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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Twenty-third special session  
Geneva, 8 - 12 May 2006  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA\***

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus
3. Strengthening the three pillars of UNCTAD:
  - (a) Consensus building
  - (b) Research and analysis
  - (c) Technical cooperation
4. High-level policy dialogue and the way forward
5. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Board

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\* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of the need for intergovernmental consultations on the agenda for the Mid-term Review.

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

1. The provisional agenda is contained in section I above.
2. The agenda for the twenty-third special session of the Board and basic modalities for the Mid-term Review were approved during informal consultations of the President of the Board. The purpose of the Mid-term Review is not only to review the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus, but also to take into account major events and new developments since UNCTAD XI and to give clear indication as to the direction UNCTAD should take in its work for the next two years leading to UNCTAD XII.
3. The modalities set out clearly the structure of the Mid-term Review, with a series of formal meetings to be initiated in May. The first formal meeting, primarily a stocktaking exercise with regard to the implementation of the SPC, will take place starting on 8 May. A second formal meeting starting on 12 June will focus primarily on strengthening the three pillars of UNCTAD, and a third formal meeting in September will comprise a policy dialogue at the highest possible level. This meeting will integrate, finalize and adopt the outcomes of the three formal meetings.
4. In light of the above, the twenty-third special session will be divided into three parts. The first part in May will address item 2, the second part in June will address item 3 and the third part in September will address items 4 to 7.
5. Detailed programmes will be prepared for each part of the special session. An addendum to the agenda will also be issued once more information on what the review of the three pillars of UNCTAD will entail and the topic for the high-level dialogue has been identified and approved by member States.

### **Item 2: Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus**

6. During informal consultations held by the President of the Board, it was agreed that the stocktaking exercise would be based on paragraph 9 of the São Paulo Consensus. That paragraph calls for the results achieved from the implementation of the Bangkok and São Paulo outcomes to be subject to intergovernmental review. Specifically, a Mid-term Review should be conducted by the Trade and Development Board in 2006.
7. The secretariat is preparing a stocktaking document (TD/B(S-XXIII)/2) based on the four sub-themes of the São Paulo Consensus.

### **Item 3: Strengthening the three pillars of UNCTAD:**

- (a) Consensus building**
- (b) Research and analysis**
- (c) Technical cooperation**

8. Under this item, the Board will conduct a review aimed at strengthening and enhancing the three pillars of UNCTAD. The addendum to the agenda will provide more detailed information about what the review of the three pillars will entail and the documentation to be made available.

**Item 4: High-level policy dialogue and the way forward**

9. The topic and specific modalities of the high-level policy dialogue will be identified and set out in the addendum to this agenda.

10. When considering the way forward, member States will also need to consider changes in the policy environment and take into account major events and new developments since UNCTAD XI.

**Item 5: Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:****- Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

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

**Item 6: Other business****Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Board**

12. The Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its twenty-third special session. It is envisaged that, at each part of the Mid-term Review, a report will be prepared comprising a summary of formal statements and possibly a summary by the President, as well as conclusions and recommendations that will be adopted ad referendum at the first and second parts of the session for final adoption at the last part.

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