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Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirtieth session
Geneva, 6-8 October (Part one)
and 8 December 1997 (Part two)
Agenda items 3 and 4

REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD
AND THEIR FINANCING

EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES:
(a) IN-DEPTH STUDY ON TRAINFORTRADE

Agreed conclusions *

I

The Working Party ,

Notes the 1998-2000 plan for technical cooperation prepared by the UNCTA D
secretariat, as contained in document TD/B/WP/104;

Decides to transmit the plan to the Trade and Development Board, acc ount being
taken of the comments expressed by the Working Party.

* As adopted by the Working Party at the closing plenary of the second part of
its thirtieth session

II

Having considered the evaluation report on the TRAINFORTRADE Programme, as contained in document TD/B/WP/103,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the evaluation report;
2. Reaffirms the importance it attaches to human resources development and to UNCTAD's role in this respect, in accordance with the Midrand Declaration, and invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to pursue his efforts to reinforce these activities;
3. Recognises the expertise and the comparative advantage of UNCTAD in this area;
4. Welcomes the measures being taken by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to strengthen the TRAINFORTRADE Programme and invites him to take into consideration in this process the conclusions and recommendations contained in the evaluation report and to submit a progress report to the Working Party in 1998;
5. Further welcomes the statement made by the secretariat concerning the increase in the resources to be allocated to the Programme, including regular budget resources;
6. Invites donor Governments and institutions to increase their contribution to the Programme;
7. Stresses the importance of:
 - Accurate needs assessment;
 - The improved sustainability of the Programme at national, subregional and regional levels;
 - Proper selection of national institutions, through consultations, in the design and implementation of specific projects, taking into account the offers made by some institutions in this regard;

8. Notes with appreciation the results achieved so far by the Programme and urges the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to enhance the implementation of the projects, including with respect to their follow-up and management;

9. Welcomes the measures being taken by the secretariat in using information technologies within TRAINFORTRADE, which should maximize the geographical reach of the Programme;

10. Recognises the desirability of moving towards the creation of generally acceptable diplomas, once the basic preconditions are met, in particular in terms of internal quality control;

11. Stresses the need for regular monitoring of the Programme, as well as for its evaluation at shorter intervals;

12. Emphasises the need for regular consultations among donors, beneficiaries and the secretariat on TRAINFORTRADE;

13. Takes note with appreciation of the enhanced cooperation between UNCTAD and other organizations, in particular ITC and WTO, in the implementation of the TRAINFORTRADE Programme and encourages the secretariat to continue and increase its efforts in this direction in order to promote coherence and complementarity;

14. Notes the very useful format of this type of evaluation and encourages the secretariat to use it in future.