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on Trade and  
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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Fiftieth session

Geneva, 6 – 17 October 2003

Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION  
OF WORK OF THE SESSION**

*Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

The provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:
  - (a) Election of officers
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
  - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
  - (d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Board
2. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Capital accumulation, economic growth and structural change
3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:
  - (a) UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs
  - (b) The expected impact of recent initiatives in favour of least developed countries in the area of preferential market access
4. Economic development in Africa: Issues in Africa's trade performance
5. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
6. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its forty-first session)
  - (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Preparatory process for the eleventh session of the Conference:
  - (a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee
  - (b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference
8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-sixth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
9. Follow-up to decisions taken by the Board
10. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - (a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body, set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2002-2003 and their impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2004
  - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

- (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
  - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
  - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2004
  - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report.

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1 - Procedural matters

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

#### (a) Election of officers

2. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

3. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since UNCTAD IX, the President of the Board for the fiftieth session will be a representative of one of the States in List A (Asia) and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List B. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 3 from List B; 2 from List C; and 2 from List D.

#### (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

##### *Agenda*

4. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in section I above.

##### *Organization of work*

5. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

##### *Establishment of sessional committees*

6. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 3 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 4 to Sessional Committee II.

##### *Schedule of meetings*

7. The overall timetable for the two-week period of the Board will be circulated at a later date to take into account developments before the opening of the session.

**(c) Adoption of the report on credentials**

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

*In-session documentation*

**(d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Board**

9. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 2 - Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Capital accumulation, economic growth and structural change**

10. The Board has, as a background document for its deliberations, the *Trade and Development Report 2003*. In Part One, the *Report* examines, from a developing country perspective, the trends that have shaped the world economy in recent years, as well as future prospects for growth and development. It analyses the causes for the persistent weakness of growth in the developed countries and for the disparities in growth performance among developing countries and transition economies. It also examines recent financial flows to developing countries from a broader historical perspective and recent developments in international trade against the background of longer-term trends in the international pattern of production and output growth. In Part Two, the *TDR 2003* provides an in-depth analysis of the links between the level and structure of fixed capital formation, productivity growth, structural change, industrialization and international competitiveness in different parts of the developing world. Special attention is paid to experience with policy reforms in Latin America and remaining external imbalances and structural impediments to sustained growth.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2003

Trade and Development Report,  
2003, and Overview

**Item 3 - Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

11. Pursuant to paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, UNCTAD has continued its efforts to undertake concrete steps towards mainstreaming actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its activities and into the work of the intergovernmental machinery. Accordingly, and within its

mandates and competence, UNCTAD will continue its work on LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in implementation of the Programme of Action. Its activities will focus on research and policy analysis, consensus building, technical cooperation and capacity building.

**(a) UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs**

12. At its forty-ninth regular session, the Trade and Development Board was apprised of the progress made in the implementation of the elements of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action that fall within the purview of UNCTAD (TD/B/49/6). This year's report is intended to provide member States with information on the scale and intensity of UNCTAD's activities in these countries. It also provides indicative and preliminary lessons drawn from activities undertaken, including, wherever possible, an assessment of the results achieved. Of the lessons that can be derived from the report's findings, many are akin to those identified in the previous report. However, the report is not intended as an evaluation of the overall effectiveness and impact of activities undertaken by the secretariat. Rather, it is intended to serve as a basis for seeking Governments' views and guidance on the future course of action concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action as it relates to the mandate and competence of UNCTAD.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/3

UNCTAD-wide activities in favour  
of least developed countries: Third  
progress report

**(b) The expected impact of recent initiatives in favour of least developed countries in the area of preferential market access**

13. Recent attempts to strengthen the international competitiveness of LDCs' exports in developed country markets by granting preferential treatment to these countries' exports through various schemes and programmes have yielded mixed results so far. At its forty-ninth session, the Board requested the secretariat "in the context of its analysis of the benefits effectively derived from LDC status, to pay particular attention, on an ongoing basis, to the expected impact of the most recent initiatives in favour of LDCs in the area of preferential market access, *inter alia* the "Everything But Arms" initiative, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and other such initiatives". In response to this request, the secretariat has prepared a note that briefly reviews the recent preferential market access initiatives in favour of LDCs by the main trading partners of these countries, namely the Quad countries (Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States).

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/5                      Main recent initiatives in favour of  
least developed countries in the area of  
preferential market access: Preliminary  
impact assessment

**Item 4 -        Economic development in Africa: Issues in Africa's trade performance**

14.     The secretariat's report attempts to place in perspective the reasons for the poor performance of Africa and the declining shares of the continent in world trade. It reviews the structure and composition of Africa's trade, and the associated problems of commodity dependence; it also discusses the factors influencing both Africa's ability to diversify into more market-dynamic sectors and its competitiveness, even in its traditional exports. Finally, it discusses national and international policy measures that may be needed to help Africa overcome some of the hurdles it faces.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/6                      Economic development in Africa: issues  
in Africa's trade performance

**Item 5 -        Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries**

15.     The Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its sixth session held from 4 to 8 February 2002, recommended that the Trade and Development Board review regularly developments and issues in the Post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. At its twenty-eighth executive session, held on 12 March 2002, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Commission and endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein. The Doha work programme is scheduled to be concluded no later than 1 January 2005. By placing the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme, the Doha Declaration provides a major opportunity and challenge for all stakeholders to fully, effectively and in a timely manner integrate these needs and interests into the trade negotiations and work programme. This item provides an opportunity for the Board to discuss progress attained in the work programme in areas of interest to developing countries and review the results of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003. The secretariat will circulate a paper to assist the Board in carrying out this mandate, with particular focus on the WTO Cancún Ministerial Conference.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/8                      Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

**Item 6 - Technical cooperation activities****(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its forty-first session)**

16. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2002, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular issues related to trade and investment-related capacity building and progress in the implementation of the decision of the Board at its forty-ninth session regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the forty-first session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 15 to 19 September 2003, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2002.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/2- TD/B/WP/163	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/50/2/Add.1- TD/B/WP/163/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 2002 (English only)
TD/B/50/2/Add.2- TD/B/WP/163/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/50/7- TD/B/WP/167	Draft Technical Cooperation Strategy of UNCTAD
TD/B/50/9-TD/B/WP/168	Capacity Development

**(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people**

17. In line with the 2002-2005 United Nations Medium Term Plan and paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the UNCTAD secretariat continues to intensify its activities to assist the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment, public finance and related services. The secretariat has reported annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. The secretariat reports have also included updates of Palestinian economic and trade performance and the findings of related policy analysis and research by the secretariat.

18. In accordance with the provisions of the biennial work programme, the secretariat has prepared its 2003 report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people for consideration by the Trade and Development Board. In its first chapter, the report highlights the main



features of the Palestinian economy as a war-torn economy, assesses the impact of the protracted conflict on economic performance and private sector response, and further develops the concept of linking relief to development within the Palestinian context. Chapter two reviews UNCTAD technical assistance activities under way or completed since 2002, as well as unfunded technical cooperation proposals awaiting implementation.

19. In taking note of the report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, the Board may wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item in its report on its fiftieth Session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/4

Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the  
Palestinian people

**Item 7 - Preparatory process for the eleventh session of the Conference**

**(a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee**

20. In accordance with past practice, the Board will establish a Preparatory Committee under the chairmanship of the President of the Board in order to prepare, *inter alia*, the pre-Conference text.

*In-session documentation*

**(b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference**

21. The substantive themes for the Conference were approved by the Consultations of the President of the Board on 14 May 2003. The Board will have before it a draft provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, comprising the substantive themes already approved by member States and other standard items.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/L.1

Draft provisional agenda for UNCTAD XI

**Item 8 - Other matters in the field of trade and development:**

- **Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-sixth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

22. The thirty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 30 June to 11 July 2003. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/10	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
A/58/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its thirty-sixth session

**Item 9 - Follow-up to decisions taken by the Board**

23. The secretariat will provide an oral report under this item.

**Item 10 - Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:**

**(a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2002-2003 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2004**

24. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the President of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166.

**(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

25. At present there are 110 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/4. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

**(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

26. At present there are 190 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/6. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

*Inclusion of National NGOs in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43 (VII)*

27. The Board will be informed that, following consultations with the member State concerned, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has included "China Society for Promotion of Guangcai Programme (CSPGP)" in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43 (VII).

TD/B/50/L.3

*Documentation*

Inclusion of a national NGO in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43 (VII): China Society for Promotion of Guangcai Programme (CSPGP)

**(d) Review of the calendar of meetings**

28. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2003 and an indicative calendar for 2004.

*Documentation*

TD/B/50/L.2

UNCTAD Calendar of Meetings

**(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2004**

29. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2004 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

*In-session documentation*

**(f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

30. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

*In-session documentation, if required*

**Item 11 - Other business**

**Item 12 - Adoption of the report**

31. In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.