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on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board

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**Draft report of the Trade and Development Board on its
fifty-eighth session**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 12 to 23 September 2011

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Sessional Committee I

Implementation of the outcome from LDC–IV: UNCTAD's contribution

Draft agreed conclusions

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the UNCTAD secretariat as contained in TD/B/58/7 and encourages it to continue to report to the Board, within UNCTAD's mandate, at its regular sessions, on the UNCTAD-wide implementation of the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2011–2020;

2. *Recalls* that the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action provide a solid basis for a strengthened framework for partnership between LDCs and their development partners for the present decade;

3. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs and for the concrete deliverables the Government of Turkey announced during the Conference, including a commitment to host an "International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre" to assist the transfer and diffusion of technology and know-how to LDCs;

4. *Urges* LDCs and their development partners to pursue the expeditious, full and effective implementation of the agreed priorities and targets contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to "overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the Least Developed Country category";

5. *Stresses* the need for building LDCs' productive capacities; enhancing their trade and investment opportunities, including by all countries honouring their respective commitments on duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs, as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration of the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; and improving the quality of development aid, as well as addressing LDCs' vulnerability to economic shocks and natural disaster, in order to attain the objective of meeting the graduation criteria for half the LDCs by 2020;

6. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of ownership, leadership and primary responsibility of LDCs and, in this regard, encourages them to improve the quality of – and strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement – domestic policies, in order to accelerate development, including mainstreaming the priorities contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, into their national policies and strategies, with international cooperation;

7. *Notes with concern* the continued commodity overdependence of LDCs, and requests the UNCTAD secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant agencies such as the Common Fund for Commodities and International Trade Centre, to assist LDCs to address the negative impact of commodity price volatility on their economies, inter alia, through diversification and value addition, as well as by integrating the commodity sector into their national development strategies;

8. *Urges* UNCTAD to continue, pursuant to paragraph 156 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, to address the trade and development challenges facing LDCs,

including by mainstreaming the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the secretariat, and in its intergovernmental machinery, with a strengthened interdivisional coordination and follow-up mechanism, in accordance with the mandate of UNCTAD, within UNCTAD's existing resources and subject to the decisions of UNCTAD-XIII, to be held in Doha in April 2012;

9. *Encourages* member States in a position to do so to support the participation of LDCs in the Thirteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-XIII);

10. *Underscores* the importance of strengthened inter-agency cooperation between UNCTAD and other relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, activities in support of the LDCs;

11. *Recognizing* that UNCTAD's LDC Trust Fund is an important vehicle for enabling technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in LDCs, and for the successful implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and appreciating the contributions to the LDC Trust Fund, calls on development partners in a position to do so to continue to contribute to the LDC Trust Fund.
