

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2004), The least developed countries report 2004: Linking international trade with poverty reduction, Sales No. E.04.II.D.27. New York and Geneva: United Nations Publications**

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**Abstract:**

Reviews recent economic, social, and policy trends in the least developed countries (LDCs). Includes a special focus on the relationship between trade and poverty in the LDCs and presents recommendations for national and international actions.

Reports on growth trends; trends in external trade, external finance, and external debt for LDCs; and the aid effort of donor countries. Reviews recent social trends, focusing on population growth, age structure, and urbanization; progress toward selected human development goals; and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Considers the challenge of LDC accession to the WTO and studies the terms of accession negotiated by Cambodia, Nepal, and Vanuatu. Explores trade and poverty from a development perspective; the potential role of international trade in poverty reduction in the LDCs; how the trade-poverty relationship works in practice; interactions between civil conflict, trade, and poverty; and trade liberalization and poverty reduction in the LDCs. Highlights improvements to the international trade regime and national development strategies that would make international trade a more effective mechanism for poverty reduction in the LDCs. A statistical annex provides basic data on the least developed countries. No index.