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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,
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Agenda item 7

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOLLOWING THE DOHA
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, AND RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD

Agreed conclusions^{*/}

1. The Commission welcomes the plan for “Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries, Especially LDCs, and Economies in Transition in Support of their Participation in the WTO Doha Work Programme,” which underscores the need to give special attention to LDCs’ concerns in the light of their specific requirements (UNCTAD/RMS/TCS/1, 5 February 2002, as presented by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.)
2. The Commission recognizes the contribution of UNCTAD’s work programme on trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy, trade information and analysis, competition policy, trade and environment, and commodities in promoting the effective integration of developing countries and countries in transition into the multilateral trading system.
3. The Commission further recognizes the needs of all developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small, vulnerable economies and economies in

^{*/} As adopted by the Commission at its closing plenary meeting on 8 February 2002.

transition, for capacity building with long-term and sustainable impact and technical assistance to better articulate their trade interests and enhance their negotiating capacity to participate effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, as well as in accession negotiations, in order to create opportunities and build and develop capacities for the exports of their goods, services and commodities. To this end, the Commission emphasizes the need for strengthened and adequately resourced assistance to respond to these needs, as specified in paragraph 41 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

4. Accordingly, the Commission calls on UNCTAD to provide enhanced technical assistance to potential beneficiary countries in the areas of trade negotiations, human and institutional capacity-building, and policy analysis and development. In the provision of assistance, the interests of all developing countries should be taken into account. The areas of focus, as requested by the potential beneficiaries, should include: agriculture; services; implementation issues; WTO rules; market access; regional integration; environment; competition; trade, debt and finance; and transfer of technology. With a view to capitalizing on possible synergies and avoiding duplication, UNCTAD is encouraged to continue cooperation with WTO and other relevant international organizations, the UN regional commissions, and regional institutions, as appropriate, taking full account of their management capacity. In order to support the development strategies of recipient countries and yield the expected long-term benefits, the delivery of technical assistance should be well coordinated and sequenced.

5. The Commission urges all donors and countries in a position to do so to provide the UNCTAD secretariat with the necessary means and assistance to undertake the above-mentioned plan for “Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries, Especially LDCs, and Economies in Transition in support of their Participation in the WTO Doha Work Programme”. The practical implementation of the plan should not be at the expense of the resources devoted to ongoing work, with full use being made of possible synergies. The deadlines agreed upon in the Doha Ministerial Declaration should be taken into account when implementing the plan so as to provide assistance in a timely manner.

6. The Commission welcomes contributions to the LDC Trust Fund.

7. The Commission invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue his consultations with regional and subregional groups and individual delegations with a view to identifying their specific immediate and longer-term needs. The Commission also invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to pursue consultations with potential donors. Both processes should be aimed at improving the plan.

8. The Commission requests the UNCTAD secretariat to regularly monitor the progress on the Doha Work Programme from the point of view of development issues and, upon request, provide substantive support to various bodies of the WTO and the members.

9. The Commission recommends that the Trade and Development Board review regularly developments and issues in the post-Doha Work Programme of particular concern to developing countries.

10. The Commission requests the UNCTAD secretariat to report to its next session about the progress made in this respect.