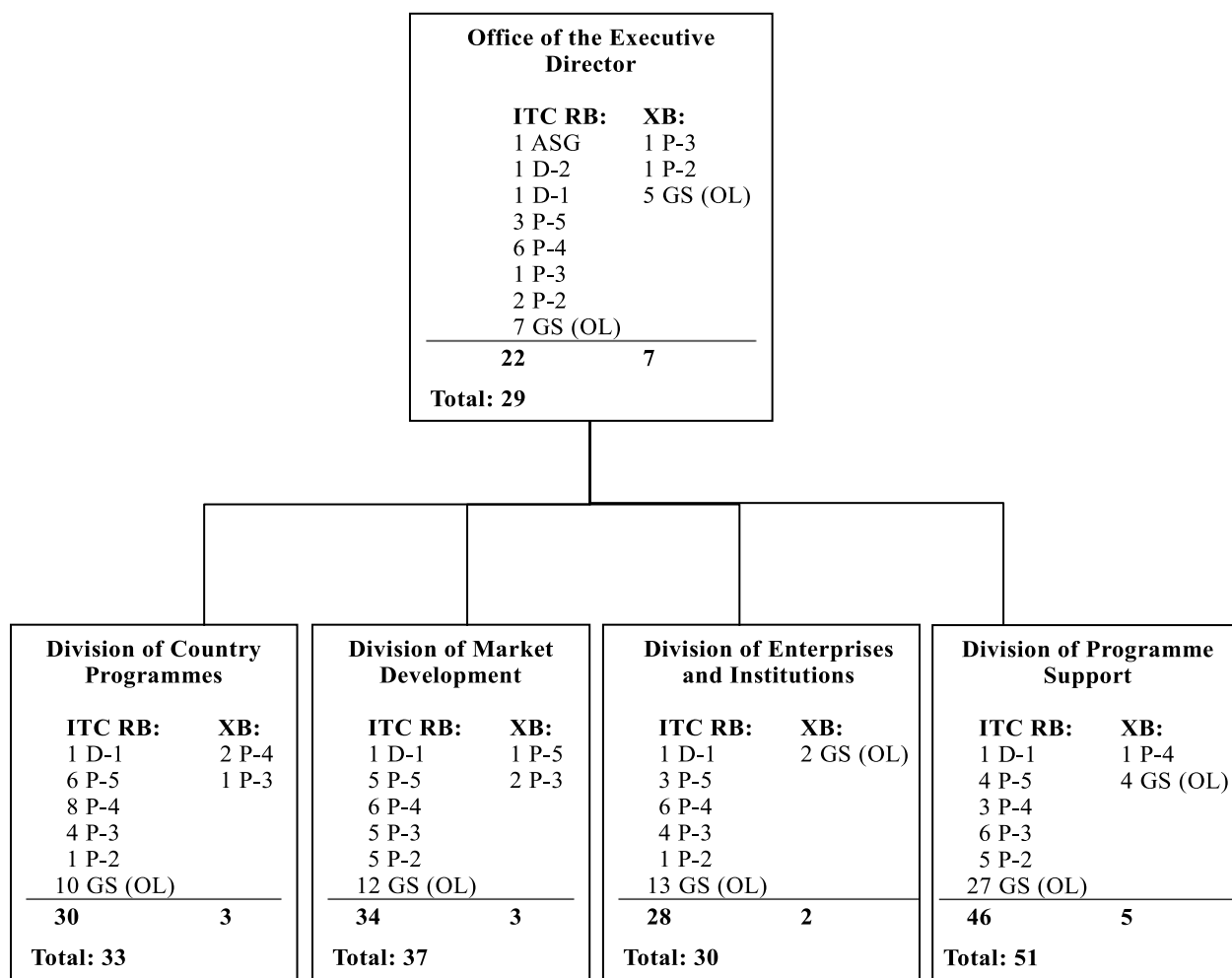
Organizational structure and post distribution for 2024

Two charts showing the organizational structure of the International Trade Centre (ITC) are presented below. Chart A reproduces the organizational structure for 2023, as contained in document [A/77/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#). Chart B presents the organizational structure for 2024. The total number of posts for 2024 remains unchanged compared with 2023: 160 funded from the ITC full regular budget (World Trade Organization and United Nations) and 20 from extrabudgetary sources.

Justification for the planned changes

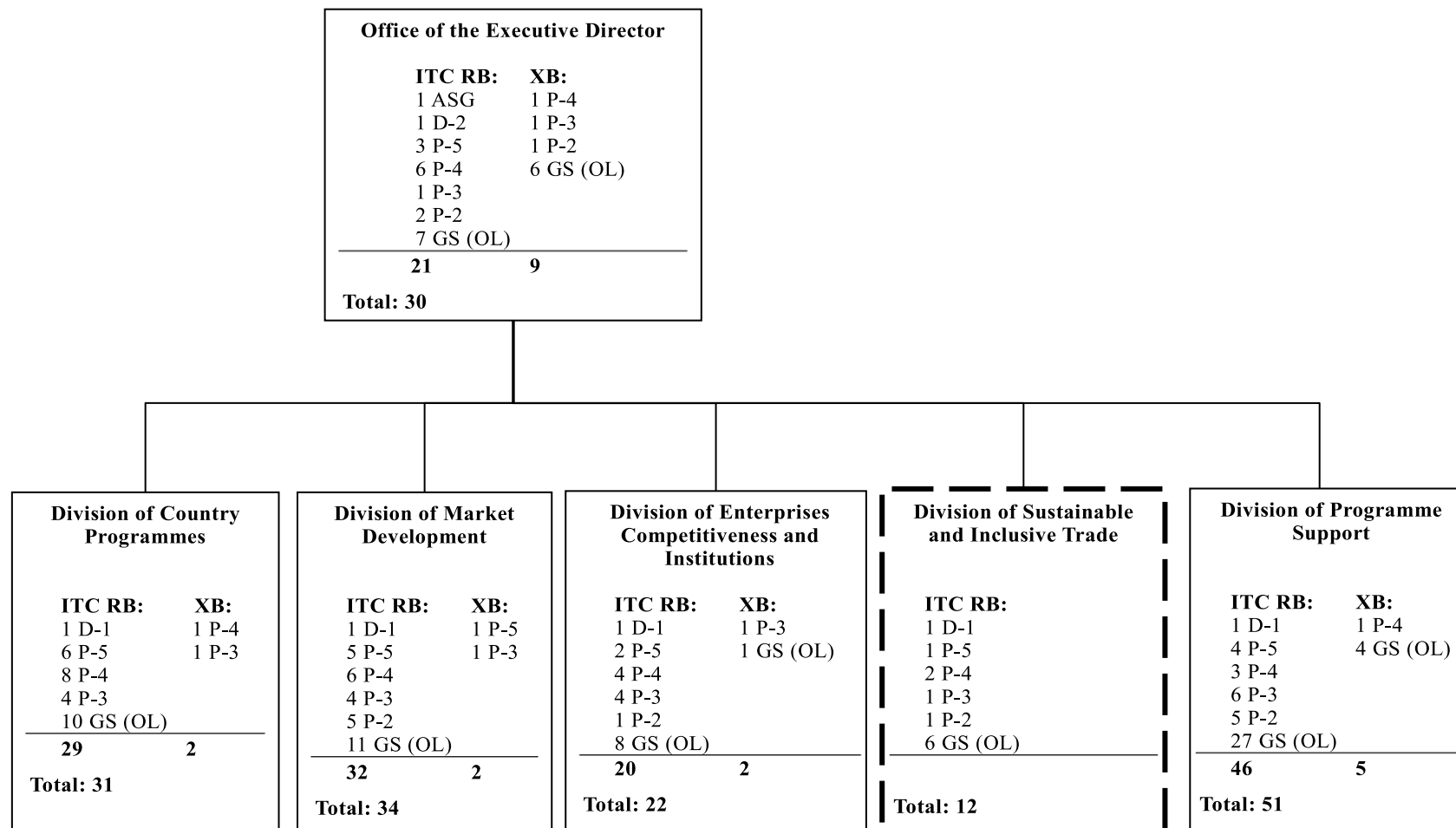
ITC has aligned its structure and delivery requirements to enable the implementation of its strategic plan for the period 2022–2025. The newly created Division of Sustainable and Inclusive Trade works to advance the Centre’s strategic vision to support sustainable and inclusive livelihoods through trade. The Division will shape policy, practice and new thinking on how to make trade more inclusive and to enable micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from sustainable trade. It will scale up existing successful initiatives such as SheTrades and develop new approaches to ensure that women, youth and vulnerable groups benefit from growth and trade. Under the new structure, the Division of Enterprises Competitiveness and Institutions works to connect micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to international value chains, strengthen business support organizations and related ecosystems, increase the compliance of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises with quality standards and promote digital trade and entrepreneurship. The Division focuses on innovative and inclusive market-driven approaches to strengthen the international competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises from developing countries.

A. Organizational structure and post distribution for 2023



Note: ITC RB posts refer to ITC full regular budget posts, which are not part of the proposed United Nations regular budget staffing table. XB posts are funded through the special account for programme support costs.

B. Organizational structure and post distribution for 2024



Note: ITC RB posts refer to ITC full regular budget posts, which are not part of the proposed United Nations regular budget staffing table. XB posts are funded through the special account for programme support costs. The total number of posts remains unchanged compared with 2023: 160 funded from the ITC full regular budget and 20 from extrabudgetary sources.

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); ITC RB, International Trade Centre full regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the advisory and oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[A/77/7](#)

The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the D-1 post of Director of the ITC liaison office in Addis Ababa has been vacant since its establishment in January 2016. Recalling that the original rationale for the establishment of the D-1 post was based on the need to provide direct support to African institutions and organizations on trade issues, the Committee does not see merit in the proposed redeployment to Geneva and recommends against it. In order to fulfil the intended purposes of the post, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request ITC to consider alternative locations in Africa, including the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area, located in Accra, where ITC has established a hub. The Committee once again trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of the D-1 post of Director of the ITC liaison office will be provided to the Assembly during its consideration of the present report and in the context of the next budget submission (see also [A/76/7](#) and [A/76/7/Corr.1](#), para. IV.86) (para. IV.101).

The original rationale for the post was to establish the ITC liaison office in Addis Ababa. In 2016, under the leadership of the previous Executive Director, a request was made to redeploy the D-1 post from the ITC headquarters in Geneva for that purpose. The post was not filled owing to the complexity of negotiations and delays in finalizing the host country agreement with Ethiopia. ITC was therefore never able to attempt recruitment for the post in Addis Ababa.

ITC adopted a new strategic plan for the period 2022–2025 in December 2021, on the basis of extensive consultations with Member States while ensuring alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The D-1 post was reassessed on the basis of the new strategy, and was re-advertised as Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Trade, in Geneva. The recruitment process was completed in November 2022. The Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Trade (D-1) leads the portfolio of initiatives with direct impact on inclusiveness and environmental sustainability, gender, youth and vulnerable communities to strengthen the role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and related trade in addressing the rapidly evolving social and environmental challenges facing the planet.

ITC is a non-resident agency with no permanent offices in programme countries. Some large initiatives warrant project offices that are limited to the duration of the project. ITC does not have a hub in Accra, as stated in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Rather, ITC leverages the physical presence of fellow United Nations development system entities, the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team for greater integration and efficiency.