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### DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States

##### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General was requested to present a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of resolution 40/186 of 17 December 1985 on the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA).
2. The present note provides only preliminary information on the implementation of the resolution, as it was not possible, because of time and calendar constraints, to obtain detailed information from financial institutions of the system and from donor Governments on assistance provided to PTA. Also, discussions on the regional indicative planning figures for Africa (fourth cycle) are now taking place, and details of the support to be provided to PTA are not yet known.
3. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to provide a full report on the implementation of resolution 40/186 to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. In the mean time, the following information provided by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is brought to the attention of Member States.
4. Both ECA and UNCTAD had very close working relations with PTA from its conceptual stages to the time when it became operational.
5. Since PTA became operational, technical support provided to the organization by UNCTAD has increased substantially and involves collaboration with and assistance to member States and the PTA secretariat in drawing up various instruments and the provision of advice on modalities for implementing the provisions of the Treaty for the Establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States. These activities include assistance in

drawing up the common list of products to be subjected to trade liberalization; the formulation of rules of origin and modalities for reducing tariffs and gradually eliminating non-tariff barriers to trade between member States; the devising of a special régime for the benefit of the least developed members of PTA; and co-operation with the PTA secretariat in matters related to the Trade and Development Bank, insurance and transport and communications.

6. During the period under review, the ECA secretariat assisted PTA in drafting protocols relating to the gradual relaxation and eventual elimination of visa regulations within PTA. ECA also assisted in preparing the legal instruments for the accession of the United Republic of Tanzania to PTA, drafting amendments to the Treaty and finalizing the charter of the PTA Trade and Development Bank.

7. ECA also assisted PTA in the preparation of the report of the second workshop of the PTA Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the charter of the Federation of PTA Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Assistance was also extended by ECA in the drafting of staff rules and financial regulations, the setting up of a staff appeals board for the PTA secretariat and the drafting of its rules of procedure. ECA also offered advice in drafting the rules of court of the PTA tribunal and supplied PTA with legal material on investment codes and commercial laws. ECA participated in the PTA trade fair held at Nairobi from 25 to 27 September 1986.

8. Working relations between ECA and PTA have been close, and efforts are being made to harmonize their activities.

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