

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report on GTAP relates activities / Board Meeting 2012

UNCTAD is using the GTAP modeling and databases largely for internal purposes and for some of its technical assistance projects. Related to analysis, the GTAP model has been used to produce some ad-hoc analysis on the implications of the Doha Development Agenda and some regional trade agreements.

UNCTAD use of the GTAP model and databases has been decreasing in recent years. The reasons have to be found partly in the deadlock of trade negotiations and partly because the change in focus of the research and analysis output. However, the mandate from UNCTAD XIII quadrennial conference (held in Doha in April 2012) calls for strengthening research and analysis as well as for a better dissemination strategy. This should result in more quantitative analysis. It is therefore expected that the use of the GTAP model and its databases will increase.

For UNCTAD it is of particular interest the use of the GTAP input-output tables to better analyze the structure of global production networks. Also, UNCTAD plans to continue in the use of the GTAP model to analyze the impact of possible regional trade agreements, especially in regard to Africa. UNCTAD also welcomes the addition of the satellite databases some of which may be useful for specific projects.

Because of retirement and movement of staff, UNCTAD internal competence in the use of the model and related databases is on a decreasing trend. In this regard, UNCTAD will likely seek partnership and collaboration with other GTAP researchers. UNCTAD will also try to mobilize resources for individual training. However, funding for such activities is largely limited by budget constraints.