

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Friday, 20 September 2013

Sessional Committee I – First plenary meeting

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries: Second progress report (TD/B/60/8)

H.E. Mr. Thomas Fitschen (Germany), Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting. The Committee elected Ms. Lillian Saili Bwalya (Zambia) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, made the opening statement. Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, introduced the report of the secretariat (TD/B/60/8).

Representatives of the following countries made general statements: Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Haiti (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Iraq (on behalf of the Asian Group), Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), the European Union, Benin (on behalf of the least developed countries), China, the United States of America, Nepal, South Africa, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Angola and Barbados.

H.E. Mr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar, delivered the keynote address.

Mr. Khalil Rahman, Chief of Policy Coordination for Least Developed Countries, made a statement on behalf of Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

In the interactive debate that followed, statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Benin (on behalf of the Least Developed Countries), Indonesia, Angola and Congo. Concluding remarks were made by H.E. Mr. Zaw, Mr. Rahman and Mr. Tesfachew.

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Item 10 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, presented the report of the secretariat (TD/B/60/8). Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Indonesia (on behalf of the Group of 77), Iraq (on behalf of the Asian Group), the Philippines, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group) and El Salvador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).

The Board took note of the report.

Item 15 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

- (a) **Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2012–2013 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2014**

H.E. Mr. Jüri Seilenthal of Estonia, President of the Advisory Body, gave a detailed report on the work of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action.

On behalf of the African Group, the representative of Ethiopia expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat.

The Board took note of the report of the President of the Advisory Body as contained in TD/B/60/CRP.2.

Item 13 Other matters in the field of trade and development

- (a) **Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-sixth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

The Board took note of the report of UNCITRAL on its forty-sixth session (A/68/17).

- (b) **Report of the Trade and Development Commission**

Mr. Kazem Asayesh presented the report of the fifth session of the Trade and Development Commission, on behalf of the Chair, Mr. Reza Najafi of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Board took note of the report of the Trade and Development Commission on its fifth session as contained in TD/B/C.I/31.

In accordance with paragraph 204 of the Accra Accord, the Board considered and approved the topics to be considered at the sixth session of the Trade and Development Commission and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

The approved topics for the Trade and Development Commission are as follows:

- (a) The future of trade multilateralism in the context of the evolving global development agenda;
- (b) Developing sustainable and resilient transport systems in view of emerging challenges.

The approved topics for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission are as follows:

- (a) Entrepreneurship and productive capacity-building: Creating jobs through enterprise development;
- (b) Technology and innovation for inclusive development.

Item 14 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Item 11(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

In line with past practice, it was noted that item 14 had automatically included item 11 (a), as it was one of the items being considered by the Working Party early this month. H.E. Mr. Andrey Popov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus, presented the outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party on behalf of its Chair, H.E. Mr. Mikhail Khvostov of Belarus.

The Board considered the decision under item 11(a) and approved it as presented in TD/B/WP/255.

The Board took note of the report of the Working Party at its sixty-fifth session and endorsed the agreed conclusions as contained in TD/B/WP/255.