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Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Sixty-third session

Geneva, 21–23 and 29 November 2012

Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-third session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 21–23 and 29 November 2012

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I. Agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party at its sixty-third session

A. Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

(Agenda item 3)

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the draft proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2014–2015,

Recalling that it concurred with the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014–15 at its sixty-first session on 3 October 2012,

1. *Concurs* with the proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2014–2015 as contained in document TD/B/WP(63)/CRP.1/Rev.1;

2. *Recommends* to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he take full account of document TD/B/WP(63)/CRP.1/Rev.1 for the purposes of his submission of UNCTAD's 2014–2015 proposed programme narrative to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Other business: Evaluation plan

(Agenda item 5)

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the evaluation plan proposed by the secretariat,

Recalling that evaluations should be guided by the principles of impartiality, independence, quality, ethical conduct and competence, as stipulated in the Norms of Evaluation in the United Nations system defined by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG),

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the independent evaluation process in UNCTAD;

2. *Agrees* to a trial implementation of the new approach of ensuring the systematic evaluation of an UNCTAD subprogramme in 2013 and endorses the evaluation plan as follows:

External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development;

3. *Takes note* of the evaluation plan proposed which, based on the review of implementation of the evaluation in 2013, will be reconsidered at the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party as follows:

(a) 2014: External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 2: Investment and enterprise

(b) 2015: External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 3: International trade.

II. Chair's summary

A. Proceedings

1. The sixty-third session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 21–23 November and 29 November 2012, to consider the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015.

B. Opening statements

2. The following speakers made opening statements: Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Mauritius on behalf of the African Group; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Asian Group; and the representative of Cyprus on behalf of the European Union; followed by opening statements from the representatives of Ethiopia, Mexico and Nepal.

C. Informal meetings

3. The Working Party pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

D. Action by the Working Party

(Agenda item 3)

4. The Working Party considered the document TD/B/WP(63)/CRP.1/Rev.1 entitled "Programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015".

5. Several delegations called on the secretariat to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency in its work without affecting the substantive delivery of outputs. Most notably, comments by several delegations concentrated around the actions defined in the Work plan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD, presented to the fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board.

6. There was agreement among delegations to focus the present review on ensuring that the Doha Mandate was reflected correctly in the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, as it was the first complete programme narrative component to be prepared following the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

7. A continuing dialogue took place throughout the session concerning the best means to ensure that the views of member States, as represented at the Trade and Development Board, were duly reflected in the proposed programme budget to be issued by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

8. Delegates engaged in an ongoing dialogue during the session concerning the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 2014 and the different options to commemorate it. The agreement reached was to undertake the initial planning for an event and related publications, but to refer the decision on the scope and modalities of the celebration to a future Trade and Development Board session.

9. Further, during the closing plenary of the Working Party on 29 November 2012, representatives of regional groups made statements that expressed the firm support of member States for celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 2014. The representative of one regional group recalled that it had prepared and circulated to all delegations a non-paper containing proposals for that purpose and announced the regional group's intention to use it as the basis for any further discussion of this issue.

(Agenda item 5)

10. The delegations considered a proposed evaluation plan for the period 2013–2015 that entails the evaluation of an UNCTAD subprogramme each year. The evaluation plan had not been taken up at the sixty-second session due to time constraints. The proposed evaluation plan involves a more systematic approach towards the selection of programmes of work to undergo evaluation, and also responds to a strengthened results-based management system. The merits and drawbacks of the new approach were discussed by the delegations. It was recalled that the evaluation should be based on the Norms for Evaluation in the United Nations system.

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

11. At the opening plenary meeting, on 21 November 2012, the Working Party elected H.E. Mr. Thomas Fitschen (Germany) as its Chair and Mr. Sun Yaohua (China) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

12. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/246). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015
4. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

C. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

13. At its closing plenary meeting, on 29 November 2012, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its sixty-fourth session (see annex I).

D. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 6)

14. At the same meeting, the Working Party authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its sixty-third session.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Working Party

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the implementation of UNCTAD's communications strategy and publications policy
4. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Working Party attended the session:

China	Mexico
Ethiopia	Nepal
Germany	United States of America
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	

2. Representatives of the following States members of UNCTAD but not members of the Working Party attended the session:

Angola	Kazakhstan
Argentina	Kuwait
Austria	Libya
Barbados	Lithuania
Brazil	Madagascar
Côte d'Ivoire	Maldives
Cyprus	Mauritius
Dominican Republic	Morocco
Ecuador	Nigeria
El Salvador	Panama
Estonia	Paraguay
Finland	Poland
France	Portugal
Hungary	Saudi Arabia
Indonesia	Spain
Iraq	Thailand
Ireland	Turkey
Italy	Uruguay
Japan	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:
- European Union

* For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(63)/Inf.1.