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Twentieth session
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Agenda item 11

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON
ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

Rapporteur:

Draft report

Chapter ____

QUESTION OF EXPERT ADVISERS

Question of expert advisers

1. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 12th meeting, on 10 May 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the UNCTAD secretariat on the question of expert advisers (E/C.10/1994/13).

(b) Note by the UNCTAD secretariat on the question of expert advisers (E/C.10/1994/13/Add.1).

2. Delegations observed that the group of independent experts was a unique feature of the Commission, created to assist the Commission and the secretariat by providing advice on matters under consideration. In that way, the multidisciplinary expertise of the Commission was enhanced. The present group of expert advisers had contributed in significant ways to identifying new issues in the field of international investment.

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3. Delegations recognized the need for continuing participation of expert advisers in the work of the Commission, selected on a wide geographical and professional basis, particularly from trade unions, business, public interest groups and universities, from both developed and developing countries. At the same time, it was felt that the modalities for the selection of expert advisers, decided at the second session of the Commission, could be improved upon, in order to ensure their more effective contribution and more regular attendance. In this connection, the modalities for involvement of experts in the UNCTAD Ad Hoc Working Group on Investments and Financial Flows were considered relevant. Those modalities allowed for more flexible, issue-oriented participation of experts according to the particular requirements of a specific meeting agenda. It was also felt that the selection process for expert advisers, which invited nominations from trade unions and business and other groups, should also be open to nominations from Commission members.

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission thanked the retiring expert advisers for their valuable contribution and decided that, in the future, expert advisers should be invited by the Director of the Division on Transnational Corporations and Investment, bearing in mind suggestions of Commission Members, to assist the Commission on an ad hoc and as needed basis, to be determined according to the specialized expertise required by the specific topics to be discussed. Expert advisers should continue to participate in their private consultative capacity, with their travel costs provided within the existing resources appropriated for this purpose. Expert advisers should also continue to be selected on a wide geographical and professional basis, particularly, as appropriate, from trade unions, business, public interest groups and universities, from both developed and developing countries.
