UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2010

INVESTING IN A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

20th anniversary edition

UNITED NATIONS

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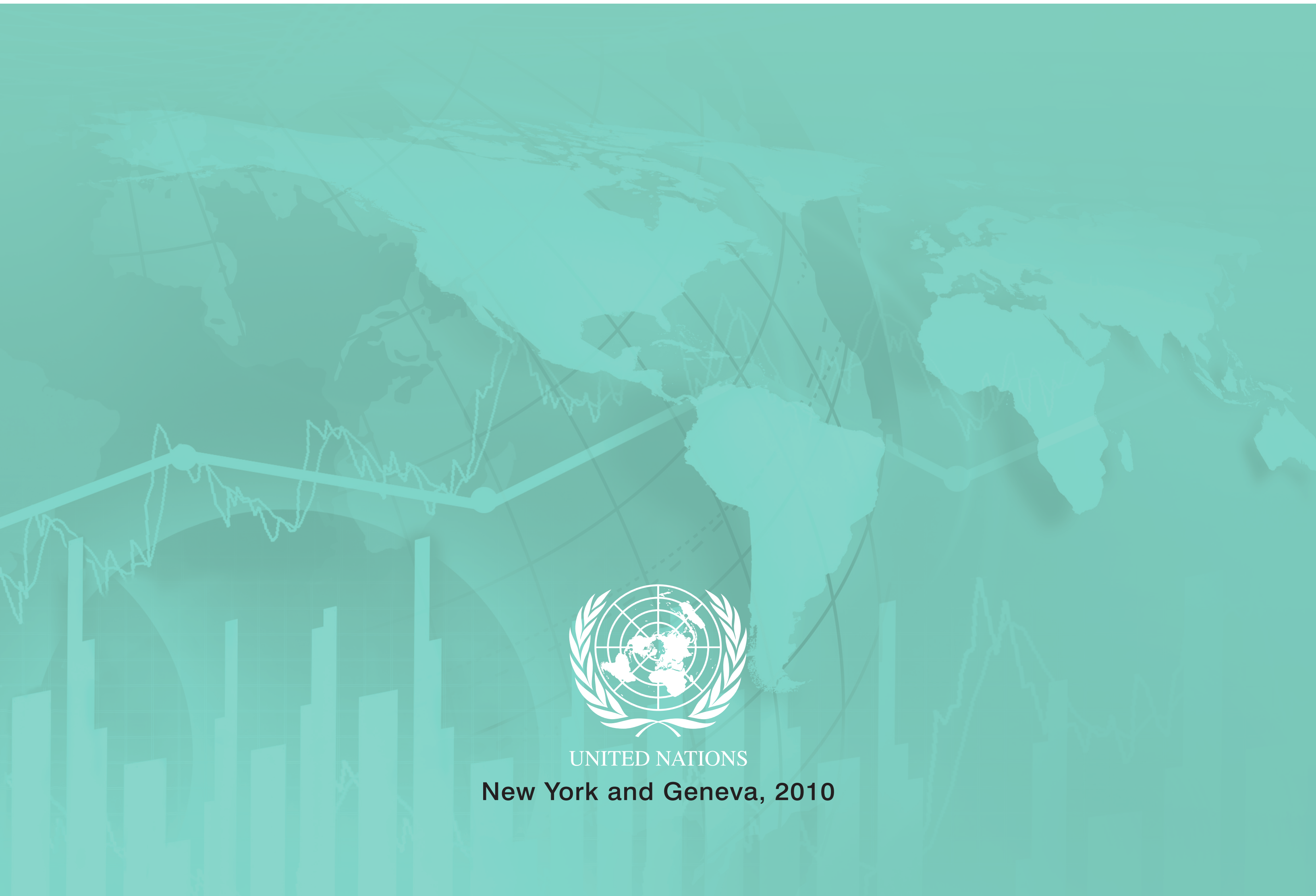

UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2010

NOTE

As the focal point in the United Nations system for investment and technology, and building on 30 years of experience in these areas, UNCTAD, through DIAE, promotes understanding of key issues, particularly matters related to foreign direct investment and transfer of technology. DIAE also assists developing countries in attracting and benefiting from FDI, and in building their productive capacities and international competitiveness. The emphasis is on an integrated policy approach to investment, technical capacity building and enterprise development.

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Developed countries: the member countries of the OECD (other than Chile, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey), plus the new European Union member countries which are not OECD members (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Romania), plus Andorra, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco and San Marino.

Transition economies: South-East Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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Reference to companies and their activities should not be construed as an endorsement by UNCTAD of those companies or their activities.

The boundaries and names shown and designations used on the maps presented in this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

- Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported. Rows in tables have been omitted in those cases where no data are available for any of the elements in the row;
- A dash (–) indicates that the item is equal to zero or its value is negligible;
- A blank in a table indicates that the item is not applicable, unless otherwise indicated;
- A slash (/) between dates representing years, e.g., 1994/95, indicates a financial year;
- Use of an en dash (–) between dates representing years, e.g., 1994–1995, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years;
- Reference to “dollars” ($) means United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated;
- Annual rates of growth or change, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates;
- Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION
Sales No. E.10.II.D.2
ISBN 978-92-1-112806-2

Printed in Switzerland

PREFACE

The global financial and economic recovery remains fragile, threatened by emerging risks, constraints in public investment and other factors. For the recovery to remain on track, private investment is crucial for stimulating growth and employment. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has a major role to play.

The *World Investment Report 2010* highlights a promising outlook: after a significant global FDI downturn in 2009, flows worldwide are expected to recover slightly this year, with a stronger recovery in 2011 and 2012. Overall, countries continue to liberalize and promote foreign investment, although there has also been an increase in new policy measures regulating foreign investment. Countries remain receptive towards FDI, seeing it as an important external source of development finance.

This year's *Report* focuses on climate change, and in particular the role of transnational corporations. As enterprises with formidable knowledge, cutting-edge technology, and global reach, TNCs are necessarily among the primary actors in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift towards a low-carbon economy. The Report stresses that with the right policy initiatives, incentives and regulatory framework, TNCs can and must contribute significantly to both mitigation and adaptation. It also proposes a global partnership to galvanize low-carbon investment and advocates concrete initiatives such as a new technical assistance centre to support policy formulation and implementation in developing countries.

This twentieth anniversary edition of the *World Investment Report* continues the series' tradition of serving as a leading reference for policymakers, investment promotion agencies, business, academia, civil society and others. The series has been contributing to investment policy-making at the national and international levels. I commend it to all involved in our common quest to build a better world for all.

Ki Moon Ban

BAN Ki-moon

New York, June 2010

Secretary-General of the United Nations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *World Investment Report 2010* (*WIR10*) was prepared by a task force under the direction and management of James Zhan. The core task force members include Quentin Dupriez, Masataka Fujita, Thomas van Giffen, Michael Hanni, Fabrice Hatem, Kalman Kalotay, Joachim Karl, Ralf Krüger, Guoyong Liang, Sarianna Lundan, Anthony Miller, Hafiz Mirza, Nicole Moussa, Malte Schneider, Astrit Sulstarova, Elisabeth Tuerk, Jörg Weber and Kee Hwee Wee. Kiyoshi Adachi, Amare Bekele, Hamed El Kady, Jan Knörich, Abraham Negash, Lizzie Medrano, Matthias Maier, Shin Ohinata, Sergey Ripinsky, Diana Rosert, Christoph Spennemann, Yunsung Tark and Dong Wu also contributed to the *Report*.

Research and statistical support was provided by Mohamed Chiraz Baly, Bradley Boicourt, Lizanne Martinez, Sara Tougard de Boismilon and the interns Wolfgang Alschner, Jan-Christoph Kuntze, Jia Lin, Katlego Moilwa, Celeste Simone Owens, and Peter-Jan Zijlema. Production and dissemination of the *WIR10* was supported by Tserenpuntsag Batbold, Séverine Excoffier, Natalia Meramo-Bachayani, Madasamyraja Rajalingam, Chantal Rakotondrainibe and Katia Vieu. It was edited by Caroline Lambert, copy edited by UNCTAD's editor, cover designed by Sophie Combette and desktop published by Teresita Ventura.

WIR10 benefited from the advice of Peter Buckley. Specific inputs were received from Anne Arquit-Niederberger, Tudor Constantinescu, Pietro Erber, Jonathan Gage, Jayme Buarque de Hollanda, Thomas Jost, Hyojin Kim, Padma Mallampally, Marcus Orellana, Steven Porter, Raymond Saner, Claudia Salgado and Han-koo Yeo.

WIR10 also benefited from comments and suggestions provided by participants at a brainstorming meeting in Geneva in November 2009 and a seminar on *WIR10* in May 2010. Comments and suggestions were received during various stages of preparation from Laura Altinger, Lucas Assunção, Anna Autio, Matthew Bateson, Nathalie Bernasconi, Richard Bolwijn, Anatole Boute, Thomas Brewer, Douglas Brooks, Jeremy Clegg, Paul Clements-Hunt, Rudolf Dolzer, Lorraine Eden, Michael Ewing-Chow, Heiner Flassbeck, Susan Franck, Kai Remco Fischer, Kevin Gallagher, Stephen Gelb, Charles Gore, Eric Haites, Wahid Ben Hamida, Michael Herrmann, Elke Hoekstra, Ulrich Hoffmann, Jeff Huang, Gábor Hunya, Anna Joubin-Bret, John Kline, Ans Kolk, Robert Lipsey, Yuebing Lu, Nannan Lundin, Michael Mortimore, Peter Muchlinski, Samson Muradzikwa, Lilach Nachum, Rajneesh Narula, Richard Newfarmer, Federico Ortino, Terutomo Ozawa, Sheila Page, Guido Palazzo, Nicolas Perrone, Jonatan Pinkse, Christos Pitelis, Eric Ramstetter, Matthias Rau-Göhring, Mohammad Reza Salamat, Thomas Scott, Josef Schmidhuber, Sophia Twarog, Peter Utting, Kenneth Vandevelde, Dirk te Velde, Obie Whichard, Henning Wuester, Peter Wooders, Stephen Young and Zbigniew Zimny.

Numerous officials of central banks, statistical offices, investment promotion and other government agencies, and officials of international organizations and non-governmental organizations also contributed to *WIR10*. The *Report* also benefited from collaboration with Erasmus University, Rotterdam, in the collection of data on the 100 largest TNCs.

The financial support of the Governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden is gratefully acknowledged.

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