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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,  
and Commodities  
Seventh session  
Geneva, 3–6 February 2003

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICE,  
AND COMMODITIES ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION**

3–6 February 2003

Rapporteur: **Mr. I. Gospodinov (Bulgaria)**  
*Introduction and organizational matters*

Speakers:

Secretary-General	Benin (for the LDCs)
Thailand (for the Group of 77 and China)	Greece (for the European Union)
Morocco (for the African Group)	United States of America
India (for the Asian Group)	Belarus
Venezuela (for GRULAC)	Switzerland

**Note for delegations**

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations. Requests for amendments to statements by individual delegations should be communicated by **Tuesday, 11 February 2003** at the latest, to: UNCTAD Editorial Section, Room E.8102, Fax No. 907 0056, Tel. No. 907 5654/1066.

## I. OPENING STATEMENTS

1. The **Secretary-General** said that international trade had been faltering in the recent past, despite the trends towards rapid growth in that trade which had manifested themselves over the long term. The growth of trade in 2003 would depend largely on the strength of the United States' recovery. In the light of this, success in the major multilateral trade negotiations initiatives was badly needed. He expressed concern that regional and bilateral trade agreements were adding new discriminatory rules that had not existed previously, instead of, as was often claimed, bridging gaps or addressing issues on which there was little progress in multilateral negotiations. He did not believe that such initiatives served as building blocks for multilateral trade liberalization. The essence of the world trading system was non-discrimination i.e. the most-favoured-nation principle. The proliferation of discriminatory treatment under the guise of preferential treatment in regional and bilateral trade agreements, particularly in areas such as rule of origin, was adding difficulties.

2. He stressed the importance of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities as a unique forum for policy consultations and consensus-building on three major dimensions of the trade and development paradigm: (a) the strategic and long-term issues in the international trading system (including systemic issues such as special and differential treatment and the interface between the multilateral trading system and regional, transregional, bilateral and plurilateral processes that competed with and threatened to overshadow the multilateral trading system; (b) those issues being negotiated or prepared for possible negotiations in the WTO (market access, rules, services, TRIPS, TRIMs, competition, environment and dispute settlement); and (c) those issues that reflected the reality with regard to the conditions that developing countries faced in increasing their benefits from and participation in international trade (issues relating to market entry, rules of origin, TBT and SPS).

3. The three key themes being considered in the Commission, i.e. (a) diversification, market access and export competitiveness; (b) trade, environment and development; and (c) trade in services and development implications, encompassed all those dimensions. UNCTAD had an important and unique role to play in elucidating those and other related policy issues, facilitating consensus building, evolving consultative mechanisms and bringing out strongly the development dimension, which the international community should take into account. He stressed that he would await the outcome of the post-Doha discussions and negotiations before deciding whether the current round would indeed merit the term "Development Round".

4. UNCTAD's consideration of export diversification, market access and competitiveness required a clear understanding of the changing conditions under which commodity trade took place, including those determined by the international trading system and the characteristics of international supply chains. This understanding was crucial for the identification of the critical points where action was needed so as to escape the "poverty trap" discussed in UNCTAD's last LDC report. Even if market access were ensured, market entry would only be achieved if developing country exporters could enhance competitiveness,

position themselves effectively in the international supply chains, and improve their influence and power therein.

5. The issues at the interface of trade, environment and development were increasingly important on the international agenda. After the Doha meeting, for the first time in the WTO, negotiations on trade and environment issues had begun. Developing countries were keen to take advantage of market opportunities for environmentally preferable products created by growing consumer environmental awareness. At the same time, as highlighted in recent UNCTAD meetings and analysis, they wished to ensure that the ever-increasing environmental and health requirements in these markets did not create new barriers to their market entry and penetration. It was also important to ensure that domestic trade and environment policies were mutually supportive and reflected development objectives.

6. The approach to services hinged on two dimensions: how services trade and its progressive liberalization could support the attainment of the development objectives, and how to promote development of services-related capacities in individual developing countries. Within this context, an even greater challenge was to identify conditions under which developing countries might beneficially increase their participation both as importers and as exporters of services. UNCTAD's work had drawn on insights gained at a series of Expert Meetings which had highlighted the trade and development dimension in the areas of health, environment, tourism, air transport, construction, energy and audiovisual services. Assistance to developing countries in their multilateral trade negotiations on services remained a priority for UNCTAD and was also an area where UNCTAD was acknowledged to have made a historic contribution.

7. The UNCTAD Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Programme had been launched in February 2002 in the context of the Commission. Based on extensive consultations with delegations, this umbrella plan reflected what the developing countries expected from UNCTAD's technical assistance. The secretariat was deploying all the resources at its command and he acknowledged and commended the donor Governments – those of Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – that had specifically provided funds for post-Doha assistance and UNCTAD's trade programme. However, he noted that the needs of developing countries were burgeoning, and to meet their increasing demands for the kind of technical assistance and capacity-building which only UNCTAD was able to provide, resources would need to be augmented.

8. He noted that the preparatory phase for UNCTAD XI was commencing. He hoped that the Commission's deliberations at this session and the next one would contribute to and in turn be shaped by a collective vision for trade and development, one that was just, fair, sensitive to fulfilling basic social and human needs, accommodated differences in the development stages and capacities of individual countries, and was stable and rules-based, democratic and participative, liberal and open, enabling world countries to leverage their respective comparative and competitive advantages.

9. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77** and **China**, acknowledged the unique role played by UNCTAD in the United Nations system with regard to issues related to trade and development, and commended the secretariat's research, technical assistance activities and database development in the area of international trade, including integration into the world trading system. The work of the Commission had special significance, particularly in the light of the recent summit decisions on sustainable development and the slow progress on the development dimension under the Doha work programme, vulnerability of global markets, new barriers to exports of developing countries, coupled with decreased aid and foreign direct investment, and the vicious cycle of debt and poverty prevailing particularly in the LDCs. While recognizing the benefits deriving from liberalization, the Group of 77 and China stressed the importance of sequencing the reforms and the need to carefully examine the content of liberalization in order to design reform programmes that minimized social costs, achieved gains more rapidly and put in place social programmes to minimize or offset the negative impact of the reforms on the poor. In this connection, the issues to be examined under "Export diversification, market access and competitiveness" were important to the Group of 77 and China, since promotion of export diversification would contribute to reducing the economic vulnerability of commodity-dependent developing countries. The aim should be to strengthen the commodity sector so as to make it a positive factor that would generate a virtuous circle of development. Market access was a precondition for diversification, while improvements had also be made in the competitiveness and supply capacities of developing countries.

10. The representative of **Morocco**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, welcomed the distinction made in the secretariat report under agenda item 3 between market access and market entry. That item raised three major questions. First, what do market access and competitiveness mean for Africa's commodity-dependent economies? Second, is export diversification possible for them? If so, what would be the most appropriate policies? Third, what is the best approach to reducing dependence on commodities and proceeding to high-value-added products?

11. The analysis in the secretariat's report coincided with the launching of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). He recognized that certain national policies could encourage increased competitiveness. These included: (a) the lifting of trade constraints; (b) upgrading financial markets; (c) strengthening human and administrative infrastructure; and (d) increasing the capacity of exporters to analyse markets.

12. Agricultural subsidies in many developed countries continued to impede efforts by developing countries to increase exports. The constant evolution of sanitary and phytosanitary standards in developed countries was another challenge to developing country exporters. These issues should be addressed in the post-Doha context.

13. He urged UNCTAD to strengthen its technical assistance programmes for the promotion of competitiveness and improvement of African countries' export capacities for high-value-added products. In this connection, it should include the implementation of the General Assembly resolution on commodities in its activities.

14. Regarding item 4, entitled “Trade in services and development implications”, he noted that a number of sectors, including transport, financial services, tourism, construction and professional services, were of great importance to African countries. With regard to the transport sector, costs remained very high and future negotiations should include multimodal transport services. With respect to professional services, nationality-related limitations on the movement of natural persons should be lifted.

15. With regard to the needs of African countries for technical assistance, a number of points needed to be made. First, capacity building was required in the area of services, particularly in order to allow African countries to benefit from the flexibility of the General Agreement on Trade Services. Second, negotiation modalities should be sensitive to the specific circumstances of Africa. Third, special and differential treatment should be strengthened when the GATS was revised in accordance with paragraph 44 of the Doha Declaration. Fourth, WTO trade policy review mechanisms should be used to evaluate the needs of African countries. Fifth, UNCTAD’s Coordinated African Programme of Assistance in Services (CAPAS) should be strengthened.

16. With regard to item 5, on trade, environment and development, the African Group appreciated the analytical work done by UNCTAD in order to help African countries to integrate the environment dimension into their development strategies. He noted with appreciation the launch of the joint UNCTAD/FAO/IFOAM Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture.

17. In conclusion, he recommended that UNCTAD strengthen its technical assistance activities in the areas covered by the agenda of the present session and urged donors to provide UNCTAD with the necessary resources for the implementation of the post-Doha technical assistance programme.

18. The representative of **India**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, stressed the importance of trade as a vehicle for economic, human and social development for Asian countries, since the future of the Asian region would rest upon accelerated economic growth and development. The multilateral trading system had to be shaped to play a major role in the promotion of economic development and poverty alleviation. The Commission’s discussions were all the more opportune given the global economic prospects and the slow progress made in the WTO’s Doha work programme in addressing areas of particular interest to developing countries, including implementation issues, special and differential treatment, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and public health. While Asian countries had been relatively successful in expanding exports of goods and services, they continued to face a variety of constraints in diversifying their commodity exports, expanding exports of services and meeting environmental requirements in export markets.

19. Major obstacles to developing countries’ commodity diversification included barriers to market access and market entry such as agricultural subsidies in major developed countries, tariff peaks and escalation, and SPS/TBT-related standards, as well as supply-side constraints such as the lack of efficiency and competitiveness and the low share of value added retained in the global value chains.

20. As regards trade in services, in spite of an open domestic environment, suppliers of services from Asian countries were not benefiting from the same market access opportunities in developed country markets. Asian countries were also facing important constraints in terms of preconditions for liberalization such as supply constraints, lack of access to new technologies and finance, and public policy requirements. The impact of liberalization on public policy objectives such as access to essential services was of particular concern. He stressed the need to remove barriers such as the economic needs test (ENT), visa and entry requirements, and non-recognition of professional qualifications, which impeded Asian countries' exports of labour-intensive services through Mode 4. GATS negotiations would therefore need to address the imbalance in commitments in respect of different modes of supply with a view to achieving the objectives of Article IV of GATS. UNCTAD's assessment of trade in services submitted to the WTO Services Council and its sectoral work had been of considerable value.

21. As regards environmental requirements, he pointed out that it was necessary to ensure that environment requirements did not create unnecessary barriers to trade and were not used for protectionist purposes. Government regulations, industry standards and guidelines set by the private sector, as well as buyers' requirements, were proliferating, especially in sectors of interest to Asian countries such as food and health products, textiles and electronics. The Asian countries sought to be involved in standard setting to ensure that standards would reflect their environmental and developmental conditions. The Asian group welcomed the suggestion of the Expert Meeting that a consultative mechanism on environmental requirements and international trade be created.

22. He noted that at its 57<sup>th</sup> session the UN General Assembly had reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as the focal point in the UN for the integrated treatment of trade and development. UNCTAD's role in policy analysis and technical assistance in the areas of effective participation in the multilateral trading system, trade negotiations, trade in services, WTO accession, regional trade agreements, commodities, and trade, environment and development had been significant. UNCTAD should intensify its work in the context of the implementation of the Secretary-General's plan for post-Doha technical assistance. In this connection, donors were encouraged to provide further financial support. As regards commodity diversification, analytical work should address the potential outcome of WTO negotiations; policies regarding the supply chains for commodities and the distribution of value added; the role of commodity diversification in the production and export base in poverty alleviation; and possibilities of enhancing linkages to improve the benefits accruing to the disadvantaged segments of the population. Additional extrabudgetary resources should also be provided to UNCTAD to implement the General Assembly resolution on commodities, and the relevant recommendations stemming from it should be included in UNCTAD's activities. In the area of trade in services, assistance should be provided in the field of policy analysis and trade negotiations, including the formulation of request and offer under the Doha work programme. Continuation of work on Measures Affecting Service Trade (MAST) and development of adequate indicators to measure trade flows in services would also be needed. Analytical work should address ways and means of facilitating exports of labour-intensive services through further commitments in Mode 4; assessment of trade in

services; identification of market access barriers to developing country exports; trading opportunities through cross-border supply/electronic commerce; the regulatory framework for trade in services; and access to information networks and distribution channels. In the area of trade and environment, analytical work should address trends and environmental requirements and implications for trade and development. The creation of a consultative mechanism on environmental requirements and international trade would also need to be considered.

23. The representative of **Venezuela**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, noted that most Latin American and Caribbean countries were dependent on commodities exports. Neither commodities exports nor countries' competitiveness, however, had increased in recent years. Exports of manufactured goods had stalled as well, since only a few countries in the region had become successful exporters and had been able to find niche markets for their products. This trend was leading to increasing poverty in the region. She therefore stressed the importance for the region of producing and exporting value-added products and, at the same time, the need to improve market access for such products, especially processed agricultural products, originating from the region. Since tariff escalation and subsidies were serious obstacles to the export possibilities of Latin America and the Caribbean, the ongoing negotiations at the WTO had to be aimed at reducing both subsidies and tariff escalation. It was important to emphasize support to small producers to prevent them from being marginalized, particularly since they formed a large proportion of the population and produced mainly for domestic markets. Support to these producers in Latin America and the Caribbean did not distort international trade and guaranteed food security. Two crucial goals had to be pursued by UNCTAD in its analytical and support work: enhanced market access for developing country products, and better access for producers in developing countries to knowledge, capital and managerial know-how, which would in turn enhance their competitiveness.

24. She stressed that services had played a very positive role in the development of the region, with their contribution to gross national product increasing from 58 to 62 per cent during last decade. Services suppliers by and large had concentrated their activities in the traditional services sectors, such as retail services, transport services and, above all, tourism. Latin American and Caribbean countries had traditionally been importers of services, and this situation had negatively affected their balance of payments. Lack of adequate statistics, however, made it difficult to assess the structure and development of the services sector in the region and hampered the formulation of strategies aimed at supporting the most dynamic sectors. It would be very useful to make an evaluation of the actual contribution of the services sector to the growth of the region. Within the ongoing multilateral services negotiations, the liberalization of the delivery of services through Mode 4 was of paramount importance, and UNCTAD had to give priority to the analysis of the issue and make suggestions about how to effectively liberalize this mode of supply. Since Latin American and Caribbean countries had greatly benefited from UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in respect of services, it would be appropriate for the Commission to give the secretariat a clear mandate and adequate funds to continue its useful work. She extended particular thanks to the Government of the United Kingdom for its generous support to

UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities. It was to be hoped that other donors would join this effort. Several countries in the region had unilaterally liberalized their services markets, especially key sectors such as telecommunications, financial services and basic facilities. The results were mixed and the setting up of new institutional and regulatory frameworks had proved to be a very challenging task for most countries. It would therefore be useful for UNCTAD to analyse the impact of services liberalization on country competitiveness, which was going to be the main theme of UNCTAD XI, and on people's welfare, as well as to identify the conditions that needed to be met in order for the countries of the region to benefit from the services liberalization process. An additional theme that could usefully be analysed by UNCTAD in its work on services could be the relationship between multilateralism, regionalism and development. In conclusion, she stressed the crucial role that UNCTAD had been playing in the debate on special and differential treatment, and recommended that this work be continued and that the secretariat inform delegations about the progress made.

25. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States, noted that export diversification, access to markets and competitiveness, as well as trade in services and its implications for development, and the links between trade, environment and development, were all areas that should be accorded more attention.

26. With respect to agenda item 3, he said that commodity production was the dominant activity for his group of countries. Commodities represented 70.1 per cent of total LDC exports. For some countries, this ratio was as high as 98 per cent. It was also worth noting that of all the commodities produced by these countries only 7.8 per cent were processed for value-added export. He stated that the steep fall in commodity prices over the past 30 years had exposed least developed countries to serious balance-of-payments deficits. The distortions caused by production subsidies provided by some developed countries for agricultural commodities, together with tariff peaks, tariff escalation and technical barriers to trade, had compounded the difficult situation of LDCs. At the international level, the LDC group called for an appropriate solution to these grave problems through measures that took into account their particular situation. At the national level, the group urged the UNCTAD secretariat and the international community to provide technical assistance in the area of know-how and institutional capacity in order to develop the supply capacity of value-added products and increase the volume of exports.

27. The service sector, which was the subject of agenda item 4, was important to developing countries. The weakness in several parts of this sector in developing countries and LDCs necessitated the taking of actions aimed at improving the situation. The LDC group hoped that technical assistance in the context of the General Agreement on Trade in Services would be provided to LDCs with a view to enabling them to define their specific needs and formulate offers and requests in accordance with the Doha Declaration.

28. In conclusion, he said that the LDC group considered that environmental standards, which were to be discussed under agenda item 5, should be formulated with due account taken of the specific situation of the LDCs and with a view to allowing them to adapt to requirements at an appropriate pace, including on matters such as measures to assist small-



and medium-sized enterprises, eco-labelling, notification of voluntary standards and access to markets for environmentally preferable products.

29. The representative of **Greece**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union** and the candidate countries, said that the Commission's session had a heavy agenda: export diversification, market access and competitiveness, trade in services, and environment. As stressed in the substantive documentation, it had to address the linkages and interrelationships among these various concepts in terms of challenges and opportunities, from the point of view of developing countries, in the context of multilateral trade negotiations and progressive trade liberalization.

30. UNCTAD could play a useful role in clarifying issues from a development perspective and in promoting consensus. The Commission should focus, in a constructive and pragmatic way, on the conditions necessary at the national level for developing countries to maximize their development opportunities deriving from trade, and the ways in which their concerns should be taken into account, both in the multilateral process and by the international development community.

31. The multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha development agenda, together with certain bilateral and regional initiatives, and support for regional integration among developing countries, were the vehicle for pursuing market access, particularly in respect of those products and services sectors where developing countries had a comparative advantage.

32. In the services area, efforts should continue in order to help the developing countries increase their participation through negotiated specific commitments and to provide them with technical assistance so as to enable them to assess the negotiating proposals and identify the scope and impact of further liberalization. The European Union would continue its support in that area.

33. Increased market access alone and additional trade-related assistance would not automatically lead to trade expansion. There was a need to make market access more effective in order to help exporters in complying with applicable regulations and to exploit market access concessions. Supply-side constraints often acted as obstacles to trade expansion. Besides lack of investment in product capacity, important factors constraining supply responses could include inappropriate macroeconomic and tax policies, weak regulatory frameworks and implementation, dependence on a small range of low-value-added exports, high transport costs, unreliable utilities, poor telecommunications and inefficient financial services.

34. Addressing these constraints required the active participation of standard-setting bodies, and offices for standardization and registration, storage facilities, and so forth. Support services for enterprises in the areas of payments, insurance and transport also needed to be upgraded. All that required considerable resources and forward planning, and therefore additional external assistance from developed countries that complemented increased market access opportunities. Opening up to foreign investment and creating a favourable investment

climate in developing countries could boost investment from developed countries and thus expand the exporting capacity of developing countries.

35. In line with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals, the European Union would continue its financing for development and further assist with enhancing the capacities of vulnerable countries to benefit from trade opportunities, notably in the sectors where there was a potential for “win-win” opportunities, such as environmentally friendly products and organic food products.

36. With regard to the problem of commodity dependence, the European Union was committed to building the capacity to diversify through, *inter alia*, financial and technical assistance and international efforts to help mitigate the effects of the instability of commodity prices and declining terms of trade.

37. The representative of the **United States of America**, referring to the common efforts of all nations to advance economic development, and to the ties between them in this endeavour, emphasized the responsibility of Governments to create enabling environments for the private sector to perform efficiently in creating greater economic opportunities throughout the world.

38. The activities of individuals and firms in the private sector formed the engine of growth and development that generated the wealth and employment that were essential for the eradication of global poverty. While national Governments played an important role in creating environments that stimulated the entrepreneurship of individuals and firms, it was the experience of the United States that light government intervention in markets was most helpful in encouraging economic development.

39. Recognizing that the international community performed an important function in helping developing countries to improve their development prospects, the United States stressed the extremely important collective role of nations in enhancing access to their markets. Enhanced market access for developing countries could allow them to increase their share of global trade, and to that end, the United States had tabled offers at the WTO to further liberalize trade in agricultural and non-agricultural industrial goods. The United States expressed its interest in working with other Governments to increase trade opportunities for all countries.

40. He referred to the key role that regional trade agreements played in increasing market access and reducing poverty, noting that such agreements had led in numerous instances to significant increases in developing country exports to the United States. The progress at the WTO in enhancing trade had been less rapid and less significant than the United States had expected, and it would therefore continue to pursue alternative initiatives.

41. The United States viewed with great satisfaction the conduct and outcomes of UNCTAD’s Expert Meetings. The richness of the debates and the references made to successful national experiences were particularly appreciated. However, the United States

would have liked to see more references in UNCTAD's background papers to these examples of success stories, best practices and development models, and it encouraged UNCTAD to continue the approach it had adopted, particularly with respect to its work on diversification.

42. The representative of **Belarus** said that diversified commodities exports were a precondition for sustainable development. The question was how to achieve the desirable level of export diversification. UNCTAD should formulate mechanisms for export diversification for developing countries and countries in transition in order to enhance their competitiveness. These mechanisms should be an integral part of the present round of WTO negotiations. In this context, special attention should be paid to implementation of the General Assembly resolution on "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of countries in transition into the world economy", which emphasized the importance of assistance on policy issues and in providing development-related technical assistance to countries in transition with a view to furthering their integration into the world economy. Special attention should also be paid to the interests of developing countries and countries in transition in the context of their accession to the WTO, attraction of foreign investments and general globalization processes.

43. With regard to WTO accession, he emphasized that it did not provide automatic and unrestricted access for products from developing countries and economies in transition to the markets of developed countries. Furthermore, there was a clear tendency for WTO members, especially developed countries, to request acceding countries to assume additional obligations as compared with normal WTO obligations and commitments. In his view, this was neither justified nor just.

44. In conclusion, he said that his country was interested in the continuation of UNCTAD's analytical and technical support in the area of trade policy.

45. The representative of **Switzerland**, addressing item 3 of the agenda, urged the UNCTAD secretariat to continue to use its analytical competence in the areas of diversification, competitiveness and access to markets. He noted that success in diversification was contingent on market access conditions and competitiveness. If exporting countries were not competitive they could not profit from market access, and without access to markets it would be impossible to exploit the advantage of competitiveness. With regard to UNCTAD's technical assistance, it was important that it exploit its comparative advantages vis-à-vis other international organizations such as the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO and the World Bank.

46. With respect to agenda item 4, he appreciated the fact that the external and internal barriers and difficulties facing developing countries had been highlighted, including activities which developing countries themselves could undertake in order to benefit from progressive liberalization of trade in services. He fully supported the invitation and the need for developing countries to be proactive in the multilateral services negotiations.

47. He welcomed the decision by the Commission to include the item on trade, environment and development in its agenda, since environmental issues played an

increasingly important role in international trade, especially with regard to market access and competitiveness of products from developing countries. Switzerland paid particular attention to fostering the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises and relevant institutions in developing countries to comply with environmental requirements. It strongly supported the objective of deeper liberalization of tariffs and non-tariff measures on environmental goods and services, while noting that it was difficult to determine which products and services should fall into this category.

48. With regard to the Science and Technology Diplomacy Initiative, he invited UNCTAD to cooperate with agencies that specialized in the training of trade officials from developing countries, such as the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation.

49. He emphasized that UNCTAD must play an active role in the WTO post-Doha work programme and noted with pleasure that close cooperation with the WTO secretariat had been established. Special emphasis should be placed on the promotion and implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building projects in the area of trade, environment and development.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. Opening of the session

50. The seventh session of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 3 to 6 February 2003. In the course of the session, the Commission held \_\_\_\_ plenary meetings and \_\_\_\_ informal meetings. The session was opened on 3 February 2003 by Mr. Anel Enrique Béliz, Vice-President of the Commission at its sixth session.

### B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

51. At its plenary meeting, on 3 February 2003, the Commission elected its Bureau as follows:

President:	Mr. Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Papa Diop (Senegal)
	Mr. Mahdi Fakheri (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. Douglas Griffiths (United States)
	Mr. Stefano Lazzarotto (Switzerland)
	Mr. Bernard Weston (Trinidad and Tabago)
Rapporteur:	Mr. I. Gospodinov (Bulgaria)

### C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

52. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda circulated in document TD/B/COM.1/51. Accordingly, the agenda for the seventh session was as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Export diversification
4. Trade in services and development implications
5. Trade, environment and development
6. Implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission, including the post-Doha follow-up
7. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

**D. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission**

(Agenda item 7)

**E. Adoption of the report**

(Agenda item 9)

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