

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/WG.2/L.4
17 November 1993

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency
Second session
Geneva, 15 November 1993
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON TRADE EFFICIENCY
ON ITS SECOND SESSION**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 15 to 19 November 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. A. Brahime (Morocco)

CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
	Introduction	1 - 8
I.	Facilitating trade (agenda item 2)	9
II.	First evaluation of the Trade Point programme (agenda item 3)	10
III.	Preparatory work for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (agenda item 4)	11
IV.	Organizational matters	12 - 14

Note for Delegations

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.

Requests for amendments - to be submitted in English or French - should be communicated by Friday, 26 November 1993 at the latest to:

The UNCTAD Editorial Section
Room E.8104
Fax No. 907 0056
Tel. No. 907 5656 or 5655

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, established in accordance with paragraph 79 of the Cartagena Commitment (TD/364), held its second session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 15 to 19 November 1993. In the course of the session, the Ad Hoc Working Group held ... formal and ... informal meetings.

Opening statements

2. The Chairperson said that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group was based on the Cartagena Commitment, which was a commitment to a new partnership for development and embodied the spirit of Cartagena: absolute equality, full participation of sovereign nations, and redirection of UNCTAD activities to ensure that they were of direct benefit to member countries.

3. The Trade Efficiency Programme had three immediate benefits - improving market access, increasing the transfer of technology, and increasing participation in global trade. Any one of these was by itself a commendable accomplishment. Collectively, the three formed an extraordinary achievement.

4. There existed considerable synergy for trade. Synergy referred to a situation where the whole was greater than the sum of its parts, and the synergy created by the Ad Hoc Working Group was greater than could have been expected. Originally, there were to have been 16 pilot Trade Points, but now 50 or 60 Trade Points were foreseen by the time of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency in October 1994. "Synergy for trade" could be the Group's new motto.

5. UNCTAD was to be commended for its cooperation, both with delegations and across the United Nations system. That cooperation had helped produce synergy and generate a programme which, by expanding global trade, would change the world.

6. The Deputy to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD said that the discussions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on better business practices would be of direct assistance in identifying the domains in which trade efficiency could best be fostered through practical improvements in trade practices. However, beyond the immediate substantive results of these discussions, the Group's approach to this item would be highly valuable in two additional respects. First, it would indicate whether the method of work adopted in this particular area should be replicated in other sectors of interest to UNCTAD's programme of work in the area

of trade efficiency. Secondly, it would allow the Economic Commission for Europe and UNCTAD to illustrate in a concrete and action-oriented fashion the cooperative spirit in which they had been collaborating in this important area of work. It would be useful to know whether and to what extent similar cooperative arrangements should be pursued with relevant institutions in other sectors of interest.

7. The Group would also be discussing important information in connection with the first evaluation of the Trade Point programme. Those discussions would benefit from the presence of several Trade Point directors and coordinators, on whom much of the work and the responsibility for the Trade Point programme were resting. The interest of member Governments in the Trade Point programme had not ceased to increase since UNCTAD VIII, as witnessed by the some 50 requests received by the secretariat to establish Trade Points. On the other hand, however, and contrary to initial expectations, extra-budgetary resources had not increased at the same pace as demands for Trade Points, which meant doing more with less. In such a situation, no duplication or hesitation could be permitted.

8. The Group would also be assessing the progress made in preparing for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, from 17 to 21 October 1994. The time remaining to prepare for a meeting of this importance was very short, and a number of issues were still unresolved, both from a practical and from a substantive point of view. It was hoped that the Working Group's session would contribute to clarifying such issues and proposing practical solutions.

Chapter I

FACILITATING TRADE

(Agenda item 2)

9. For its consideration of this item, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it the following documentation:

"Compendium of trade facilitation recommendations: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/WG.2/6);

"Draft guidelines on better trade practices: report prepared by SITPRO (Simpler Trade Procedures Board of the United Kingdom)" (TD/B/WG.2/6/Add.1/Parts I and II).

[To be completed]

Chapter II

FIRST EVALUATION OF THE TRADE POINT PROGRAMME

(Agenda item 3)

10. For its consideration of this item, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it the following documentation:

"First evaluation of the Trade Point programme: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/WG.2/7 and Add.1).

[To be completed]

Chapter III

**PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY**

(Agenda item 4)

11. For its consideration of this item, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it the following documentation:

"Progress report on the preparations for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/WG.2/8).

[To be completed]

Chapter IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

12. The second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group was opened on 15 November 1993 by the Chairman of the Group.

B. Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group

13. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group was as elected at the Group's first session, except that Mr. A. Moschini (Argentina) was replaced by Mr. J. Perez Gabilondo (Argentina) as a Vice-Chairman. The Bureau was thus as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. E. Shelton	(United States of America)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. A.-R. Al Sohaibani	(Saudi Arabia)
	Mr. E. Dreyfous	(France)
	Mr. M. Kisiri	(United Republic of Tanzania)
	Mr. J. Perez Gabilondo	(Argentina)
	Mr. A. Filippov	(Russian Federation)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. A. Brahime	(Morocco)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 1)

14. At the opening plenary of its second session, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WG.2/5), as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Facilitating trade
3. First evaluation of the Trade Point programme
4. Preparatory work for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

5. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Working Group
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board.

D. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Working Group

(Agenda item 5)

[To be completed]

E. Other business

(Agenda item 6)

[To be completed]

F. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board

(Agenda item 7)

[To be completed]