

UNCTAD advances intergovernmental solutions and partnerships to stop illicit trade Countries, multilateral institutions and private sector discuss cooperation

Geneva, 6-7 September 2022 – Today, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held the 2nd UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum to spotlight initiatives, facilitate cooperation and discuss ways to operational work on illicit trade as delineated in the [UNCTAD15 Bridgetown Covenant](#).

The Forum, co-organized with TRACIT, addressed illicit trade and promoted measures to curb this criminal activity. Delegates from over 50 UN member States joined representatives from IGOs, NGOs, academia and the private sector for panel discussions on issues including illicit trade in times of crisis, mitigating illicit trade through maritime transport, falsified medicines, and illicit financial flows.

"The current global health, socio-economic and geopolitical climates provide an optimal environment for criminal activity to not only increase but manifest itself in different ways. Illicit trade is no different. We are confronting a crisis of the global common good," said Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Trinidad and Tobago during her keynote address. **"I wish to commend UNCTAD and TRACIT for once again providing an ideal platform for member States and stakeholders from across the world to discuss the crucial issues surrounding global action aimed at combatting illicit trade."**

Participants underscored how illicit trade affects all countries and industries and erodes legitimate economic activity, slowing economic growth and impeding decent, legal employment opportunities. Significantly, the Forum initiated UNCTAD's process of outlining a forward-looking work program, building on UNCTAD's associated work and integrating efforts and resources through collaboration with other agencies, including the World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization, and International Maritime Organization.

"I would like to express my appreciation to UNCTAD Secretary General Grynspan and the entire UNCTAD Secretariat for hosting this Forum and for their monumental demonstration of leadership in the fight against illicit trade," said TRACIT Director General Jeff Hardy. **"The new mandate has provided UNCTAD the opportunity to develop meaningful actions against illicit trade. The most important and impactful part of the work to mitigate illicit trade lies ahead, and the private sector will continue to provide its expertise to support UNCTAD in this important work."**

TRACIT and UNCTAD have worked together to raise awareness on illicit trade among member states, including by co-hosting the [2019 Dialogue on Illicit Trade and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) and convening the [first Illicit Trade Forum](#) in February 2020.

About TRACIT – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](#)) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

More information on UNCTAD's 2nd Illicit Trade Forum can be found [here](#).

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