



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: Limited
28 September 2009

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Fifty-sixth session
Geneva, 14–25 September 2009

**Draft report of Sessional Committee I
to the Trade and Development Board
at its fifty-sixth session**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 14 to 25 September 2009

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Sessional Committee I

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

Agreed conclusions

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Takes note of the Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance*, prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, and encourages UNCTAD in this regard to continue to improve the quality of its research and analysis, and also to enhance the dissemination of its findings for consideration of the member States;

2. Recognizing that the financial and economic crisis, as well as highly volatile prices of food and energy, have been seriously threatening to reverse the economic and social progress achieved by least developed countries (LDCs) during recent years, including their attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, *encourages* donors and potential donors in a position to do so to continue and increase their development assistance, with a view to meeting commitments and also the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action; *encourages* LDCs to enhance their efforts at productive capacity-building, economic diversification and domestic resource mobilization; and calls upon UNCTAD to focus its activities with these objectives in view;

3. *Reaffirms* that trade will increasingly continue to be relied upon by LDCs to generate the resources for financing growth and development, to complement those from official development assistance and private capital flows;

4. *Appreciates* the quality of the *Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance*; stresses the importance of government policies to promote development and poverty reduction in LDCs, including agricultural and industrial policies which contribute to developing productive capacities, whilst stressing the importance of a conducive environment for business and private sector initiative;

5. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for development in LDCs rests with LDCs themselves, but that their efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support from Governments and international organizations in the spirit of shared responsibility through genuine partnership, including with civil society and the private sector;

6. *Recognizes* that food security is a global priority and crucial for LDCs, appreciates the international and national initiatives in tackling this challenge and, in this regard, requests the international community to continue to support the LDCs' efforts in ensuring food security;

7. *Encourages* further promotion of good governance that contributes to development and supports economic growth, structural change, inclusive development and poverty reduction, and invites development partners to support such initiatives of the LDCs;

8. *Reaffirms*¹ that the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the LDCs;

9. *Recalls* the decision of General Assembly resolution 63/227 to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in 2011, and requests UNCTAD, within its mandate, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the conference itself;

10. *Thanks* the contributors to the UNCTAD LDCs Trust Fund, expresses concern that the fund never reached its intended level, and invites donors and potential donors in a position to do so to make financial contributions to the Trust Fund for use in accordance with the terms of reference of the Trust Fund to ensure, inter alia, full and effective participation of the LDC representatives and their civil society actors in the preparatory processes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries and at the conference itself; also invites extrabudgetary contributions from donors and potential donors in a position to do so to enable the UNCTAD secretariat to enhance its substantive and technical contributions to the preparatory processes and to the conference;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to review the human resources requirements of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, in light of its mandates and activities, and to report to the next regular session of the Trade and Development Board with a plan to allocate to the division adequate resources while respecting UNCTAD's agreed overall budget level;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, within existing resources, to ensure that future major publications of UNCTAD, as appropriate, particularly the flagship reports,² address the special and particular challenges of the LDCs.

¹ Inter alia as in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 63/227 and in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/37.

² *Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, Least Developed Countries Report, Economic Development in Africa Report, Information Economy Report, Maritime Transport Review and Technology and Innovation Report.*