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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Commission on Investment, Technology  
and Related Financial Issues  
Eleventh session  
Geneva, 8–14 March 2007  
Agenda item 10

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INVESTMENT,  
TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES ON  
ITS ELEVENTH SESSION**

Held at the Palais des Nations  
from 8 to 14 March 2007

Rapporteur: Mr. Edward Brown (United Kingdom)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

(Agenda item 9)

### *Chairperson's summary*

1. The Chairperson of the session opened the meeting devoted to the Meeting of Experts on FDI, Technology and Competitiveness with a special tribute to the late Professor Sanjaya Lall, whose work with UNCTAD, UNIDO and other UN organizations had provided the inspiration for the event. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD followed with remarks stressing Professor Lall's contribution to UNCTAD's activities, especially in the area of technology and technology transfer. The Secretary-General announced the launch of the UNCTAD–UNIDO–ITC joint training initiative on industrial, investment and trade policy management. The Director of UNCTAD's Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Competitiveness stressed the importance and significance of that initiative. The Director-General of UNIDO underlined the importance of policy coherence and contribution of the training initiative to that end. In addition, the Deputy Executive Director of ITC expressed his appreciation of Professor Lall's contribution to the work of international organizations, emphasizing the role of women and SMEs in the promotion of economic development. Rani Lall, the wife of Professor Lall, then expressed her gratitude for the tribute paid in the session and explained her efforts to establish a Chair in his honour at Oxford University, in order to institutionalize the intellectual legacy of this distinguished researcher.

2. Frances Stewart then briefed the Commission on the Meeting of Experts. Among the major issues identified were the following:

- Both industrial (e.g. in China) and primary sectors (e.g. in parts of Africa) could be key drivers for sustainable development.
- Some crucial implications of the rise of large-scale economies, such as India and China, for other developing countries, had not yet been adequately addressed.
- TNCs from developing countries were here to stay and would remain an important issue for some time, especially in the context of South–South cooperation. The relevant trends should be monitored and analysed, especially regarding the impact on host and home economies.
- Major institutional and infrastructure inequalities contributed to the varying FDI attractiveness of developing countries, with Africa specifically suffering from such deficits. Efforts needed to be made to address those inequalities at a fundamental level.

3. The representative of India then praised Professor Lall's work and expressed his support for the establishment of a Chair in his honour at Oxford University.

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