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Conference  
on Trade and  
Development**

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Fifty-second session  
Geneva, 3–14 October 2005  
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 fifty-second 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.

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\* The submission of this document was delayed due to the need to have the provisional agenda approved by the Consultations of the President and to take into account a decision taken by the Board at its thirty-seventh executive 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-third session of the Board
2. High-level segment: Economic growth and poverty reduction in the 1990s – Lessons from a decade of economic reform for development strategies and global partnerships in the new millennium
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: New features of global interdependence
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010:
  - (a) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs: Fourth progress report
  - (b) Erosion of preferences for the least developed countries: Assessment of effects and mitigating options
5. Economic development in Africa: The role of foreign direct investment in growth and development
6. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
7. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:
  - UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items
8. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its forty-fifth session)
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
  - (c) Investment Policy Review of Kenya
9. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies
  - (a) Report on UNCTAD XI multi-stakeholder partnerships
  - (b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus
  - (c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-fifth session (12–16 September 2005)
  - (d) Financing the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD expert meetings

10. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-eighth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 4–15 July 2005)
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 18–22 April 2005)
11. 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 2004–2005 and their impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2006
  - (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 2006
  - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
12. Other business
13. 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 fifty-second session will be a representative of one of the States in List C and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List D. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 4 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 1 from List C; and 1 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 4 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 5 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-third session of the Board**

9. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third 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: High-level segment: Economic growth and poverty reduction in the 1990s – Lessons from a decade of economic reform for development strategies and global partnerships in the new millennium**

10. According to the World Bank's *Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform*, economic reform in the 1990s had very mixed results and in most countries did not lead to sustained growth at rates sufficient to reduce poverty significantly. The high-level segment will:

- (a) Review the growth and poverty reduction record of the 1990s, including the development strategies of the most successful countries and the consequences of the key pillars of the economic reforms – macroeconomic stability, trade liberalization, financial liberalization, and privatization and deregulation (with reference to the World Bank report and country case studies, e.g. on Chile, Tunisia and Viet Nam);
- (b) Consider the latest thinking on development strategies for accelerated growth and poverty reduction (e.g. on growth diagnostics and identifying the binding constraint), based on the assessment of experience;
- (c) Consider the implications for effective global partnerships in the areas of trade, finance, investment and technology.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/7

Growth and development in the 1990s: Lessons from an enigmatic decade

**Item 3: Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: New features of global interdependence**

11. The Board has, as a background document for its deliberations, the *Trade and Development Report 2005* and its *Overview*. The *Report* reviews recent trends in the world economy from the point of view of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the factors that have contributed to faster and more broad-based growth in developing countries. It also examines the risk factors in the world economy, especially for developing countries, that could arise from the recent surge in oil prices and from the increasing global imbalances. The *Report* also provides an in-depth assessment of recent and future determinants of the trade patterns of China and India, in particular their growing share in world imports of different primary commodities and in world exports of low-skilled manufactures. It analyses the implications of fast growth in the large East and South Asian economies for primary commodity prices, puts the recent evolution of the terms of trade of developing countries into a longer-term context, and examines the real income effects of recent movements in the terms of trade of different groups of developing countries. Finally, the *Report* identifies new features in global

interdependence that may require adjustments in national development strategies as well as policy adjustments at the international level. The debate on the item will be enriched by an interactive discussion with a panel of experts.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2005  
and Overview

*Trade and Development Report, 2005*

**Item 4: Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010**

12. 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 to mainstream actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its activities and into the work of the intergovernmental machinery. Its activities will focus on research and policy analysis, consensus building, technical cooperation and capacity building.

**(a) UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs: Fourth progress report**

13. At its regular sessions, the Trade and Development Board reviews progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010 (PoA) in areas within the mandates and competence of UNCTAD. In its agreed conclusions 476(L) of 17 October 2003, the Board urged the secretariat to continue to report to the Board at its regular sessions on UNCTAD's activities in favour of LDCs, including on activities related to the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF), and emphasized the need for UNCTAD to continue to contribute to the mandated reviews by ECOSOC and the General Assembly of the implementation of the PoA. The present report (TD/B/52/3), which is prepared in response to this decision, aims at assisting the Board at its fifty-second session in its annual review of UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the PoA. The report emphasizes, among other things, the importance of constant dialogue between LDCs and their development partners to seek ways and means of enhancing the substantive impact of analytical and operational activities of UNCTAD on the trade and development prospects of these countries.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/3

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

**(b) Erosion of preferences for the least developed countries: Assessment of effects and mitigating options**

14. The Trade and Development Board, at its fiftieth session in 2003, examined the impact of recent initiatives in favour of LDCs in the area of market access. A background note by the secretariat (TD/B/50/5) pointed out that market access preferences had a beneficial impact on investment, job creation and poverty reduction through trade in several LDCs. However, erosion of market access preferences for LDCs arising from MFN tariff reduction and regional free trade arrangements was underlined as one of the most serious challenges to LDCs in their efforts to overcome their competitive disadvantages in the global economy. With this in mind, the Board asked the secretariat

"to perform analyses concerning the consequences to LDCs of the possible erosion of preferences resulting from further trade liberalization and, as appropriate, recommend measures to assist the LDCs to mitigate the adverse consequences" of this phenomenon.

15. Background note TD/B/52/4 has been prepared in response to the above request, as an interim step to examine the implications of preference erosion. It highlights the countries and products that are benefiting most from the recent preferential market access initiatives of the European Union, Japan and the United States in favour of LDCs, while pointing out that nearly 20 primary commodities of great importance to LDCs are exported to the relevant three major markets without enjoying preferential treatment, as these products are MFN duty-free or subject to a very low MFN tariff. The note briefly examines possible measures to mitigate the adverse effects of preference erosion. Besides calls for deepening existing preferences and seeking financial compensation for countries most severely affected by the erosion phenomenon, there is growing recognition of the importance of extending the notion of preferential treatment to policy areas other than market access preference. A panel of experts will discuss these issues during the fifty-second session of the Board.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/52/4	Erosion of preferences for the least developed countries: Assessment of effects and mitigating options
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#### **Item 5: Economic development in Africa: The role of foreign direct investment in growth and development**

16. The Board will have before it an overview of a report on foreign direct investment in Africa to be read in conjunction with the full study, contained in document UNCTAD/GDS/AFRICA/2005/1, which will be available in English and French. In recent years, attracting FDI has assumed a prominent place in economic development strategies as a key to financing development in African countries without increasing their indebtedness. In addition, expectations have risen that by creating jobs, transferring new technologies, and building linkages with the rest of the economy, FDI will directly address the continent's poverty challenge. Thus policy reforms aimed at improving the investment climate in African countries have increasingly been centred on attracting FDI. These reforms have not, in most circumstances, had the desired results either in increasing FDI flows in productive sectors or in ensuring more rapid growth and poverty reduction. The report proceeds from the need to take a more critical approach to evaluating the size, quality and impact of FDI in African countries.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/52/5	Economic development in Africa: Rethinking the role of foreign direct investment (Overview)
UNCTAD/GDS/AFRICA/2005/1	Economic development in Africa: Rethinking the role of foreign direct investment

**Item 6: Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries**

17. The Board has, since 2002, undertaken a regular review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. The ongoing multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha work programme represent major opportunities and challenges for assuring development gains for developing countries from the international trading system and trade negotiations. This item gives the Board an opportunity to discuss progress attained in the work programme in areas of interest to developing countries since the Decision adopted by the WTO General Council on 1 August 2004, including the “July approximation”. This is particularly timely in view of the comprehensive review in September by the General Assembly of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, as well as the forthcoming Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong (China) on 13–18 December 2005. The secretariat will circulate a note to assist the Board in carrying out this mandate.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/8                      Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

**Item 7: UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:**

- **UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items**

18. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, it invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

19. Paragraph 2 of the São Paulo Consensus states that UNCTAD is expected to make substantial contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of recent global conferences. Paragraph 10 of the same document states that UNCTAD has a special responsibility to contribute to the achievement of the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

20. The Board is expected to respond to the two requests addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27(a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a note to be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/6                      UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the



implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

**Item 8: Technical cooperation activities**

**(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (Report of the Working Party on its forty-fifth session)**

21. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2004, 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 decision 478L of the Board at its fiftieth session regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the forty-fifth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 12 to 16 September 2005, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2004.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/181	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/WP/181/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 2004 (English only)
TD/B/WP/181/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)

**(b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people**

22. In line with the 2002–2005 United Nations medium-term plan, paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action and paragraph 35 of the São Paulo Consensus, 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, development strategies, 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 on Palestinian economic and trade performance and the findings of related policy analysis and research by the secretariat.

23. According to the provisions of the biennial work programme, the secretariat has prepared its annual report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people for consideration by the Board. In its first chapter, the report reviews recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and assesses the impact of the intensification of the crisis in the last five years and its effects on poverty, production capacity and economic performance. It also proposes some elements of a pro-poor development policy framework to help provide guidance in forming a viable economy for a viable state. The second chapter reviews UNCTAD technical assistance activities underway or completed since 2004, as well as resource requirements for technical cooperation proposals awaiting implementation.

24. 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 fifty-second session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445, as well as to the pending resource constraints affecting effective implementation of the São Paulo mandate in this regard.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/2                      Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian  
People

**(c) Investment Policy Review of Kenya**

25. Investment policy reviews are intended to assist countries in improving their investment policies with a view to attracting foreign direct investment and benefiting more from it. The policy reviews are undertaken upon request by member States. The policy reviews are taken up at the intergovernmental level in order to promote the exchange of national experiences and, in particular, to familiarize Governments and investors with these countries' investment environment.

26. The Board will have before it the Investment Policy Review of Kenya. The secretariat and a high-level representative will introduce the country report, and this will be followed by deliberations of the review panel and a general discussion.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2005/8                      Investment Policy Review: Kenya

**Item 9: Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies**

**(a) Report on UNCTAD XI Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**

27. In accordance with paragraph 114 of the São Paulo consensus, the Board will annually review the implementation of the partnerships launched at UNCTAD XI in the areas of ICT for development, commodities, investment and capacity building and training, including training, academic and research institutions. An oral progress report will be provided, with information on the progress achieved in building and implementing each of the partnerships.

**(b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus**

28. In accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus, the Trade and Development Board will hold a half-day informal hearing with non-state actors to allow them to express their views on the issues before the Board. The outcome of the informal hearings will be summarized by the secretariat for submission as an input into the discussions of the Board. Participation will be based on the procedure used for the participation of civil society and private-sector organizations during the preparatory process of the Conference. The report on the hearing will be before the Board

*In-session documentation*

(c) **Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-fifth session**

29. The report of the Working Party on its forty-fifth session will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/184	Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its forty-fifth session
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(d) **Financing the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD expert meetings**

30. At its thirty-seventh session, the Board decided to add the issue of financing of experts to the agenda of its fifty-second session. At the request of the Board, the secretariat will prepare a note containing an overview of the constraints on the financing of experts, an update on the practices of other organizations as regards recourse to the regular budget to finance the travel and related costs of experts to participate in intergovernmental meetings and, if possible, proposals for the way forward.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 10: Other matters in the field of trade and development:**

(a) **Progressive development of the law of international trade: Thirty-eighth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (4–15 July 2005, Vienna)**

31. The thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 4 to 15 July 2005. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

*Documentation*

A/60/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its thirty-eighth session
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(b) **Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 18–22 April 2005)**

32. At its thirty-eighth session (18–22 April 2005), the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed ITC's technical cooperation activities in 2004 and took note of the report of the Consultative Committee on the ITC Global Trust Fund.

**Item 11: 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 2004–2005 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2006**

33. 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**

34. At present there are 111 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/5. 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**

35. At present there are 192 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 107 in the General Category and 85 in the Special Category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/7 and Corr.1. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

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

36. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2005 and an indicative calendar for 2006.

*Documentation*

TD/B/52/L.1

UNCTAD Calendar of Meetings

- (e) **Membership of the Working Party for 2006**

37. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2006 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

*In-session documentation*

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

38. 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 12: Other business**

**Item 13: Adoption of the report**

39. 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.

**TENTATIVE TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS**

1st week	Monday 3/10	Tuesday 4/10	Wednesday 5/10	Thursday 6/10	Friday 7/10
10.00 a.m.	<u>PLENARY</u> Opening: Procedural matters Statements: S-G of UNCTAD Regional groups	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 3 Interdependence	<u>SC I</u> Item 4 LDCs	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 6 Review development post-Doha	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 6 Review development post-Doha
3.00 p.m.	<u>HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT</u> Item 2 Economic growth and poverty reduction	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 3 Interdependence	<u>SC I</u> Item 4 LDCs	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 6 Review development post-Doha	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 8 (a) Review of TC activities (b) Report on Assistance to Palestinian People Item 9 (b) Hearing civil society* (c) Report of WP (d) Financing of experts
2nd week	Monday 10/10	Tuesday 11/10	Wednesday 12/10	Thursday 13/10	Friday 14/10
10.00 a.m.	<u>SC II</u> Item 5 Africa	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 8 (c) IPR of Kenya	<u>INFORMALS</u> Item 5 Africa	<u>INFORMALS</u>	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 7 - Follow-up to major UN Conferences Item 9 (a) - Partnerships Item 10 Item 11 (a to e)
3.00 p.m.	<u>SC II</u> Item 5 Africa	<u>INFORMALS</u> Item 4 LDCs	<u>BUREAU</u> Followed by <u>INFORMALS</u>	<u>INFORMALS</u>	Adoption of reports of SC I & SC II  <u>PLENARY</u> Closing: Item (c & d) Item (f) Reports of SC I & SC II All other items Adoption of report

\* The hearing with civil society will take place on 29 September 2005. On Friday, 7 October 2005, the report on the hearing will be presented to the Board.