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Development-centred globalization:

Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development

President's suggested distilled negotiation text for UNCTAD XIII

26 April 2012

11:00 a.m.

1. In the period since UNCTAD XII in Accra in 2008, there have been changes in the global economy, while persistent challenges remain. Policymakers are therefore looking for more effective ways to build more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes, and to set the course for development-centred globalization.

14. Robust economic growth can make the adjustments associated with structural transformation easier to manage. Inclusive and sustainable growth and development also require social protection to protect vulnerable populations and address inequality, including between men and women, and across national regions. This can contribute to a smoother and more predictable development process. It also contributes to protection against shocks and crises that can accompany rapid growth and transformation towards a more open and integrated economy. The balance between growth, fairness and social protection can only be determined in light of prevailing local conditions and constraints.

17(h) Strengthen its special focus on the needs of the LDCs across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action;

32(f) Devise approaches to stimulating economic diversification and promoting value added production, including through investment, with a view to providing equal economic opportunity for all, particularly aiming at women and youths;

32(g)bis In collaboration with WTO, ITC and other relevant partners, consolidate its work on databases on non-tariff measures and continue its analysis on the impact of non-tariff measures on trade and development prospects of developing countries, in particular LDCs, and continue its participation in the Transparency in Trade Initiative (TNT);

32(h) Continue technical assistance to developing countries, in particular LDCs, in the area of international trade in goods and services;

32(i) Continue to support commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa and LDCs, through policy reviews, dialogues and technical assistance in maximizing development benefits from commodity production and trade, including promotion of diversification and integration of natural resources policies into their national development strategies;

32(l) Continue technical assistance, research and analysis, and dialogue on trade facilitation, transport and related issues;

32(o) UNCTAD should assist developing countries to analyse the important connection between social safety nets, trade and development.

37. Regional integration, complemented by interregional cooperation, can help developing countries harness closer trade links in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Initiatives include regional trade and investment arrangements in Africa and Latin America, and the creation of regional production networks across Asia, including some LDCs. Regional integration, including regional trade agreements (RTAs), should bolster productive integration and support economic diversification, especially in the LDCs and LLDCs. RTAs should be consistent with the multilateral trading system to improve market access.

38. South–South cooperation, as a complement but not a substitute for North–South cooperation, is a positive aspect of international cooperation for developing countries to expand their growth and development potential and, in addition to triangular cooperation, increase the efficiency and quality of international cooperation.

40(a) Conduct research and analysis and disseminate best practices on all forms of cooperation, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation;

40(b) Assess on a regular basis and promote consensus on how development cooperation and partnerships, including those involving South–South cooperation, can further contribute to enhancing the achievement of the MDGs, especially in the case of LDCs and Africa;

40(c) Work on how South–South cooperation, including other regional and other cooperation arrangements, as well as other cooperation agreements can optimize development gains of developing countries, particularly LDCs;

40(h) Enhance cooperation with other relevant trade capacity-building organizations, including through the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity;

40(l) Assist the LDCs in assessing progress towards resource mobilization, economic diversification and competitiveness in support of their national development strategies;

40(m) Support the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in trade, development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development which resulted from the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC–IV);

48. LLDCs usually pay the highest transport and transit costs, as recognized in the Almaty Programme of Action. Lack of access to the sea, remoteness from major markets, inadequate transit facilities, cumbersome customs and border-crossing procedures, regulatory constraints, as well as weak legal and institutional arrangements, undermine the efforts of LLDCs to build their productive capacities and to be competitive in world markets. These structural and geographical handicaps preventing LLDCs from fully

harnessing the potential of trade as an engine for sustained economic growth and inclusive development need to be addressed, including through continued international and national efforts to implement the Almaty Programme of Action. Attention should also be paid to the challenges of transit developing countries, in particular in the development and maintenance of efficient transit and transport systems. Implementing trade facilitation measures regionally and multilaterally can also play a major role in helping LLDCs and other developing countries overcome these challenges.

49. When it comes to transport and trade logistics, small island developing States (SIDS) are also disadvantaged due to their remoteness and geographical isolation. In a globalizing world, logistics costs and non-tariff barriers have become key factors in the overall competitiveness of SIDS. Low transport volumes and long distances typically add up to high freight and logistics costs and low frequency of services, in terms of both maritime and air transport.

57(g) In collaboration with FAO, which has the lead in agricultural issues in the United Nations system:

- (i) Continue its work in the area of agriculture in the context of commodities to help developing countries achieve more sustainable and strengthened agricultural production, food security and export capacity. This work should take into account the needs of small-scale farmers, and empowerment of women and youths;
- (ii) Continue its work on organic agriculture; and
- (iii) Continue work on commodities, food security and investment in agriculture, taking into account the special needs of Africa, LDCs and net food-importing developing countries, in cooperation with other relevant organizations;

57(j) Advise small island developing States in the design and implementation of policies addressing their specific trade and trade logistics challenges linked to their remoteness and geographical isolation;

57(p) Maintain efforts in research and analysis in the area of STI, focusing on making STI capacity an instrument for supporting national development, helping local industry become more competitive, and for developing export diversification efforts of countries;

57(q) Undertake research and provide technical assistance to developing countries on information and communications technology (ICT) and implementation of relevant action lines from the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and as secretariat to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development;

62. In recent years, certain developing countries moved away from primary commodities to producing more skill- and technology-intensive manufactures and services. In a number of cases, this has been supported by a gradual integration of developing countries into Global Supply Chains (GSCs). Many commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly those in Africa and LDCs, are still in the process of – and face challenges in – building a more diversified economy.

64. Maintain the balance and effectiveness of the international intellectual property rights system, as well as promoting and protecting traditional knowledge, genetic resources, innovation and practices continue to be important, in line with the agreed recommendations of the WIPO Development Agenda. National and international efforts are needed to preserve, protect and promote the sustainable use of traditional knowledge, folklore and genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of their benefits.

64ter. Support trade capacity-building in developing countries, particularly LDCs;

- (g) With the support of development partners, contribute to build national databases and statistical capacities in LDCs;
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