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Addendum

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President's summary

Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012

(Agenda item 12 (a))

1. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD briefed member States on progress made by the secretariat in implementing the workplan agreed by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-ninth session and indicated the specific measures and initiatives taken by the secretariat across the workplan's seven areas. He noted the additional measures, introduced by the UNCTAD Secretary-General since September 2013, aimed at creating a culture of continuous improvement in the secretariat, such as actions to further operationalize the results-based management framework and to strengthen internal accountability.
2. Many delegations welcomed the efforts and commitment made by the Secretary-General to enhance the management and administration of UNCTAD.
3. The representative of one regional group requested that close and regular follow-up of the implementation of the workplan should continue, with regular updates at sessions of the Board in the lead up to UNCTAD XIV in 2016.
4. The representative of another regional group and one delegation underlined that the sessions of the Board should be on substantive issues, which were of greater relevance and importance to developing countries.
5. The representatives of some regional groups underscored the importance of improving results-based management and strengthening the oversight function. One representative urged the secretariat to specify concrete actions and timelines in implementing the results-based management framework. The representative of another regional group noted that adequate resources should be allocated towards monitoring and evaluation functions in order to better support decision-making and accountability.
6. Some delegations welcomed efforts towards improved communications, including better use of web statistics. Some other delegations requested that a directory of UNCTAD staff be made available. The representative of one regional group urged UNCTAD to optimize the Delegates Portal in relation to disseminating information to member States.
7. The representative of one regional group recommended that the secretariat further reduce the dissemination of hard copies of publications, consider more biannual publications, and improve the format of publications. The representatives of some regional groups encouraged the secretariat to ensure greater coherence, especially on flagship reports. One delegation stated that the divergent Internet capacities of countries precluded reliance on electronic modes of dissemination of UNCTAD publications.
8. The representative of one regional group encouraged UNCTAD to further enhance synergies within its three pillars, both internally and externally, and urged avoiding duplication of technical assistance activities in particular.
9. The representative of one regional group encouraged the secretariat to further improve human resources management in a more systematic, efficient and transparent manner, beyond issues of geographical and gender balance, and to continue improving transparency and communications with member States on this subject. The representatives of some other regional groups sought statistics and targets on gender and geographic representation, and one representative requested that the secretariat use performance indicators to show progress made in this area.