

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Report of the Trade and Development Board  
on its second (pre-sessional) executive session**

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on 5 March 1993



UNITED NATIONS

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- II. Membership and attendance

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The second (pre-sessional) executive session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 5 March 1993. The executive session consisted of one meeting - the 817th plenary meeting of the Board. The agenda of the second executive session is reproduced in annex I below.

## **II. REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE BOARD: MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION**

(Agenda item 2)

### **A. General debate**

2. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD observed that, one year after UNCTAD VIII, the outcome of the first round of meetings of the newly created bodies was generally positive and encouraging. In the years ahead, every effort would need to be made by the member States and by the secretariat to ensure the full success of the process launched in Cartagena. Among the encouraging elements had been the rapid adoption of terms of reference for the new Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups and, subsequently, of precise work programmes. The work programmes were balanced and practical, and they made due allowance for the analytical function that fell to UNCTAD. Where necessary, expert groups had been established. The exchange of experience among countries on the various themes covered had been organized in a flexible manner suited to the needs of each Committee or Working Group. A number of countries had volunteered to present national case studies. The atmosphere of the discussions had been very constructive and the level of the debate augured well for the future substantive deliberations. The secretariat had, for its part, engaged in a number of new areas of work in a methodical and responsible manner.

3. The most difficult part, however, lay ahead. The member States would need either to prepare their national presentations or to reflect on the very precise and, at times, technical subjects selected for the work programmes. For the secretariat, given its current resources, there would be a very heavy schedule of meetings, symposia and diverse consultations. The success of the enterprise depended greatly on the combined efforts of all parties.

4. Turning to the outlook for the work of the new bodies in the wake of the initial experience gained in adopting the work programmes, he observed that the programmes were concrete and balanced. Furthermore, it could reasonably be expected that the work to be undertaken in all the new areas would result in the setting of guidelines for the policies and programmes to be implemented. He felt that such guidelines would be useful to individual countries when they came to define their national policies on the basis of their own particular circumstances. The adoption of such guidelines could also enable the international community to lend greater support to the efforts made in each country as international donors were more inclined to support activities or policies which, after thorough discussion, had become the subject of general consensus. Moreover, countries that had participated in the discussions leading up to these guidelines would be in a stronger position in their dealings

with multilateral or bilateral donors. Indeed, one further benefit that was likely to emerge from the future discussions would be the promotion of pluralism. In his own experience of international affairs, he had observed that dogma tended to play a large part in the discussion of development ideas. The solution to many current development problems now called for a more modest, pragmatic and flexible approach.

5. As far as the improvement of the global economic environment was concerned, however, he was less sure about the prospects of success in the final outcome. It would, in his view, be necessary to make a special effort to ensure that, in the national policies of the main actors in the world economy as well as in the multilateral policies that were adopted, it would be possible to decide on orientations or measures that would underpin the efforts agreed upon at the national level for the developing countries or the countries in transition.

6. A specific practical problem that arose in planning for the future work of the new Committees and Working Groups was how to facilitate the full participation of the LDCs, the African countries and other interested countries in the work done at the level of experts. For such countries to be convinced that it was worthwhile sending experts from their capitals, the manner in which UNCTAD dealt with its themes would have to be sufficiently flexible and sensitive to the diversity of the problems to be able to tackle the questions of interest to them. Moreover, if they were to be able to send such experts they must have the necessary resources. He therefore appealed yet again for extra-budgetary contributions so that adequate provision could be made for such participation. He noted with approval that the travel expenses of national experts participating in the functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council were charged to the regular budget of the United Nations. The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget might wish to consider this point with a view to making recommendations along these lines to the Fifth Committee so that funds for this purpose could be allocated to the UNCTAD budget.

7. Finally, in view of the tightly packed schedule of meetings and the heavy workload now facing the secretariat, he urged those countries that had undertaken to prepare national presentations to adhere to the set deadlines so that the secretariat could process the resulting documentation in good time for the intergovernmental meetings.

8. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Chile) said that, while it was still too soon to make an overall assessment of the post-Cartagena process, his Group had made a partial analysis on the basis of which it wished to make a number of observations and suggestions for the future development of the various activities. In general, his Group drew satisfaction from the positive developments taking place in the work of UNCTAD as a result of the Cartagena Commitment. A constructive - as opposed to a confrontational - dialogue had been installed between the developed and the developing countries, and notably on several traditionally difficult subjects. He viewed with optimism the work on new issues such as poverty alleviation.

9. Considerable progress had been made in securing the participation of governmental experts, thus involving in the work of UNCTAD people who were responsible for the design and implementation of national policies. However, the success of the Standing Committees

and Working Groups had varied considerably on this point, and it was regrettable that some had not even captured the interest of delegations based in Geneva. In this connection, he emphasized that the utmost effort must be made to finance the travel of developing-country experts who could not participate for lack of resources. Their participation was made necessary by the diversity and the highly technical nature of the issues dealt with, as well as by the practical experience and the knowledge which such experts had of their countries' real needs. Furthermore, promoting and facilitating the exchange of national experiences in line with paragraph 71 of the Cartagena Commitment would encourage the participation of high-level policy-makers in the various sectors, allow a more substantial contribution to be made to future studies and reports prepared by the secretariat, and ensure in the States members of the Board a greater impact for the recommendations emanating from the studies and reports of the Committees and Working Groups.

10. The Latin American and Caribbean Group was concerned at the level of interest shown in certain areas, such as ECDC, expanding trading opportunities for developing countries, and insurance. Greater efforts should be made to increase the participation in future meetings on those issues. His Group had also observed that a number of traditional UNCTAD themes had not undergone the renovation hoped for when the work programmes had been drawn up.

11. Regarding the presentation of national case studies, an attempt should be made to achieve a balance between the developing and the developed countries with a view to gaining an insight into the realities of both sets of countries. The valuable information generated by this exercise should be used by the secretariat to prepare documents containing summaries, analyses and/or recommendations for the benefit of those experts who could not attend all the meetings and in order to ensure an adequate dissemination of this material.

12. In future, it would be advisable to extend to all Committees and Working Groups the practice of inviting independent experts of some standing to present, at the outset of the session, technical aspects that fostered a high-level debate on the agenda items and also encouraged the participation of governmental experts.

13. Technical cooperation activities should orient the work of the secretariat towards the real needs of the receiving countries. It was very important that the various technical assistance programmes undertaken by the secretariat should have been the subject of prior consultation and agreement with the countries concerned. This would ensure a more efficient and effective use of resources. At the same time, the contributing countries and the multilateral financing institutions would be more interested in involving themselves in UNCTAD's technical cooperation work. In this way, greater emphasis would be laid on the quality and impact of such cooperation, rather than on the mere quantitative evaluation of its output. With this focus on more active country participation, his Group believed that it would be possible to establish a forum for reflection among the various regional groups aimed at strengthening international technical cooperation.

14. In conclusion, he said that the thoughts he had expressed reflected the deep interest taken by the Latin American and Caribbean Group in the activities of UNCTAD. In order to publicize these activities and to increase their impact in the member countries, the



secretariat and the delegations should join forces to achieve a wider dissemination - both nationally and internationally - of the tasks undertaken and the results attained by UNCTAD.

15. The representative of **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Community and its member States**, observed that the four Standing Committees and five Ad Hoc Working Groups had produced in all 11 work programmes. Most of the programmes were very ambitious, some even extremely ambitious in view of the time available to complete the tasks. Consequently, the Standing Committees were proposing to the Board the establishment of six intergovernmental groups of experts. Two of these expert groups had existed before Cartagena; the other four were new. As mentioned on previous occasions, while such expert groups could be useful to undertake specific and narrowly focused tasks, they also represented a resource problem, not only for the secretariat which had to service these bodies, but also for the developing countries, especially for the least developed countries, which had to finance the travel of their experts.

16. As to the content of the work programmes, the European Community and its member States found that, by and large, the work programmes represented the right mix of internal and external factors and provided a sound potential for a fruitful process of policy dialogue and policy development in line with the spirit of Cartagena. He noted with satisfaction that two Standing Committees and three Ad Hoc Working Groups were explicitly taking into account aspects of human resource development, and that the environmental dimension constituted an explicit element of the work programmes of some Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups. However, it was his understanding that the environmental dimension was to permeate the work of the whole structure of intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD.

17. In commenting on the work programmes, he wished to caution against duplicating the work of others. Scarce resources should not be used to reinvent the wheel. The Standing Committees and Working Groups had frequently realized this and the participating international organizations had pointed it out and offered to cooperate. However, the tasks on which cooperation must be sought, both internally with other intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD, and externally with other international organizations, could have been described more explicitly. It would be useful if all Committees and Working Groups introduced such clarity in their operational work schedules, including in the distinguishing of their own tasks from those of the secretariat.

18. On the whole, it could be said that the intergovernmental machinery was on the right track. What mattered now was to implement these programmes of work in a realistic and efficient way. The Community looked forward to participating in this work.

19. As for the operational aspects, he emphasized that the activities, including those of intergovernmental expert groups, must be carried out on the basis of available resources and that cooperation must be sought with bodies within the organization as well as with other international organizations, be they governmental or non-governmental, in order to avoid

duplication of efforts. He also stressed the importance of the quality and timely availability of documents. Likewise, the effective and efficient guidance of the Chairmen was crucial to the outcome of the meetings. Moreover, bearing in mind the technical nature of the work programmes, the Community would welcome an increased participation of experts from capitals. In reaction to the idea expressed by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chilean representative that such participation could be financed by extending the regular budget, he said that this idea would have to be examined and decided upon in the larger context of the United Nations budget. Finally, given the ambitious level of the work programmes of the Standing Committees and Working Groups, it was desirable that the priorities of the various elements of those programmes be clearly established.

20. As to the future of the intergovernmental machinery, it was necessary to view this as a dynamic structure. Existing bodies would complete their work. Others might be established to investigate new topics. It was important constantly to rationalize the structure within a framework of comprehensive themes. The first important milestone would be the termination of the Ad Hoc Working Groups, coinciding with the mid-term review in 1994.

21. The representative of Switzerland noted with satisfaction that the long list of reports and activities to be considered under this agenda item showed that the new mechanisms established at Cartagena had made a good start and were functioning well. An overall assessment of the activities undertaken so far revealed a number of common features. All of the new bodies had made a considerable effort to adopt a coherent work programme. They had been supported in this endeavour by the useful and, at times, excellent documentation prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, particularly on poverty alleviation and on investment and technology transfer. The documentation could have been better exploited, however, if it had been made available sooner. He hoped that this situation would improve once the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had been implemented.

22. With regard to the work programmes adopted, the Swiss experts who had participated in the meetings were of the view that several of the programmes were very promising, having well-defined and valid objectives. He cited in particular trade efficiency, poverty alleviation, insurance, investment and technology transfer, restrictive business practices and the promotion of competitive sectors. A common feature of all the programmes was their ambitiousness. A degree of ambition was no doubt necessary to any undertaking, but it could be dangerous to place ambition so high that it lost touch with reality, in particular the budgetary constraints. Care should be taken, moreover, to ensure that the work programmes really did lead to concrete results. There were several programmes - poverty alleviation was an example - that would gain by being more concise and more sharply focused. In other programmes the question of financing, in the context of existing resources, should receive full attention. Trade efficiency was a case in point.

23. Thus the Swiss delegation took a generally positive view of the work accomplished by the subsidiary bodies, subject to a number of suggestions for improvements to the work programmes. His delegation was ready to examine the suggestions put forward by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and by the spokesman for the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

24. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that his delegation took a positive view of the mass of work that had been done on the new work programmes since the first part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board. Nevertheless, this represented simply the first step and much remained to be done. He expressed the hope that the work accomplished under the programmes would take into account the interests of all countries and regional groups, including the countries that were in transition to a market-economy system. It was also important that the work programmes should be related to the capacity and organizational structure of the secretariat. He expressed support for the current restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, which could be expected to result in greater efficiency in these areas, including in UNCTAD. He trusted that the restructuring exercise would take place smoothly and that its workings would be transparent. As far as UNCTAD was concerned, the restructuring should reflect the new orientations stemming from UNCTAD VIII and the level of staffing should not be curtailed in any way.

25. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Kenya) observed that UNCTAD was dealing with technical issues and, in view of the short time that had been available and the complexity of the issues, the secretariat was to be commended on the high quality of the documentation it had prepared for the new subsidiary bodies. The spirit of Cartagena represented a new approach to the problems dealt with in UNCTAD which, properly exploited, would result in substantial progress being made. The regular discussion of technical and economic cooperation in a North-South context and of poverty alleviation was in itself a new departure. Every effort must be made to implement the important elements of the work programmes. The countries of the African Group were determined to participate actively in this process and they looked forward to a sustained and transparent dialogue on these issues, so that ultimately full justice would be done to the Cartagena Commitment. Proper and efficient use should be made of technical experts, including in particular those from developing countries. Cooperation among, and coordination of the activities of, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were essential in order to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of scarce resources, and to assure efficiency and effectiveness of the work of these agencies. Similarly, the regional integration efforts should be strengthened through, *inter alia*, the provision of the necessary resources, as strongly advocated by the Conference at its eighth session. In this regard, the Secretary-General of the United Nations was to be commended for his initiatives directed towards addressing the New Agenda for African Development. UNCTAD was faced with a formidable international agenda in the field of development and Africa stood ready to play its fullest role in the entire undertaking. It was only through a systematic and timely implementation process that the New Agenda for African Development could be realized. Increased attention should therefore be paid to the use of regional mechanisms in order to promote and support regional integration efforts and arrangements.

26. The representative of **Japan** said that the States members of UNCTAD had met the challenge of translating the objectives of the Cartagena Commitment into specific work programmes. The national experts who had participated in the meetings had contributed greatly to enhancing the pragmatic and constructive tenor of the debates. The rigid procedures which had so often prevailed in the past had gone, and the work programmes adopted by the subsidiary bodies were by and large satisfactory. The greater use of case studies was encouraging and it was highly significant that the active contribution of the

member States had now become an integral part of each work programme. Many countries had already volunteered to make national presentations and it was indeed important that the widest possible range of national experience and empirical evidence be brought to bear on the substantive issues. The tasks ahead might not be easy in view of the heavy workload. Member States should also bear in mind the need for careful budgetary allocation among the subsidiary bodies because of the limited resources at their disposal. He added that the role and function of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget needed to be strengthened. It would also be useful to discuss how to strengthen the policy function of the executive sessions of the Board.

27. The representative of **Bangladesh**, noting that the exchange of experience had become the centrepiece of the work of the new subsidiary bodies, said that the proliferation of national case studies that were now being called for, not only in UNCTAD but also in other agencies, represented something of a burden for many developing countries. If useful results emerged from these exchanges he was prepared to support this type of exercise, but he cautioned that exchange of experience alone would not help the developing countries, particularly the least developed. He had noted a reluctance in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies even to discuss the required support measures. If the work of the new bodies were confined to an exchange of experience, the result would be a mere preparatory exercise. He therefore hoped that the members of the new bodies would engage in a constructive dialogue to seek out ways and means of assisting the developing countries and in particular the LDCs.

#### **Action by the Board**

28. With regard to the specific dates for future sessions of the intergovernmental bodies, the Board agreed that this question would be taken up at the second part of its thirty-ninth session under agenda item 11(c), i.e. Review of the calendar of meetings.

### **B. Consideration of the reports of the subsidiary bodies**

#### **Item 2(a) - Standing Committee on Commodities, first session (19-23 October 1992)**

29. The representative of **China** recalled that the Standing Committee had decided to establish intergovernmental working groups on tungsten and on iron ore so that UNCTAD could continue its work on these commodities. As they began to operate, the new bodies should breathe life into the spirit of Cartagena in order to fulfil the objectives of UNCTAD VIII. As a contribution to the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten, the Chinese Government had presented its project proposals on tungsten for submission to the Common Fund for Commodities. In this connection, he deeply regretted the negative effects that were emerging with regard to cooperation between the producing and consuming countries in the Group of Experts on Tungsten. He appealed to the countries concerned to bear in mind the common interests of producing and consuming countries in order to ensure the success of UNCTAD's work on commodities.

### **Action by the Board**

30. The Board took note of the report of the Standing Committee on Commodities on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/4 - TB/B/CN.1/6), endorsed the work programme and decision 2(I) annexed to the report, and approved the provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee (TD/B/CN.1/9).

### **Item 2(b) - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, first session (26-30 October 1992)**

#### **Action by the Board**

31. The Board took note of the report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors on its first session (TB/B/39(2)/2-TD/B/CN.4/10), endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report, and approved the provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee (TD/B/CN.4/21). With reference to paragraph 42 of the report, the Board decided to refer the issue of possibly convening an expert group or groups to the Standing Committee at its second session.

### **Item 2(c) - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Shipping, first session (2-6 November 1992)**

32. In connection with this agenda item the Board had before it a note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Work programme on shipping: specific outputs and activities" (TD/B/EX(2)/3), which had been prepared in response to a decision taken by the Standing Committee.

#### **Action by the Board**

33. The Board took note of the report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/5 - TD/B/CN.4/13), endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report, and approved the provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee (TD/B/CN.4/17/Rev.1).

34. In connection with the proposed terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports (TD/B/CN.4/20), the Board noted that delegations still needed more time to complete their consultations on this matter. Accordingly, the Board decided that the question of convening the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports would be taken up at the second part of its thirty-ninth session under agenda item 10.

**Item 2(d) - Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, first session  
(9-13 November 1992)**

**Action by the Board**

35. The Board took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/6 - TD/B/WG.1/4) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.

**Item 2(e) - Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, first session  
(16-20 November 1992), including an interim report on the preparations  
for the International Symposium on Trade Efficiency in 1994**

36. The representative of the UNCTAD secretariat, citing section F of annex II of the report of the Working Group relating to preparations for the 1994 Symposium, said that the Chairman of the Working Group intended to lead intensive consultations on this subject later on in March. He recalled that, at the first session of the Working Group, three countries had informally expressed their interest in the possibility of hosting the Symposium: namely, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States of America. No formal offer had been received by the secretariat to date, but detailed discussions had taken place regarding the financing and organization of the Symposium. Once one or several formal offer(s) had been received, the regular procedures would apply. The date foreseen for the Symposium was October or November 1994.

37. The representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that while he accepted the work programme of the Working Group in principle, he wished to express the Community's concern on the following two elements:

- (i) It was not quite clear how the procedures relating to the decision on the date and venue of the 1994 United Nations international trade efficiency symposium were to be understood. In section F of the work programme, reference was made to the Chairman's consultations, the outcome of which she was requested to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at its second session. His question here was: Who was taking the decision? He was, of course aware of the need to make the practical arrangements as soon as possible. However, the Community would not wish to see the Ad Hoc Working Group faced with a fait accompli and expected that the Board would decide on the issue at an early date.
- (ii) Reference was made in the work programme to the need to provide an assessment of the workload and the financial implications of each activity of the work programme in advance of the meeting of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and Programme Budget in March 1993. Delegations had not yet received such information and he would therefore like to ask when it would be available before the end of the forthcoming Board session.

38. The **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat**, referring to the first point raised by the spokesman for the European Community, stated that the standard procedures would apply to the decision on the date and venue of the 1994 Symposium, and that the Trade and Development Board would be the appropriate body to take the decision. Regarding the second question on the assessment of the workload and the financial implications, he observed that, following the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group, an assessment had been made, but the secretariat had naturally wished to base its final assessment on the results of the first sessions of all the intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD.

39. On a point of clarification, the **Senior Legal Adviser of UNCTAD** recalled that the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted a resolution endorsing the convening of the Symposium and that the question of whether the General Assembly should act again at some point would be a matter of judgement. However, since the General Assembly normally did specify the venue and dates for the meetings it convened, one might expect the Board to make a recommendation on this matter to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency would make the preparations for the Symposium, and the Trade and Development Board could be mandated by the General Assembly to coordinate the preparations.

#### **Action by the Board**

40. The Board took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/9-TD/B/WG.2/3) and endorsed the work programme in annex II of the report.

#### **Item 2(f) - Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, eleventh session (23-27 November 1992)**

##### **Action by the Board**

41. The Board took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its eleventh session (TB/B/39(2)/7 - TB/B/RBP/92) and endorsed the agreed conclusions in annex I of the report.

#### **Item 2(g) - Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization, first session (30 November - 4 December 1992)**

##### **Action by the Board**

42. The Board took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/8 - TD/B/WG.3/5) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.

**Item 2(h) - Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, first session (14-18 December 1992)**

**Action by the Board**

43. The Board took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/15 - TB/B/WG.4/3) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.

44. The Board noted that, following consultations which the Chairman of the Working Group had held with a number of delegations, the Group had an informal understanding that the secretariat would propose guidelines to member States in order to assist them in their country study presentations.

**Item 2(i) - Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, first session (11-15 January 1993)**

**Action by the Board**

45. The Board took note of the report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/16 - TD/B/CN.3/5) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report, including the arrangements for regular consultations.

**Item 2(j) - Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, first session (18-22 January 1993)**

**Action by the Board**

46. The Board endorsed the report of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation on its first session (TB/B/39(2)/13 - TD/B/CN.2/5) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.

**Item 2(k) - Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, first session (25-29 January 1993)**

**Action by the Board**

47. The Board took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer on its first session (TD/B/39(2)/18 - TD/B/WG.5/4) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.



**Item 2(l) - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Insurance, first session  
(1-5 February 1993)**

**Action by the Board**

48. The Board took note of the report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Insurance (TD/B/39(2)/19 - TB/B/CN.4/18) and endorsed the work programme in annex I of the report.

### **III. RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN RELATION TO UNCTAD**

(Agenda item 3)

#### **A. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors**

(Agenda item 3 (a))

49. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that he was not able to report fully on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system because the final document had only just been accepted by the United Nations Secretary-General and it was therefore too soon to have taken cognizance of its detailed contents. Having recalled the steps which had led up to the creation of three new Departments in the economic and social sectors at Headquarters in New York, he observed that there had been some concern among delegations at the proposed transfer to UNCTAD of a large part of the work done by the ex-United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations and the ex-United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, mainly because they feared that the Centres would lose something of their high profile through the move. He pointed out that, although it was envisaged that much of the substantive work of the two Centres would henceforth be done in UNCTAD, the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would be responsible for coordinating the contributions for the meetings of the Commissions associated with the two Centres. UNCTAD would probably be the main contributor in the substantive area, although the new Departments would also play a role in this respect.

50. Regarding certain suggestions that had been made concerning the possibility of transferring some of UNCTAD's activities to New York, he said that these suggestions had related to poverty alleviation, privatization, transition to disarmament and the least developed countries. However, after further consultations on the rationale underlying the proposed transfers, it had been agreed that the activities related to privatization and to transition to disarmament would be pursued in UNCTAD, and the relevant Departments in New York had indicated their preference for using UNCTAD's work in these areas. He noted in passing that privatization in particular would benefit greatly from the expertise associated with the Centre for Transnational Corporations. With regard to the subject of poverty, it had been observed that the responsibilities conferred on UNCTAD by the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation went beyond the traditional activities of UNCTAD. It had been agreed, however, that UNCTAD would service this Standing Committee in close collaboration with the New York Department concerned. In this area, UNCTAD would be calling for contributions from other agencies as well, in particular the ILO. At the same time, UNCTAD was called upon to contribute to the Summit on Social Development through contributions based on certain spheres of activity studied in UNCTAD and on the results of the intergovernmental discussions in the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation. As for the LDCs, it had been recognized that the main task of UNCTAD was to provide substantive support, in consultation with other United Nations bodies, for the follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Least

Developed Countries and to monitor its implementation. UNCTAD would continue to fulfil this task, whereas the Department in New York would coordinate the efforts undertaken by the whole of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action. As for sustainable development, it had been agreed that UNCTAD would pursue its activities in those areas that were clearly within its competence, in particular in the fields of commodities and sustainable development and of international trade and sustainable development. In technology and in finance, the precise attribution of tasks would be the subject of further consultations. A further important point was that UNCTAD would continue to publish the annual *Trade and Development Report*, which would however be combined with the *World Investment Report*.

51. With regard to the resources needed for the accomplishment of the supplementary tasks envisaged, his impression was that UNCTAD would be provided with the means necessary to discharge the work entrusted to it. He pointed out, however, that the detailed allocation of resources was still subject to the final decisions that would be taken on the restructuring exercise.

52. In principle, the new arrangements should be put in place on 1 April 1993, although the solution of the logistical problems raised by the resulting transfers would obviously take some time. As for the implications for UNCTAD's work, it would be necessary to take account of the synergy that would emerge between the activities of the Centre for Transnational Corporations and a number of traditional UNCTAD activities such as direct investment or restrictive business practices. Similarly, the activities of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development would need to be combined with UNCTAD's long-standing work on technology. He added that the servicing of some of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups was bound to benefit from the transfers envisaged. While there were some difficulties still to be resolved in the period ahead, he was optimistic that adequate resource arrangements would be made to enable UNCTAD to perform the additional tasks that would fall to it.

53. In conclusion, he emphasized that these introductory remarks were tentative and very much subject to the provisions of the final report which had not yet been received from New York. He felt nevertheless that a brief account of the information available at this stage would help delegations to form a clearer idea of the new orientations affecting UNCTAD. He was confident that all participants drew great satisfaction from the current efforts to rationalize the activities and from the trust placed in UNCTAD's capacity to assume a greater range of activities.

54. The representative of Chile, referring to the influence which the three new Departments could have on the substantive work of UNCTAD, expressed concern that the political coordination function of one of the Departments might result in instructions being given by the Secretariat in New York to other secretariats, including the UNCTAD secretariat, in a manner that would interfere with the political work of the intergovernmental bodies. He was also concerned that the same Department would be coordinating all activities related to sustainable development, in view of the fact that UNCTAD had clear mandates to deal with this issue in the areas of trade, commodities, technology and poverty alleviation. The research

and analytical work of the UNCTAD secretariat was very specific and should not be subject to outside intervention. He recalled that the General Assembly had established UNCTAD for the specific purpose of dealing with international trade as it related to development, particularly that of the developing countries.

55. As for the work on long-term economic analysis, he pointed out that this too was an integral part of UNCTAD's function. In particular, the annual *Trade and Development Report* (TDR) was an extremely important document for the developing countries participating in UNCTAD and was a vital input to the Autumn sessions of the Board. Whether or not the coverage of the TDR was extended to include investment, he emphasized that there should be no lowering of the high quality of the report.

56. With reference to the work on the LDCs, he recalled that ever since 1981 UNCTAD had been mandated by the General Assembly to deal with the special problems affecting these countries. His delegation did not wish to see the work which the UNCTAD secretariat had performed in this area with such dedication and competence transferred little by little to New York. Similarly, he considered that the activities undertaken poverty alleviation should continue to be located in the UNCTAD secretariat.

57. In conclusion, he said that he was not able to go into these matters in greater depth at this juncture since the final document was not yet available from New York, but he had nevertheless wished to express his Government's concern at certain aspects of the current restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

58. The representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, expressed appreciation for the interesting and informative presentation made by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Information on the restructuring of the secretariat, including the reallocation of functions and resources, had been anxiously awaited among member States. The key question was to what extent the secretariat would be in a position to service, in terms of substantive work, the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, as established at Cartagena. Having heard the presentation of the Deputy Secretary-General and bearing in mind that the secretariat and the intergovernmental machinery constituted an integrated whole, the Community looked forward to more detailed information on resource allocations and would very much welcome an updated organization chart. Also, one should keep in mind the dynamic nature of this process of restructuring. In this light, the Community would appreciate regular information on the follow-up actions taken by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

59. The representative of India said that the recent changes in the world political landscape provided a better setting for UNCTAD to carry out its mandate. UNCTAD was to play a pivotal role in the new partnership for development that had been created at UNCTAD VIII and had to study, design and bring forth programmes that would narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, and as well promote protection of the environment. UNCTAD VIII had prioritized certain issues, some of which were new. This was only to be expected in a dynamic world where technical innovations and progress were leading to greater interdependence and providing opportunities for betterment. The restructuring and

reorientation of UNCTAD should reflect the areas of interest and priorities established by the member States in the wake of Cartagena. On the other hand, no effort should be spared by the international community to ensure that UNCTAD has adequate political and resource support in order to achieve the objectives that had been assigned to it. Apart from a careful analysis of the various issues that had been identified for attention, the work in UNCTAD should lead, in a democratic and evolutionary manner, to intergovernmental negotiations aimed at arriving at implementable agreements in specific areas of trade. The machinery and resources of UNCTAD should be adequately deployed and directed towards the achievement of this goal.

60. Referring to the three new Departments which had been created at United Nations Headquarters, he said that care should be taken to ensure that in areas where there might be some commonality with UNCTAD's work, the functions of UNCTAD were not diluted but strengthened as a result of interaction with the newly created Departments. This could be done through cooperation and cross-fertilization between the new Departments and UNCTAD.

61. In view of the vast dimensions of UNCTAD's work and the wide-ranging expertise required to service its Committees and Working Groups, it would be unrealistic to expect UNCTAD to be totally self-sufficient, however desirable this might be. Therefore, in the process of restructuring, adequate attention should be given to smooth, prompt and effective interaction and cross-fertilization between the various United Nations Departments. For example, the Standing Committee on Commodities had an environmental dimension woven into its work and it should therefore benefit from corresponding work in other forums. Similarly, work on poverty alleviation was bound to be multi-dimensional. Therefore, careful coordination procedures would need to be worked out.

62. Stated briefly, his delegation wished to see adequate support for UNCTAD's post-Cartagena work and processes, and strengthened cooperation between the different United Nations agencies working on developmental issues.

## **B. Role and function of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget**

(Agenda item 3 (b))

63. The representative of **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Community and its member States**, observed that, since its inception in the late 1960s, the Working Party's role had been mainly to review evaluations of technical cooperation and medium-term plans. Key questions on the availability and allocation of resources had apparently been beyond the scope of the Working Party. The States members of the European Community fully appreciated that CPC and ACABQ, as well as the General Assembly, were responsible for budget approvals and revisions. This should not be undermined. However, the Community did have a keen interest in being kept fully informed on central aspects of UNCTAD's budget, including the allocation of resources to the various subprogrammes. Transparency

and confidence-building had become increasingly important issues in recent years. Moreover, in the quest for decentralization, and bearing in mind the decision taken by the Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session on the priorities of subprogrammes, the member States of the organization should have a say in the basic features of the programme budget. This also implied the timely availability of the necessary documentation. The role of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget was not clear with regard to this issue and should be clarified, bearing in mind the limits set by the rules and regulations of the United Nations, including those which applied to the CPC and ACABQ process. The Working Party should investigate this issue with a view to drafting a clear mandate and reporting to the Board at a later stage.

64. The **Director of the Programme Support and Management Services** recalled that a number of delegations had requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the executive session in order to discuss what were the functions, terms of reference and history of the Working Party and, having considered the background, to decide what form the Working Party should take in the future and what its functions should be. As a result of this suggestion, and of the informal consultations which had taken place, it had been agreed that the members of the Working Party and interested delegations should exchange views on this matter in a series of informal meetings to be convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. It was his understanding that the parameters of this informal group would be to study the history of the creation and development of the Working Party and to make proposals for its activities in the future. The terms of reference of the informal group were in fact broad and free-ranging, including determination of the terms of reference of the Working Party.

65. The representative of **Peru** said that it was his understanding and, he believed, also that of the other members of the Working Party that the task of the proposed informal group was to draw up written terms of reference for the future activities of the Working Party. The Working Party had hitherto been functioning on a practical basis that was not reflected in any formal provisions or norms. It would now be desirable to set down in writing the manner in which the Working Party should function and to specify what were its attributions and their limits. Thus the informal group would in effect be entrusted with the task of proposing terms of reference for the Working Party.

66. The representative of **Australia** expressed her delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Peru. She considered that the work of the Working Party should indeed be precisely focused.

67. The representative of **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Community and its member States**, also expressed support for the statement by Peru.

68. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** recalled the understanding reached in the informal consultations which had already taken place on this matter that whatever recommendations might emerge from the proposed informal group to be convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should be compatible with the budget procedures and calendar

established by the General Assembly and related bodies such as ACABQ and CPC and should not conflict with instructions of the Controller, in order not to place the UNCTAD secretariat in a difficult situation vis-à-vis Headquarters.

#### **Action by the Board**

69. The Board decided to request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene a series of informal meetings with the members of the Working Party and interested delegations to discuss and exchange views on the role and function of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

(Agenda item 5)

##### **A. Date of the third executive session of the Trade and Development Board on developments in the Uruguay Round**

70. The representative of Chile recalled that, in response to a proposal made by the Group of 77 at the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 21 January 1993, consensus had subsequently been reached that a special executive session of the Board should be convened after the second part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board to discuss the Uruguay Round at a high level. As a result of consultations with regional coordinators, he wished to propose 27 April 1993 as the date for that executive session.

##### **Action by the Board**

71. The Board decided to convene the third executive session of the Trade and Development Board on 27 April 1993 in order to consider developments in the Uruguay Round.

##### **B. Role and functions of the executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board**

72. The representative of Switzerland recalled the mandate assigned to the executive sessions of the Board in paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment and the responsibilities specified under paragraph 3 of the guidelines adopted by the Board at the second part of its thirty-eighth session. His delegation considered that the executive session had already played a useful role in the first year of its existence: through its management function it had relieved the burden on the regular sessions of the Board and had thus contributed to the greater effectiveness willed by the Cartagena Commitment. Nevertheless, he felt that this new mechanism could be put to better use. For example, one of the basic functions of the executive session - the preparation of the regular sessions of the Board - had so far been somewhat neglected. For the Swiss delegation, therefore, the question arose of how the functioning of the executive session could be improved and, in particular, how its policy-making role could be strengthened. He sensed that these concerns were shared by other delegations.

73. Accordingly, the Swiss delegation wished to propose that an additional executive session of the Board be convened in June 1993 - i.e. mid-way between the Spring and the Autumn regular sessions of the Board - to reflect on the role and functions of the executive



sessions. This exercise in self-examination would represent an act of good management. In the view of his delegation, the proposed executive session should seek to answer the following questions:

- Are delegations satisfied with the functioning of the executive sessions so far or do changes need to be made?
- Is there a case for holding the executive sessions more frequently, for example every two or three months or, alternatively, mid-way between two regular sessions of the Board?
- How should the content of the work of the executive sessions be determined?

An analysis of the answers to these questions would enable delegations to reach a common position vis-à-vis the future work of the executive sessions of the Board.

74. The representative of **Chile** expressed full support for the Swiss proposal on this very important matter. It was indeed necessary to make an internal examination of this kind in order to see how the executive sessions could be enriched with items dealt with also by the regular sessions of the Board relating to the world economy and the development of the developing countries.

75. The representative of **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Community and its member States**, said that, although the guidelines adopted for the executive sessions contained important elements, they did also leave some room for interpretation. Central to the whole issue must be the tasks aimed at strengthening the policy function of the Board. One important criterion for that purpose was to avoid duplicating the functions of the regular sessions. In the view of the Community, the executive sessions had a role to play when important decisions needed to be taken in the period between two regular sessions of the Board and when these decisions could not be taken by the consultation mechanism. Such decisions, which might entail issues of substance, should be focused and related to the organization. The issues might relate to follow-up action to be taken as a result of the work of the regular sessions of the Board or they might be of a preparatory nature prior to a regular session.

76. In conclusion, he stated that the Community appreciated the concerns expressed by Switzerland on the role and functioning of the executive sessions of the Board. However, bearing in mind the fact that the current executive session was only the second meeting of its kind, he considered that this very new forum should be allowed more time before the Board assessed its merits.

77. The representative of **India** recalled that the terms of reference for the executive sessions of the Board had been carefully crafted at UNCTAD VIII. He agreed that the executive sessions should be called upon to take action on important issues. He therefore suggested that informal consultations should be held to prepare the ground for the proposed executive session in June in order to ensure that that session would be properly structured.

78. The representative of the **United States of America** expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of India, since experience at the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board had shown that setting down in writing the functions of the executive session was no easy matter.

79. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** observed that the proposal made by Switzerland for the convening of a special executive session of the Board in June 1993 to review the role and functions of the executive sessions seemed to have found favour with all delegations. The question that arose was precisely *when* the special session should be held and whether it would be advisable to have one or two more executive sessions of the Board before carrying out this review. He stood ready to hold consultations on this matter to enable delegations to reach a conclusion that would make it possible to reform the functioning of the executive sessions and thereby improve their effectiveness.

#### **Action by the Board**

80. The Board agreed to the procedure outlined by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD concerning the proposal made by Switzerland for the convening of a special executive session of the Trade and Development Board to consider the role and functions of the executive sessions.

## **V. PROCEDURAL, INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **A. Opening of the session**

81. In the absence of **Mr. Gündüz Aktan (Turkey)**, President of the Trade and Development Board at its current thirty-ninth session, the second (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board was opened on 5 March 1993 by **Mr. Gian Nath (Mauritius)**, one of the vice-Presidents of the Board, who was designated to serve as Acting President of the executive session.

### **B. Bureau of the Board**

82. In view of the designation of one of the Vice-Presidents to serve as acting President (cf. section A above), the Bureau of the Board at the second (pre-sessional) executive session was as follows:

<b><u>Acting President:</u></b>	Mr. Gian Nath	(Mauritius)
<b><u>Vice-Presidents:</u></b>	Mr. Morris B. Abram	(United States of America)
	Mr. Abdeljabbar Brahime	(Morocco)
	Mr. G.V. Gabounia	(Russian Federation)
	Mr. Akio Ijuin	(Japan)
	Mr. Marian Malecki	(Poland)
	Mr. Carlos H. Matute Arias	(Honduras)
	Mr. Martin Morland	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	Mr. Gian Nath	(Mauritius)
	Mr. Ri Tcheul	(People's Democratic Republic of <del>Korea</del> )
	Mr. Jorge Soruco	(Bolivia)
<b><u>Rapporteur:</u></b>	Mr. Banmali Prasad Lacoul	(Nepal)

### **C. Adoption of the agenda**

(Agenda item 1 (a))

83. At its 817th meeting, on 5 March 1993, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for its second (pre-sessional) executive session (TD/B/EX(2)/1), with the addition of the following sub-item under agenda item 3:

- (b) Role and function of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget.

This sub-item had been recommended for inclusion by the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD held on 1 March 1993. (For the agenda as adopted, see annex I).

84. Two further matters - namely the date of the third executive session of the Board to consider the Uruguay Round; and the role and functions of the executive sessions of the Board - were taken up under agenda item 5 (Other business). (See section IV above).

## **D. Designation of the President of the fortieth session of the Board**

(Agenda item 1 (b))

85. Also at its 817th meeting, the Board designated **H.E. Mr. Al Sherif Fawaz Sharaf (Jordan)** as President of the Board at its fortieth session. The President-designate made a brief statement of appreciation.

## **E. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters**

(Agenda item 4)

### **Item 4(a) - New States members of UNCTAD**

86. The Board noted that, with the cessation of Czechoslovakia's membership in the United Nations as of 1 January 1993, UNCTAD's membership had been reduced to 182. However, with the admittance of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to membership in the United Nations on 19 January 1993 (by General Assembly resolutions 47/221 and 47/222, respectively), UNCTAD's membership now stood at 184.

### **Item 4(b) - Membership of the Trade and Development Board**

87. The Board admitted the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to membership of the Trade and Development Board, thus bringing the Board's membership to 136.

**Item 4(c) - Arrangements for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 1994**

88. Introducing this item, the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat drew attention to the note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Arrangements for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 1994" (TD/B/EX(2)/INF.2) and recalled that celebrations had been held to mark both the twentieth and the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD. Delegations would be invited to contribute also to the thirtieth anniversary. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary, a special commemorative meeting of the Trade and Development Board had adopted a Declaration which had in fact been a precursor to the changes in orientation that were undertaken at UNCTAD VIII. The secretariat hoped that the thirtieth anniversary would also mark an important step forward for UNCTAD. By 1994 the Ad Hoc Working Groups would have completed their work and the Standing Committees would be half way through their mandates. Thus the thirtieth anniversary could offer a major opportunity to consider the prospects for the future.

89. The secretariat had indicated in its note a number of possible events which could be organized. Some of the suggested activities could be undertaken within the financing available in the regular budget, whereas for others it might be necessary to seek extra-budgetary finance. As mentioned in the note, the celebration would begin with the Raul Prebisch Lecture at the Spring session of the Board in 1994. The secretariat also intended to convene a symposium of eminent persons closer to the Autumn session of the Board in order to provide new ideas and orientations to the work of UNCTAD. The secretariat hoped that the thirtieth celebration would be marked by a greater participation on the part of delegations of member States since, although UNCTAD had changed its orientations and delegations in New York and other centres had taken note of these changes, the public at large was still not fully aware of these developments. A major exercise with the information media in this respect would be most helpful. The secretariat had already been in contact with the media in preparation for the thirtieth anniversary and there had been positive responses from both the international and the national media regarding their possible cooperation with the secretariat. The secretariat therefore urged delegations to organize national preparatory events, either through their United Nations associations or through their various communications media, and it was ready to cooperate fully with delegations in this undertaking. Finally, he suggested that the Board might wish to consider holding a special commemorative meeting during its Autumn session of 1994, at which a declaration could be adopted for the celebration of this event, as had been done for the twenty-fifth anniversary.

90. The representative of Peru, referring to the efforts to project UNCTAD's activities to the general public, said that such efforts should not be confined to the events marking the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD but should rather form part of a sustained policy in UNCTAD to increase the press coverage of the activities of its various intergovernmental bodies. This would allow for a degree of feedback between public opinion and government interest in the work of UNCTAD.

91. The representative of the United States of America said that his delegation had no objection in principle to publicizing the thirtieth anniversary, which was a very important

event. However, he could not comment at this stage on the possible financial implications of some of the secretariat proposals since capitals had not yet had an opportunity to study the note by the secretariat. Therefore, if financial considerations were involved, this aspect would have to be addressed later on.

92. The representative of **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Community and its member States**, stated that, since he had just received the secretariat note, he was not at this stage in a position to comment extensively on this item. The Community had noted, however, that some of the proposals would have financial implications and that there was a proposal on establishing a trust fund to finance the arrangements. The Community was reluctant to endorse this proposal.

93. The representative of **Ecuador**, expressing support for the statement by Peru, said that it was essential to promote the work of UNCTAD at all levels. The Latin American and Caribbean Group had already stated its view that there was a need to project the activities of UNCTAD and to increase their impact in the member countries. The celebration of the thirtieth anniversary offered an outstanding opportunity to make progress in this direction. In this context, he considered that regional information seminars, attended by high-level officials and representatives of the private sector of the countries concerned, could be very useful for promoting knowledge of the new UNCTAD.

94. The representative of **Chile** agreed with the ideas put forward by the representatives of Peru and Ecuador. With a view to facilitating the preparations for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary, he suggested that the Board might wish to request the President and the regional coordinators and China to meet with the secretariat to finalize a document that would be submitted to the Board at the first part of its fortieth session. This approach would make it possible to take into account ideas emanating from delegations as well as those suggested by the secretariat.

95. Responding to points raised in the discussion, the **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** said that the secretariat welcomed the proposal made by the representative of Chile. The secretariat had in fact been hoping to interact with delegations to ascertain their ideas on how best to mark the anniversary, since the organization belonged to them. With regard to possible financial implications of some of the proposals, the secretariat had pointed out that if all the activities listed were to be undertaken there might be a need for extra-budgetary resources, but at present neither the number of activities nor the magnitude of their financial implications were as yet very clear to the secretariat. He therefore hoped that these matters could be examined further in the consultative meetings which had been proposed by Chile.

### **Action by the Board**

96. The Board agreed to the proposal that the President and the regional coordinators and China should hold consultative meetings with the secretariat on the preparations for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD.

## **F. Report of the Board on its second (pre-sessional) executive session**

(Agenda item 6)

97. The Board authorized the Rapporteur, in consultation with the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its second (pre-sessional) executive session.

## **ANNEXES**

### **Annex I**

#### **AGENDA FOR THE SECOND (PRE-SESSIONAL) EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD \***

1. Procedural matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda
  - (b) Designation of the President of the fortieth session of the Board
2. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action
  - (a) Standing Committee on Commodities, first session  
(19 - 23 October 1992);
  - (b) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, first session  
(26 -30 October 1992);
  - (c) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Shipping,  
first session (2 - 6 November 1992);
  - (d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, first session  
(9 - 13 November 1992);
  - (e) Ad hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, first session  
(16 - 20 November 1992), including an interim report on the preparations for  
the International Symposium on Trade Efficiency in 1994;
  - (f) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices,  
eleventh session (23 - 27 November 1992);

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\* As adopted by the Board at its 817th plenary meeting, on 5 March 1993  
(cf. para. 83 above).



- (g) Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization, first session (30 November - 4 December 1992);
  - (h) Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, first session (14 - 18 December 1992);
  - (i) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, first session (11 - 15 January 1993);
  - (j) Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, first session (18 - 22 January 1993);
  - (k) Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, first session (25 - 29 January 1993);
  - (l) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Insurance, first session (1-5 February 1993);
3. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in relation to UNCTAD
- (a) Restructuring of the economic and social sectors
  - (b) Role and function of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
- (a) New States members of UNCTAD;
  - (b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board;
  - (c) Arrangements for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 1994
5. Other business
6. Report of the Board on its second (pre-sessional) executive session.

## ANNEX II

### MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE <sup>1</sup>

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session:

Algeria	Jamaica
Argentina	Japan
Australia	Kenya
Austria	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Bahrain	Madagascar
Bangladesh	Malaysia
Belgium	Malta
Bhutan	Mauritius
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Mongolia
Bulgaria	Morocco
Canada	Nepal
Chile	Netherlands
China	New Zealand
Colombia	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Norway
Czech Republic	Oman
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Panama
Denmark	Paraguay
Ecuador	Peru
Egypt	Philippines
El Salvador	Poland
Ethiopia	Portugal
Finland	Qatar
France	Republic of Korea
Germany	Romania
Ghana	Russian Federation
Greece	Saudi Arabia
Hungary	Senegal
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Slovakia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Spain
Iraq	Sri Lanka
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland
	Thailand

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<sup>1</sup> For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX/INF.3.

Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America
Tunisia	Uruguay
Turkey	Venezuela
United Kingdom of Great Britain	Viet Nam
and	Zambia
Northern Ireland	Zimbabwe
United Republic of Tanzania	

2. The following State member of UNCTAD, not member of the Board, was represented as observer at the session:

Croatia

3. The Economic Commission for Europe was represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was also represented.

4. The following specialized and related agencies were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
International Monetary Fund  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented.

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

European Economic Community  
League of Arab States  
Organization of African Unity

6. The following non-governmental organization was represented at the session:

General Category

World Federation of United Nations Associations

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