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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-first session, first part
Geneva, 19 September 1994

DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS FORTY-FIRST SESSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Calson Mbegabolawe (Zimbabwe)

AGENDA ITEM 6 : THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNCTAD (to be completed)

AGENDA ITEM 8 : OTHER MATTERS

- (a) UNCITRAL report
- (b) Symposium on Trade Efficiency

Speakers: United States of America
Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD
Director PSMS
Secretary of Board
Representative of UNCTAD secretariat

Note for Delegations

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.

Requests for amendments - to be submitted in English or French - should be communicated by Friday, 7 October 1994 at the latest to:

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Chapter III

CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNCTAD

(Agenda item 6)

[To be completed]

Chapter IV

OTHER MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 8)

- (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade:
twenty-seventh annual report of the United Nations
Commission on International Trade Laws

Action by the Board

1. At its 847th meeting, on 20 September 1994, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its twenty-seventh session (A/49/17), which was before the Board under cover of a note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/41(1)/12).

- (b) United Nations Symposium on Trade Efficiency

2. For its consideration of this sub-item, the Board had before it the following document:

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency on its first session (TD/SYMP.TE/4 - TD/SYMP.TE/PC/3).

3. The representative of the United States of America, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE), reported on the work done by the Preparatory Committee and the state of preparation for the two parts of the Symposium, namely the senior officials segment and the Ministerial segment. He stated that 84 countries had so far formally notified the secretariat of their intention to participate. As for the events that would take place in parallel to the UNISTE - namely the Global Executive Trade Summit and the Global Summit for Mayors - speakers had been invited from 31 countries.

4. The Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD said that the overall objective of the UNISTE was to explore ways and means for an increased participation in

international trade by those who were still excluded from it, notably small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in developing countries and economies in transition. The Columbus Ministerial Declaration, which considered that a greater participation in international trade was a prerequisite for development, would call on countries to tackle the micro-economic issues that still hampered such participation. Finally, he recalled that the follow-up to the Symposium would be the subject of an executive session of the Board in November 1994, to discuss issues such as technical cooperation, organizational arrangements and resources, and cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies.

5. The Director of Programme Support and Management Services recalled that the agreement between the host country for the Symposium and the United Nations had exceptionally been split into two parts, one part with the United States Government concerning diplomatic privileges and immunities of the participants, the other part with the City of Columbus concerning logistics, financing and security matters. So far, the negotiations with the city of Columbus had not been completed, which meant that the secretariat was not yet in a position to make arrangements for travel, accommodation, or the shipment of equipment pending the actual deposit of the required amount of money on the United Nations account. It was hoped that this would be done by Tuesday 4 October 1994.

6. The Secretary of the Trade and Development Board announced that an informal meeting of Heads of delegations would be held in Columbus on Sunday 16 October in the evening, to agree on procedural matters, and that a meeting of Ministers from least developed countries, chaired by the Ministerial representative of Bangladesh, would take place on Tuesday 18 October at 17.30. The composition of the Bureau for the Symposium would be similar to that of the Board and it was expected that the same Bureau would serve for the Senior Officials segment and for the Ministerial segment.

7. In response to the representative of Cuba, who had referred to administrative difficulties involved in obtaining the required visas, the representative of the United States of America encouraged delegations to signal such problems to the UNCTAD secretariat, which would contact the United States mission for a prompt solution.

8. Responding to a question put by the representative of the European Community about the contents of the "Launching of the Global Trade Point Network" that was mentioned in the programme of the inaugural ceremony of the Ministerial segment on 19 October 1994, the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat said that this launching, which has been noted by the Board at a previous session, would take the form of a statement during the proceedings of the inaugural ceremony.

Action by the Board

9. At its 851st meeting, on 28 September 1994, the Trade and Development Board took note of the oral report by the representative of the United States of America on preparations for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency.