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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Forty-seventh session

Geneva, 9 October 2000

Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION**

**Provisional agenda and annotations for the
forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board**

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
 - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
 - (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Board
2. Segment for high-level participation: regional integration and the global economy
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: crisis and recovery in emerging markets
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
 - (a) The challenge of financing growth and development in least developed countries
 - (b) Review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: capital flows and growth in Africa
6. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
 - (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
8. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
 - (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
 - (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-seventh session shall be a representative of one of the States in List C and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List D. The 10 Vice-Presidents shall therefore be as follows: 4 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 1 from List C; and 1 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

Establishment of sessional committees

In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. The proposed allocation of items between the plenary and sessional committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable for the two-week period. It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Board

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Board will be submitted by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Segment for high-level participation: Regional integration and the global economy

Regional integration and the global economy is the topic this year for the high-level segment of the Trade and Development Board. Against the backdrop of a consolidation, intensification and deepening of regional integration processes in the global economy, there is a need to examine how such integration helps to promote development, especially pro-poor development. The segment will need to consider the various facets of regional integration, their impact on financial flows, investment and enterprise development, and their contribution to trade liberalization and expansion regionally and internationally. Experience with the proliferating regional integration processes, particularly their compatibility with the disciplines introduced by the multilateral trading system, will also need to be considered, in the light of past experiences. Policies and technical support measures available at the regional or multilateral level to exploit the latent potential of regional integration will also be discussed.

Documentation

An issues paper will be circulated by the secretariat.

Item 3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: crisis and recovery in emerging markets

The vulnerability of emerging markets to severe shocks in their financial systems has become a recurrent feature of the global economy. Even so, the financial crisis and subsequent collapse in output in East Asia caused widespread surprise because they hit economies with good policy records and high levels of integration into the world economy. Likewise, the speed of the recovery now under way in East Asia has also surprised many observers, and serious differences of opinion on the nature and direction of the recovery are already emerging. This item will make it possible to examine the recovery process

in East Asia with a view to obtaining a better understanding of the causes and nature of financial crises, their economic and social impact, and their longer-term implications for growth and development. A major objective of the examination will be to draw policy lessons for better management of such crises.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2000
and Overview

Trade and Development Report, 2000

Item 4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) The challenge of financing growth and development in least developed countries

The Board will have before it the *Least Developed Countries 2000 Report*. The main focus of the *Report* is on the challenge of financing growth and development in the least developed countries. The *Report* will discuss trends in resource flows, recent debt relief initiatives, aid effectiveness and ways of promoting developmental private capital inflows.

(b) Review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The Board will have available to it the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly, which is being prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/235. The report will review progress in the preparatory process at country, regional and global levels. The Board will also have before it the report of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference (24-28 July 2000).

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/2000

The Least Developed Countries 2000 Report

A/55/222

The status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

A/CONF.191/2

Report of the first session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: capital flows and growth in Africa

For consideration of this item, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a study on capital flows and growth in Africa. The study argues that financial flows are inadequate and volatile and that the region is subject to frequent terms-of-trade and natural shocks. Growth continues to be too erratic and too slow to permit an increase in both living standards and domestic savings. Since private capital inflows, in particular foreign direct investment, lag behind rather than lead growth, the task of filling the resource gap inevitably falls on official financing. Breaking this vicious circle requires, *inter alia*, a sustained injection of external financing in amounts large enough to give a big push to the region to accelerate and maintain growth at levels higher than in the past. Such a process would help to break up aid dependency in two ways. First, rapidly rising income would allow domestic savings to be increased faster than output, thereby raising total investable resources; and, secondly, sustained growth would attract private capital as a substitute for official financing. But if the minimum quantum of resources needed to initiate and sustain such a process is not provided, aid dependence is likely to continue unabated. The paper also discusses the policy approaches needed to ensure that aid is effectively translated into investment and growth, keeping in mind the policy mistakes made during both the pre- and post-adjustment periods.

Documentation

TD/B/47/4

Capital flows and growth in Africa:
Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 6 Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1999, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular those introduced or planned to be introduced in the light of the outcome of UNCTAD X and its Plan of Action (TD/386). In this connection, the Board will consider proposals with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action of UNCTAD X as they relate to technical cooperation. The Board will also consider other relevant issues such as measures that effectively exploit the interrelation between policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations and operational activities; issues pertaining to planning and execution of technical cooperation activities in the light of availability of financial resources and contributions, and in this respect, the annual indicative plan of technical cooperation programmes; questions concerning cooperation with other organizations, and UNCTAD's contribution to the work of the United Nations Development Group and preparation of the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Framework in programme countries; as well as trends in the mobilization of resources. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget which, at its thirty-sixth session, to be held from 11 to 13 September 2000, will, *inter alia*, conduct a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1999.

The secretariat report to the Board will contain information on the above issues. It will also include information on the results of the evaluation of the EMPRETEC programme, as well as a follow-up to past evaluations on the Trade Points and competition law and policy programmes, in addition to information on the logical framework and its application to technical assistance projects. The Board will also have before it the outcome of the thirty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, which will be complemented by the oral report of its chairperson to the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/47/2- TD/B/WP/125	Overview of technical cooperation activities
TD/B/47/2/ Add.1- TD/B/WP/125/Add.1	Annex I- Review of activities undertaken in 1999 (English only)
TD/B/47/2/Add.2- TD/B/WP/125/ Add.2	Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/47/8 TD/B/WP/132	Indicative Plan of UNCTAD's technical Cooperation Programmes for 2001

(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

In line with the 1998-2001 United Nations medium-term plan and paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/386), the UNCTAD secretariat is intensifying its work, in accordance with its mandate, to assist the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. The secretariat has reported annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of technical assistance in this area (most recently in 1999 in document TD/B/46/5). When relevant, the secretariat report has also included updates of Palestinian economic and trade performance and summary presentations of the findings of research and policy analysis undertaken by the secretariat in this regard.

Pursuant to the provisions of the 2000-2001 programme budget, the secretariat has prepared its latest report to the Trade and Development Board on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people. This year's report is confined to a review of progress in technical assistance projects under way or completed by the secretariat since mid-1999, as well as unfunded proposals for technical cooperation awaiting implementation. The report also presents a brief update of the secretariat's contribution to inter-agency coordination in this area, as well as new resource and organizational arrangements for this work programme.

In taking note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat, the Board may wish to focus attention on the need to continue to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to implement priority projects of assistance to the Palestinian people proposed by the secretariat and approved by Palestine. In accordance with subparagraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/445, the Board may also wish to decide that a summary of the discussions under this item should be annexed to the report of the Board to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/47/5 Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 7 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

- Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The thirty-third session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 12 June to 7 July 2000. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

TD/B/47/7 Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 8 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

- (a) Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2000 and an indicative calendar for 2001.

Documentation

TD/B/47/CRP.1 Review of the calendar of meetings

- (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 9 Other business

Item 10 Adoption of the report

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

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Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

Plenary

- 1(a) Election of officers
- 1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
- 1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
- 1(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Board
- 2. Segment for high-level participation: regional integration and the global economy
- 3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: crisis and recovery in emerging markets
- 6(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
- 6(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
- 7 Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- 8(a) Review of the calendar of meetings
- 8(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
- 9 Other business
- 10 Adoption of the report

Sessional Committee I

- 4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for least developed countries for the 1990s:
 - (a) The challenge of financing growth and development in Least Developed Countries
 - (b) Review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries

Sessional Committee II

- 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: capital flows and growth in Africa