United Nations

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Twelfth session
Accra, Ghana
20–25 April 2008

Draft report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its twelfth session

Held in Accra, Ghana, from 20 to 25 April 2008

Rapporteur: Mr. Darius Kurek (Switzerland)

I. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Opening of the Conference

(Agenda item 1)

1. The inaugural ceremony of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was held on 20 April 2008 at the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana. Opening statements were made by Mr. Luiz Inácio da Silva, President of Brazil, Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor, President of Ghana, and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The session was opened by Mr. Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of Brazil, speaking in his capacity as outgoing President of UNCTAD XI.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 2)

2. At its 270th (opening) plenary meeting, on 20 April 2008, the Conference elected by acclamation as its President Mr. Joe Baidoe-Ansah, Minister of Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives of Ghana.

C. Establishment of sessional bodies

(Agenda item 3)

3. At the same meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider and report on the specific substantive item referred to it by the plenary (agenda item 8). It was recalled that, in line with rule 63 of the rules of procedure, the Committee of the Whole could set up such drafting groups as might be required to carry out its function.

D. Election of vice-presidents and the Rapporteur

(Agenda item 4)

4. At the same meeting, the Conference decided that its Bureau would consist of 35 members, comprising the President, the vice-presidents, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, and the Rapporteur of the Conference. It further decided that the composition of the Bureau should be such as to ensure equitable geographical distribution, i.e. seven members from Africa, seven from Asia, seven from Latin America and the Caribbean, nine from Group B, four from Group D, and China. It waived rule 58 of the rules of procedure concerning procedures for the election of members of the Bureau, and declared the following officers elected:

Chair of the Committee of the Whole:

Mr. Petko Draganov	Bulgaria

Vice-presidents:

Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia	Algeria
Mr. Alfredo Chiaradia	Argentina
Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury	Bangladesh
Mr. Andrei Savinykh	Belarus
Mr. Don Stephenson	Canada
Mr. Yi Xiaozhun	China
Mr. Youssouf Soumahoro	Côte d'Ivoire
Mr. Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz	Cuba
Mr. Ramzy Ezeldin Ramzy	Egypt

Ms. Ana Vilma Albanez de Escobar	El Salvador
Mr. Pierre Jacquemont	France
Ms. Dagmar Wöhrl	Germany
Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie	Indonesia
Mr. Seyed Masoud Mir Kazemi	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Mr. Ronald Robinson	Jamaica
Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama	Japan
Ms. Luz María de la Mora Sánchez	Mexico
Mr. Abdellatif Mazouz	Morocco
Mr. Hakon Arald Gulbrandsen	Norway
Mr. Ahmed Ba Omar	Oman
Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi	Pakistan
Mr. Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinel	Peru
Ms. Erlinda A. Basilio	Philippines
Mr. João Gomes Cravinho	Portugal
Mr. Vladimir Tkachenko	Russian Federation
Ms. Marija Adanja	Slovenia
Mr. Alexander Erwin	South Africa
Mr. Pedro Mejía Gómez	Spain
Mr. Noppadon Pattama	Thailand
Mr. Nelson Gagawala Wambuyi	Uganda
Ms. Dawn Shackleford	United States of America
Mr. Jorge Valero	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Darius Kurek	Switzerland

5.   In accordance with past practice, the Conference decided that the coordinators of regional groups would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau.

E.   Credentials of representatives to the Conference
(Agenda item 5)

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

6.   Also at its opening plenary meeting, on 20 April 2008, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Conference established a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members. In accordance with past practice, the Committee was to be composed of the same nine States as appointed by the General Assembly to serve on the Credentials Committee at its sixty-second session. The composition of the Credentials Committee was thus as follows: Angola, China, Chile, Namibia, Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Suriname and the United States of America.

F.   Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 6)

7.   At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda for its eleventh session, as contained in document TD/414.

G. Venue of the thirteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

8.　Also at the opening plenary meeting, Mr. Yusef Hussein Kamal, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Economy and Commerce of Qatar, announced his Government's offer to host the thirteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), in 2012.

9.　The Chair of the Group of 77 and China made a statement welcoming the offer by the Government of Qatar.

10.　The President of the Conference, speaking on behalf of the Conference, welcomed the offer, which he took as a sign of confidence in UNCTAD and which augured well for the success of UNCTAD XII.

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