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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventy-sixth executive session

Geneva, 31 October and 1 November 2024



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Introduction

The seventy-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 31 October and 1 November 2024. In the course of the session, the Board held two plenary meetings.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

A. Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Decision 583 (EX-LXXVI)

At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, as part of the preparatory process and following consultations among the membership, the Trade and Development Board reached consensus and adopted the theme for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as follows: “Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development”.

B. Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

Decision 584 (EX-LXXVI)

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the technical cooperation activities carried out by the UNCTAD secretariat, urges it to continue efforts in giving particular consideration to the specific needs of each region, and also welcomes the increase in contributions in 2023;
2. *Reaffirms* the role of UNCTAD technical cooperation as one of the three fundamental pillars of UNCTAD, as reiterated in the Bridgetown Covenant, and stresses the importance of coordination among those pillars for coherent and mutually reinforced assistance;
3. *Encourages* UNCTAD to enhance its involvement in the main forums organized at the global level pertinent to trade-related assistance, and recommends that the concepts originating from UNCTAD research be appropriately channelled through UNCTAD technical cooperation;
4. *Appreciates* the efforts made by UNCTAD on results-based management aimed at increasing transparency and efficiency when delivering technical assistance, and calls on UNCTAD to continue updating its results-based management tools and providing regular feedback;
5. *Encourages* UNCTAD to continue to provide technical cooperation activities deriving from its mandates and expertise, in accordance with the development strategies of recipient member States, in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. *Takes note with appreciation* of continuous UNCTAD efforts in strengthening inter-agency and interdivisional cooperation, to best respond to the current and future global challenges, and in achieving the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Recognizes* the leading role of UNCTAD within the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and its efforts to enhance collaboration with partner agencies and the United Nations resident coordinator system;

8. *Stresses* the importance of sufficient and predictable funding to ensure effective technical cooperation, and encourages countries in position to do so to provide UNCTAD with multi-year contributions, including to the trust fund for the least developed countries, to increase the sustainability of UNCTAD demand-driven technical assistance, underlining the importance of results-based management and the relevance of non-earmarked funding, while reaffirming the need to continue improving the application of good governance, transparency and accountability;

9. *Encourages* UNCTAD to explore accessing new funding sources, in particular for its activities supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

10. *Invites* member States in a position to do so to consider sponsoring junior professional officers (Junior Professional Officers Programme), and notes the value of this programme in improving the competence of experts from the countries most in need;

11. *Reiterates* the request to the UNCTAD secretariat to present the streamlined *UNCTAD Toolbox* currently under preparation by the next session of the Working Party, and notes the importance of its update as requested by member States.

*Closing plenary meeting
1 November 2024*

C. Other action taken by the Board

Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, the Trade and Development Board adopted the theme of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see chapter I, section A, above).

Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance

2. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance on its eighty-eighth session, as contained in document TD/B/WP/333, and endorsed the agreed conclusions and adopted the draft decision for the consideration of the Board contained therein (see chapter I, section B, above).

3. One delegate requested that the secretariat address at future sessions of the Working Party and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board the matter of availability of reports for approval. She reiterated the expectation that the report would reflect the deliberations objectively, faithfully and in a balanced manner. A representative of the UNCTAD secretariat recalled that the practice was to proceed according to the current arrangements. If desired, the membership could decide to formally change the method of work, through the standing bureau of the Board. He assured the membership that the statements made at the session would be duly reflected according to the existing practice.

Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

4. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, the Board took note of the annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its fifty-seventh session (A/79/17), held in New York from 24 June to 12 July 2024.

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

5. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, the Board took note of the report on the fifty-eighth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary remarks

6. In her opening remarks, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD focused on the Summit of the Future, recent UNCTAD research and the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

7. The adoption of the Pact for the Future was positive for multilateralism in challenging times. It would be important not to lose the momentum of the Pact, with its strong language on the international financial architecture, “beyond GDP [gross domestic product]” and digital governance. The test would be to attain concrete and binding commitments, particularly to close the gap between the needs of developing countries and the support available, including in relation to climate finance. The legacy of the Pact would depend on its implementation. UNCTAD had a key role, co-leading with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on working groups on international financial architecture and on “beyond GDP”. UNCTAD also had a role in the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, along with the International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and would co-lead in two working groups. UNCTAD would be involved in data governance as well, working with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, on the Global Digital Compact in relation to expanding inclusion and benefits from the digital economy.

8. UNCTAD research had resulted in three recently or soon to be issued flagships: *Review of Maritime Transport, Trade and Development Report* and *The Least Developed Countries Report*, which was marking its fortieth edition. In relation to the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries to be discussed at the current session, the *Review of Maritime Transport and Trade and Development Report* both made the point that the least developed countries were disproportionately affected by short-term disruptions such as chokepoints in maritime transport and structural issues such as low growth and high debt.

9. She thanked the membership for considering adoption of a proposed theme for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. With regard to the location of the Conference, she could confirm that it would take place in Asia late in 2025. She intended to share her report to the Conference late in 2024. She would focus on the four transformations of the fifteenth session of the Conference, giving them a fresh look. It was her expectation that the structure could help regional groups draft their position papers.

B. UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

(Agenda item 2)

10. The Director of the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes recalled that 2024 marked the fortieth anniversary of *The Least Developed Countries Report*. Editions of the report explored different topics related to trade and development in order to encourage the least developed countries in development efforts. The 2023 edition focused on Africa's potential to capture technology-intensive global supply chains, while the UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2023* showed that 11 least

developed countries had yet to receive any international investment in renewables by 2022. Regarding intergovernmental consensus-building, UNCTAD provided several contributions for the least developed countries and the Committee for Development Policy, co-organized the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries in Vienna and supported the least developed countries in their active participation in the World Trade Organization. Technical cooperation activities were provided in multiple sectors in those countries.

11. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Cambodia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of the State of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of the Niger, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group; the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Caribbean Community; the representative of China; the representative of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of small island developing States; the representative of the Gambia; the representative of Germany; the representative of Indonesia; the representative of Angola; the representative of Spain; the representative of the Holy See; the representative of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of Nigeria; the representative of the Russian Federation; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Ecuador; the representative of Brazil; the representative of Zambia; the representative of Pakistan; the representative of Saudi Arabia; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the representative of the State of Palestine; the representative of Namibia; and the representative of Ethiopia.

12. Several regional groups and many delegates welcomed the report on the implementation of activities in support of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, through research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance. One regional group underscored activities such as vulnerability profiles, support for national strategies and capacity-building, recalling that the Doha Programme of Action was essential for the least developed countries. Another regional group and some delegates noted the needs highlighted, welcomed work on the most vulnerable countries and vulnerability profiles and requested new funding towards implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, while some other regional groups and another delegate called for increased funding for the least developed countries. Another regional group recalled its multi-sector assistance to the least developed countries, estimated at \$80 billion per year, and requested that UNCTAD develop partnerships with institutions to support the least developed countries in their development efforts.

13. The representative of another regional group highlighted the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme, as well as work on rules of origin and vulnerability profiles, in the technical assistance provided to the least developed countries as part of implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. The representative of another regional group recalled that macroeconomic data for African least developed countries were below the 7 per cent growth target and noted price instability, the weight of external debt, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, support needs and new UNCTAD initiatives in those countries. He called on donors to contribute to UNCTAD trust funds for technical assistance to the least developed countries.

14. The representative of another regional group expressed concern over the global context affecting the least developed countries, including commodity prices, debt dependency and low GDP growth of 4.8 per cent compared to the 7 per cent growth target. He welcomed the vulnerability profiles, which contributed to the graduation of the least developed countries, and encouraged UNCTAD to find other sources of financing. He also stressed the importance of structural reform to better support those countries in their development efforts. The representative of one intergovernmental organization highlighted the external shocks that the least developed countries were facing and the need for resilience policies. He asked that obstacles for least developed country exports be examined and their

requests for better integration be reviewed, particularly in the case of Haiti. One delegate recalled the importance of technical cooperation to support the least developed countries, the opening of preferential treatment granted to those countries by China, such as support for their exports, training and the reduction of shipping costs. He welcomed the work of UNCTAD in its three pillars.

15. The representative of one regional group recalled the challenges of small island developing States, notably the consequences of climate change, resilience needs and the creation of littoral partnerships, welcomed UNCTAD technical assistance for strengthening human capacity and requested that financial institutions support them. He reiterated the desire to work with UNCTAD on the challenges to overcome. One delegate recalled the vulnerability and structural weakness of the least developed countries and their debt financing and welcomed the joint UNCTAD–European Union project for Angola. Another delegate reiterated her country’s support for the least developed countries and noted the need for resilience in the face of crisis and challenges, such as improving competitiveness and the quality of export products, the reduction of costs and green transformation. Another delegate highlighted the importance of international cooperation to support the least developed countries and promote, among other areas, productive capacities, partnership development in education and training.

16. One delegate highlighted debt relief, including grants for heavily indebted least developed countries. Another delegate underlined the weight of debt of the least developed countries, which slowed down their development and their structural issues, which increased their vulnerability, and the need for food security, debt cancellation and support in the face of climate change. Some delegates recalled the multiple challenges facing the least developed countries and called for reform of the international financial architecture. They welcomed the African Continental Free Trade Area to improve value chains. Some delegates requested the establishment of a resource mobilization unit to support the least developed countries. Another delegate called for financing the Doha Programme of Action through new financing mechanisms. Another delegate recalled the role of his country in supporting the least developed countries in the transport, agricultural and other sectors.

17. One delegate highlighted technical assistance for the reclassification of his country, while another delegate expressed appreciation for support in the area of renewable energy.

C. Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(Agenda item 3)

18. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Peru, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China¹; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of China; the representative of Egypt; the representative of Argentina; the representative of Ecuador; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the representative of the State of Palestine; the representative of Peru; the representative of Bangladesh; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Nepal; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of Brazil; the representative of Indonesia; the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic; and the representative of Armenia.

19. Following the adoption of the theme for the sixteenth session of the Conference, the representative of one regional group and some delegates highlighted the importance of equity as a fundamental principle of justice. She noted that economic transformation, a long-standing aspiration of the group, resonated with reforming the international trading system

¹ Argentina dissociated from the statement.

with a view to developing industrialization and the industrial transformation of developing countries. The representative of another regional group highlighted that the importance of the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference in defining the institution's contribution to global economic transformation, in line with the Pact for the Future. One delegate said that the theme reflected developing countries' aspiration of economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. He underscored that, since its establishment, the work of UNCTAD through its three pillars of policy research, consensus-building and technical cooperation had played an invaluable role in helping developing countries to integrate into the global economy. Another delegate said that the theme reflected a commitment to transformative change, beyond economic growth, to address underlying structural issues faced by developing countries. The focus was critical to making significant progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and reflected the UNCTAD commitment to promoting a global economic system that not only grew sustainably but also in a more equitable and inclusive manner.

20. In relation to the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference, one regional group and many delegates emphasized that it was essential for the United Nations system to focus on the work of UNCTAD on financing for development of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, including advocacy, research and technical assistance activities. UNCTAD had led discussions on financing for development for years, from a development perspective and needed to be heard with a stronger voice in the international community. They emphasized the need to address the financing gap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance and debt restructuring, should be explored to bridge the financing gap.

21. One regional group and several delegates expressed the need for a fairer international trading system for developing countries. One delegate called for the removal of unjust obstacles, while one regional group and one delegate focused on addressing issues related to industrialization and subsidized industrial policies.

22. Many delegates called for reforms in the international financial architecture to empower developing countries in the governance of international financial institutions.

23. One regional group and many delegates underscored the need to bridge technological divides, as developing countries lacked digital knowledge, infrastructure and skills. Fair, legal frameworks and technical regulations at the national and international levels for the digital world, particularly in the economic sphere, were lacking. The regional group and several delegates emphasized the importance of creating a more ethical and equitable digital environment, particularly concerning artificial intelligence. One delegate added that equitable access to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence that had a transformative potential should be ensured. Transparent and just regulatory frameworks could ensure the sovereignty of data and protect privacy to create trust and stability in digital economies.

24. One regional group and many delegates considered it essential to address the current international trade and economic framework critically, particularly regarding industrial policy and critical minerals. A boost for the energy transition could not be an excuse to allow commodity-producing countries to be drawn into a new cycle of commodity dependence. At the same time, the opportunity to industrialize should be attainable for all countries.

25. One regional group and many delegates highlighted the need to address climate change, focusing on better climate finance systems, sensible and dedicated technology transfer frameworks and implementation of the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Many developing countries were among the most vulnerable to structural realities, and unilateral coercive measures masking protectionism objectives complicated matters for those countries. Several delegates said that technology transfer for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries should be tackled.

26. One regional group and many delegates said that productive capacities, particularly for vulnerable countries, were a key focus as they were required for sustainable transformation and contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on social, economic and environmental fronts.
27. Some delegates said that work on “beyond GDP” was crucial for assessing progress based on factors such as quality of life and societal well-being, beyond mere economic metrics. One delegate added that the approach was linked to the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries, as it helped address the development challenges of vulnerable economies.
28. Several regional groups and many delegates confirmed their readiness to engage in the upcoming negotiations. One regional group considered that the Conference outcome document should reflect results-based management and be impactful, while another regional group said negotiating efforts should focus on defining and providing orientation for the institution’s work.
29. Some delegates expressed support for UNCTAD efforts in multilateral action and consensus-building. Another delegate said that the intergovernmental machinery should be strengthened not only to facilitate the sharing of best practice and experience but also to deepen a shared understanding and build consensus on critical trade and development issues. Another delegate said that, as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and their interrelated issues, UNCTAD was well positioned to prioritize and consolidate efforts during the upcoming Conference through its three fundamental pillars.
30. Several delegates advocated for an in-depth discussion and research on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on development within UNCTAD.
31. One regional group and several delegates expressed the expectation of a continued UNCTAD mandate on assistance to the Palestinian people, including studies, research and technical assistance on trade and development issues.
32. Some delegates stated the expectation of inclusion of landlocked developing countries, in view of the forthcoming Third Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, with a focus at the sixteenth session of the Conference on their transformation into more resilient and prosperous economies. Particular attention should be given to trade facilitation, digitalization, increasing foreign direct investment and ensuring sustainable development financing.
33. Another delegate recalled the relevance of the creative economy for developing and the strong expertise of UNCTAD in that domain.

D. Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance

(Agenda item 4)

34. The Chair of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance presented an oral report to the Trade and Development Board on the outcomes of the Working Party at its the eighty-eighth session.
35. In relation to technical cooperation activities and their financing, he said that the Working Party noted the increase in technical cooperation trust fund resources in 2023, while expressing concerns that demand for technical cooperation services from UNCTAD was unmet due to financial constraints. Delegates highlighted the importance of strengthening the links among the three pillars of UNCTAD work and acknowledged the UNCTAD efforts in enhancing the role of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity to “Deliver as one”. The Working Party also considered two

evaluations and endorsed the evaluation plan for 2025, which would not include a subprogramme evaluation as the sixteenth session of the Conference would be held. On the evaluation of subprogramme 3, the membership generally concurred with the findings and recommendations, though differing views were expressed, particularly regarding the recommendation on intergovernmental meetings. Therefore, it was his assessment that the membership would need to engage further on the matter in the future.

36. On the preparatory session for the 2026 programme plan and performance information, he said member States had successfully discussed with the secretariat the subprogramme plans for 2026, in preparation for the Working Party session at the beginning of 2025. In support of the session, the secretariat presented an informal document that was useful and provided members with a general overview of the vision of UNCTAD on current and future challenges, as well as the general overview for the five subprogrammes and suggestions for highlighted results. The membership had asked questions and received clarifications from each division on the proposed options for highlighted results, which was useful and valuable.

37. Three management reports on staff gender and geographical representation, and internships, were also shared electronically with member States ahead of the session.

38. At the opening and closing meetings of the Working Party, several delegations requested that UNCTAD monitor and inform the membership on current global trends related to trade policies and their impact on inclusive sustainable and resilient development and prepare recommendations for member States. One regional group and one delegate had differing views on how to characterize some policies and questioned the proposal in terms of its alignment with the mandates of UNCTAD. Delegations asked him, as Chair of the Working Party, to reflect the debate impartially in the report.

39. He recalled that, under agenda item 5 of the Working Party, it was acknowledged that, while the 2026 programme plan proposal was based on the commitments and priorities of the Bridgetown Covenant, the sixteenth session of the Conference would be held in 2025 and define the programme of work for the following four years. The secretariat had informed the membership that, if there were changes in the mandate, there was a mechanism to adjust and modify the proposal, including the budget.

40. Finally, he said that divisions would start drafting the 2026 programme plan document based on the comments received from member States. The document would be reviewed at the next session of the Working Party in January 2025.

41. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Belarus; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of China; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the representative of the State of Palestine; the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic; the representative of the United States of America; and the representative of Nepal, on behalf of the least developed countries.

42. One delegate reiterated her expectation that a growing economic, financial and trade trend such as unilateral coercive measures should receive due attention from UNCTAD to enable the institution to successfully and in good faith execute the mission assigned to it by the General Assembly to advance trade and development. She noted that her delegation looked forward to a non-biased and non-politicized monitoring of solely economic and trade dimension of unilateral coercive measures by UNCTAD and their impact on global economy, international trade and inclusive sustainable development.

43. Some delegates recalled the position of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations related to paragraph 2 of the agreed conclusions of the eighty-seventh session of the Working Party on the review of 2025 programme plan, which requested that the UNCTAD Secretary-General highlight the expectations of the membership to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and inform him of the priorities

of the group in relation to subprogramme 3 on international trade and commodities, in the framework of which UNCTAD should monitor global trade trends and policies related to the application of unilateral coercive measures and their impact on international trade and inclusive sustainable development, and inform the membership on the findings and provide recommendations. In concluding, they noted the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the international community and recalled General Assembly resolution 78/329 on the biennialization of the agenda item entitled “Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion”.

44. The representative of one regional group commended the efforts made by the secretariat to involve the membership in the preparation of the 2026 programme plan. He reiterated the importance of staying within consensually established mandates and work areas for UNCTAD, including as concerned proposals from some delegations.

45. One delegate, in exercising his right of reply, clarified that paragraph 2 of the agreed conclusions, on the draft UNCTAD programme plan and performance information for the year 2025, of the eighty-seventh session of the Working Party did not refer to unilateral coercive measures. He read out the paragraph in full from the report.² He concluded, reiterating that, in his delegation’s view, UNCTAD had no mandate to conduct research on sanctions and that that area of work was not a part of Bridgetown Covenant.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(Agenda item 1)

46. At its opening plenary meeting, on 31 October 2024, the Trade and Development Board adopted the provisional agenda for the seventy-sixth executive session as contained in document TD/B/EX(76)/1, but amended to reflect the addition of two new items, on the reports, respectively, of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the Joint Advisory Group.³ Accordingly, the agenda for the seventy-sixth executive session was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
2. UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.
3. Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
4. Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance.
5. Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.
6. Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.
7. Other business.
8. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventy-sixth executive session.

² See TD/B/WP/328, chap. I, section A.

³ The relevant agenda items have been renumbered to reflect this change.

B. Other business

(Agenda item 7)

Topic and guiding questions for the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

47. Also at its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, following membership consultations, the Board approved the topic and guiding questions for the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, to be held in 2025 (see annex I).

C. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventy-sixth executive session

(Agenda item 8)

48. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 November 2024, the Trade and Development Board adopted its report which would contain the President's summary on all substantive items, decisions of the Board, including on the theme of UNCTAD XVI, the topic and guiding questions for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and other decisions and actions taken by the Board, including on procedural and related matters, as well as reflect the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting. The Board further authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to finalize the report to the General Assembly as appropriate, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex I

Topic and guiding questions for the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

Topic

Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

Guiding questions

1. What are the main environmental impacts of digitalization over its life cycle and how can they be addressed, and what are the implications from the trade and development perspective, particularly for developing countries?
2. How can sustainable development gains from digitalization be ensured over its life cycle, looking particularly, among others, at critical minerals linked to the digital transformation process and waste management?
3. How can national, regional and international policymaking and cooperation contribute to digitalization that is sustainable and inclusive and addresses environmental impacts, in particular for those furthest behind?

Annex II

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania	Japan
Angola	Jordan
Argentina	Kuwait
Australia	Libya
Austria	Malaysia
Bangladesh	Mauritius
Barbados	Mexico
Belarus	Morocco
Belgium	Namibia
Bhutan	Nepal
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
Brazil	Niger
Bulgaria	Nigeria
Cambodia	Pakistan
Cameroon	Panama
China	Paraguay
Colombia	Peru
Congo	Poland
Croatia	Republic of Korea
Cuba	Russian Federation
Cyprus	Saudi Arabia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sierra Leone
Denmark	Slovenia
Djibouti	Sri Lanka
Ecuador	State of Palestine
Egypt	Syrian Arab Republic
Ethiopia	Thailand
Gambia	Trinidad and Tobago
Germany	Tunisia
Greece	Türkiye
Guyana	Uganda
Haiti	United Arab Emirates
Honduras	United States of America
Hungary	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Viet Nam
Iraq	Zambia
Jamaica	Zimbabwe

2. The following members of the Conference not members of the Board attended the session:

Bahamas
Holy See
Samoa

* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(76)/INF.1.

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

European Union
League of Arab States
Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
Organization of Islamic Cooperation

4. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the session:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
International Trade Centre
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Environment Programme

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

World Trade Organization

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Network for Standardization of Higher Education Degrees
