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Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development

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Agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 8

**AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION**

1. In recognition of the importance of SMEs for economic development, growth, employment, poverty reduction and productive capacity-building, UNCTAD should continue to provide its analytical work and technical assistance to developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs), and to countries with economies in transition, on enterprise development that encompasses global and regional value chains, outward investment, supply-side improvement, research and development, and business linkages. It should assist countries in identifying policies and facilitative measures that would enhance SME competitiveness, including disseminating best practices and examining how regional integration offers opportunities and challenges for SMEs' internationalization.

2. UNCTAD should also continue to expand its technical assistance through business linkages programmes and EMPRETEC, including the launch of the EMPRETEC Africa Forum, and should continue to seek the necessary extrabudgetary resources for such activities.

3. Given the critical role played by transport and trade facilitation in enhancing the efficiency of supply chains, while analysing and reporting on issues and developments relating to international transport and trade facilitation and their implications for developing countries with a focus on the special situation of landlocked and transit developing countries, UNCTAD should pay particular attention to identifying and analysing the linkages between access to and supply of transport services, a facilitative trade environment and development prospects within globalized trade and production networks.

4. UNCTAD should enhance cooperation with member States in their effort to devise and implement national and international policies aimed at promoting transport and trade facilitation, including transport and transit corridors, in coordination with other relevant organizations. Assistance should continue to be provided to developing countries, in particular LDCs, and to countries with economies in transition to support their participation in transport and trade facilitation negotiations, particularly in the context of the Doha Development Round.

5. With a view to maximizing the benefits derived from the information economy, it is important to assess the economic impact of ICT, to develop national and international ICT strategies (through, for example, ICT master plans) and to adopt an appropriate legal framework for e-commerce. UNCTAD, taking into account the work of other relevant organizations, through its research and policy-oriented analytical work, as well as technical cooperation, should assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, and countries with economies in transition in identifying approaches, strategies and policies on ICT.

6. Recalling the agreement in ECOSOC resolution 2006/46 that the system-wide follow-up of WSIS shall have a strong development orientation, UNCTAD should continue its role in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as in the follow-up to the WSIS in its capacity as secretariat to the CSTD, as laid down in the WSIS outcome documents and the relevant ECOSOC resolutions.

7. Recognizing the importance of building knowledge and skills in support of policymaking in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, UNCTAD should continue its work on the strengthening of local training, research and policymaking capacities with regard to trade, investment, enterprise development, technology, finance and development issues through the training programmes of the Virtual Institute, TrainForTrade and Paragraph 166 programmes, including through the innovative use of ICTs and distance learning, as well as networks and partnerships with other agencies, international organizations and bilateral development partners for training and research; and encourage the links between researchers and policymakers and the exchange of experiences and best practices in the development of sustainable capacities for trade and development.