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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Forty-first session  
Second part  
Geneva, 30 March 1995  
Agenda item 4

Special Sessional Committee

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S:

- (a) STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE MID-TERM GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S;
- (b) ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Draft agreed conclusions

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/206, the Special Sessional Committee of the Trade and Development Board conducted its 5th Annual Review of Progress in the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s. The Committee recognized that in view of the forthcoming High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action, scheduled in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 49/98 to be held in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, the present session of the Committee is of particular significance as it could provide important directions and guidance for the work of the Donor/Recipient Meeting in May and to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting itself.

2. The Committee took note of the briefings provided by the UNCTAD secretariat on the preparatory activities which had already taken place and on the series of forthcoming meetings planned prior to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. The Committee recommended that participation in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting be at the highest level wherever possible. Furthermore, in accordance with the provision of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994, it requests the UNCTAD Secretariat to intensify its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources to ensure the full and effective participation of LDCs' representatives in the preparatory meetings and the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

3. The Committee, which had the LDCs 1995 Report as the background document, commended the Secretariat for the quality of the analysis contained in the Report and recognized that it provided a useful basis for its deliberations. The Committee urged the Secretariat to ensure that the Report is made available to delegations in a timely way and in all official languages of the United Nations. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an update of the Report in time for the High-level Meeting in September.

4. The Committee exchanged views on issues before it. Many delegations drew attention to the progressive deterioration of economic and social conditions in LDCs despite vigorous efforts by them to implement economic reforms as envisaged in the Programme of Action. This was attributed to both domestic and external factors. The inadequacy of external finance, impediments to market access and persistence of debt servicing difficulties were cited by many participants as major contributory factors to the deterioration in their economic performance. Attention was drawn to the possible lessons which could be derived from the experiences of LDCs which have performed relatively well and the Committee urged the Secretariat to identify gaps in the implementation of reforms as well as additional measures keeping in mind the need for improved supply capacity and the human dimension and analyze more fully the question whether such experiences can be replicated by other LDCs. Attention was also drawn to the important contribution which the NGO community continues to make to the development process.

5. The Committee noted that the land-locked and island least developed countries continue to face formidable problems in their development efforts. In this connection, it was noted that the forthcoming Symposium for Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and the second Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries, Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, scheduled for June 1995, will address specific regional problems in implementing the recommendations of the first Meeting of Governmental Experts held in May 1993. The outcome of these meetings will be an important input to the Mid-term Global Review.

6. The Committee felt that the proceedings of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting could be significantly enhanced if a comprehensive assessment of the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action by Governments was made available to the High-level meeting. Such an assessment could then provide the basis for the consideration of new measures to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action. With this in mind, the Committee agreed that the assessment should take into account, inter alia, the following:

- (a) Developments in the world economy since 1990 as they affect the growth and development performance of LDCs and lessons learned from adjustment and macro-economic and sectoral policy reforms;
- (b) Provision of ODA and debt relief measures during the early 1990s and the implications of the enlargement of the list of LDCs, in particular for international support measures;
- (c) The challenges posed by the ongoing processes of globalization and liberalization on the social and economic conditions in the LDCs;
- (d) Implications of the occurrence of political and civil strife in a number of LDCs, in particular on their capacity to administer and manage their development;
- (e) The substantive outcomes, as they relate to LDCs, of the major United Nations conferences, notably the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (1992), the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (September 1995);
- (f) The coming into force of the World Trade Organization and the implications of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round for LDCs' trading opportunities.

7. The Committee requested its Chairman to undertake intensive consultations with member States of UNCTAD with a view to arriving at an assessment of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action together with possible recommendations for consideration at the Donor/Recipient meeting.

8. The Committee recommended to UNCTAD IX to take fully into account the outcome of the Mid-Term Global Review of the Programme of Action.

9. The Committee recommended for adoption by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting the draft agenda and the organization of work annexed to the Committee's report.

Annex

Draft Provisional Agenda for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting  
on the Mid-Term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme  
of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The General Assembly in its resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994 decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of senior officials on 25 September 1995. The Meeting shall carry out the mid-term global review, consider new measures as necessary, and report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Accordingly, the Board may wish to consider and recommend to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting the Provisional Agenda and organization of work attached hereto.

I. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
  - (a) Review of progress in implementation at the country level;
  - (b) Review of progress in international support measures;
  - (c) Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade.
4. Other business
5. Adoption of the report

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### (a) Rules of procedures

The High-level Inter-governmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as subsidiary body of the General Assembly may wish to use the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as appropriate.

### (b) Organization of work

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will have nine working days. The meeting may wish to establish two committees in addition to the plenary.

General discussion will be made in the plenary. Committee I may wish to consider and report on agenda item 3(a) and 3(b) and Committee II may be assigned to consider and report on agenda item 3(c).

The Secretariat will prepare a tentative list of issues to be dealt with by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The proposal will be submitted to the one day meeting of senior officials mentioned in paragraph 4(a) of General Assembly Resolution 49/98.