



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/WP/L.73
8 December 1995

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 4 December 1995
Agenda item 3

REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD AND THEIR FINANCING

Draft agreed conclusions

The Working Party:

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report on technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing and the complementary statistical information submitted by the secretariat (TD/B/WP/92 and Add.1);
2. Notes with concern the adverse impact on several of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities of continued reduced levels of funding available from UNDP;
3. Welcomes the increasing financial support for UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes by member States and other donors;
4. Requests the secretariat to continue to keep Permanent Missions in Geneva informed, on a regular basis, of relevant developments and progress in the area of technical cooperation;
5. Takes note of the information provided by the secretariat concerning the allocation of support costs, and requests the secretariat to provide detailed written information on progress made in the implementation of relevant Board decisions;

6. Requests the secretariat to provide further information concerning the use of programme budget funds for the back-stopping of technical cooperation activities;

7. Encourages the secretariat to improve the exchange of information on technical cooperation activities by and with other organizations providing technical cooperation in trade and development and to seek to conclude memoranda of understanding with them, with a view to improving cooperation and ensuring synergy and complementarity;

8. Takes note of the in-depth study on the ASYCUDA programme (TD/B/WP/93);

9. Commends the secretariat for the rapidly growing ASYCUDA programme, which has proved to be an effective and important instrument for customs reform and modernization worldwide in the context of the Trade Point programme and the Trade Efficiency initiative;

10. Stresses the need for the ASYCUDA programme to be maintained on a regular and sustainable basis within the context of UNCTAD's overall resource constraints and programmatic priorities;

11. Requests the secretariat, in the context of the preparations for UNCTAD IX:

(a) To develop options for amending the ASYCUDA programme and resource structures as necessary to enhance the programme's long-term financial viability;

(b) To undertake the preparatory work for the establishment of a mechanism for regular consultations among donors, beneficiaries and the secretariat on ASYCUDA;

12. Requests the secretariat, on the occasion of the next review of technical cooperation, to present documentation that includes:

(a) Data identifying separately UNCTAD's cooperation in least developed countries;

(b) Comparative data on the evolution of expenditures by region and programme going back over a period of four years;

(c) An in-depth study on the TRAINFORTRADE programme;

(d) A report on the topic of technical cooperation in the area of competition laws and policy.