

**UNCTAD/AB/Misc.2**

**9 April 2002**

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

**Report on the Meeting of the Advisory Body regarding paragraph 166  
of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action**

**Friday, 8 March 2002**



**UNITED NATIONS**



## **I. Introduction**

1. The Advisory Body met to discuss the final evaluation that the secretariat had conducted on the first training course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda. This final evaluation is contained in document TD/B/EX(28)/2/Add. 2.

## **II. Final evaluation**

2. The final evaluation was to assess the impact the course had had on the work of the 18 participants and their Departments, six months after the end of the training course in July 2001. The questionnaire for the final evaluation was sent out in December 2001 and replies were received and analysed by February 2002. The secretariat received replies from 15 participants (including five LDC participants) and 13 supervisors from the sending departments. A representative of the UNCTAD secretariat briefly described the impact of the course on the participants' work, the opinion of supervisors, and how effective the impact had been on the Departments' work. Generally, all participants reported, and supervisors confirmed, the positive impact the course has had on participants' knowledge and application of such knowledge and training to their jobs, including the direct relevance this has for their work, which has enhanced the participants' contributions to the work programme of the sending Department. Supervisors commented that two different courses could be offered – one for junior officials over a longer duration, and another for senior officials, focussed on a particular topic for a shorter period.

3. In response to his question, the member from Spain was informed that evaluations of the individual components of the course were made immediately after the end of each module, and this information could be found in the main report of the secretariat.

4. The member from Ethiopia asked if promotions had actually taken place for some participants as a result of their attendance at the training course. One supervisor from Zambia confirmed that a participant had been posted as Country Trade Representative to Washington, while another had been confirmed in her position as Principal Assistant Secretary in the International Trade Division/Mauritius. Others were being considered for promotion due to their attendance at the training course.

5. The members from Ethiopia, Colombia and Uruguay stated their satisfaction with the final evaluation conducted by the secretariat of the first training course.

## **III. Direct cost of the first training course**

6. The secretariat reported that it had cost \$5742 for each participant who attended the first training course. This included consultants' fees and travel, travel for UNCTAD staff, and group training fees and other miscellaneous costs. About 68 per cent of this cost had been paid as daily subsistence allowance, i.e. the cost for board and food for participants. LDCs' travel costs amounted to \$27,657 for all six participants. The other 12 participants' travel costs had been met by their Governments, as indicated in the notification for the training course. Further, a total of 12 work months of UNCTAD staff had been used for preparations, travel and delivery of the contents of the first training course.

7. In a reply to the member from Uruguay, the secretariat stated that the cost per participant would have been slightly lower if more participants had attended, but there would have been little difference to the number of working days expended by the trainers. If the same course were repeated, it was unlikely that the overall cost would be any lower.

#### **IV. Presentation of proposals for deliveries in 2002 and 2003**

8. The secretariat proposed that the next Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda would focus on Trade and Development as the central theme with linkages to sectoral issues to reflect their interrelationships. This would be held in Geneva and Turin from 17 July to 13 August 2002. Forty participants, ten from LDCs would be invited to attend the course. The costs for participants selected from those countries that had participated in the first course would have to be borne entirely by their Governments, including DSA and travel. Trainees could include university lecturers to ensure dissemination of information. Two other courses, one in Asia (Bangkok) and the other in Latin America could be envisaged for fall 2002. As for 2003, one course each in Africa and in countries with economies in transition, and one other could be organized by the secretariat. Distance learning would become a regular tool for the new training courses, as this would allow for savings in terms of staff travel and DSA.

9. A tentative schedule for the preparation of the next training course was handed to all members.

10. A debate followed on the deliveries in 2002 and 2003 as reported below.

##### **1. Sequence of courses and selection of target group**

11. In response to his question, the Colombian member was informed that these six courses would be independent of each other, in that there would not be a sequence to the courses with regard to their content. The courses held at the regional level could have a focus specific to the region and hence diverge from the central theme offered at Geneva-Turin as planned for 2002.

12. The President of the Advisory Body inquired if the secretariat could deliver two courses – one for junior trade officials and another for senior officials. The member from Uruguay felt that middle-level officials stood to benefit most from these courses; senior officials were usually unavailable even for courses of short duration.

##### **2. Objective of paragraph 166, location and language of delivery**

13. The member from Uruguay told the secretariat that the principle objective of paragraph 166 was to establish such capacity training activities as a permanent feature of UNCTAD's regular work programme, with their management firmly integrated into the organizational structure. He stated that regional courses were a departure from the mandate of paragraph 166, but he was agreeable to the second course being conducted in Geneva-Turin and repeated again in 2003. Regional courses could be

held at regional commissions. The format of the Geneva-Turin course could be maintained for regional courses.

14. The member from Iran was concerned that with English as the only language in which the courses could be delivered, the central Asia region would miss out on its opportunities to benefit from these courses.

15. The member from Spain said he would prefer that the Advisory Body meet again in a month to discuss the deliveries at the regional level. This would give members a chance to study the reports by the secretariat and to formulate their ideas on the themes and location for regional courses.

16. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD advised that regional courses would address to some extent the requests for deliveries in other languages. The secretariat would welcome propositions from host Governments to provide for interpretation at their cost.

### **3. Funding**

17. In response to his question, the member from Spain was advised that funds available from the Development Account were available on a one-time only basis and must be spent before end 2003. It was not conceivable to allude to Section 21 of the budget for funds for this activity, and it was highly unlikely that the Working Party could take up the issue, as Section 21 was not part of the regular budget.

### **Conclusion**

18. The Advisory Body accepted the secretariat's proposal to conduct the second training course in Geneva-Turin, as envisaged in paragraph 8 above. There would be no trainees from academia, as these courses were aimed at trade officials.

19. The Advisory Body would meet again before end April 2002 to decide on the theme and location of regional courses in 2002.

**List of Participants**  
**Advisory Body Meeting, Geneva, 8 March 2002**

**Members:**

Tanzania	H.E. Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (President)
Belarus	Mr. Vladimir Malevich
Colombia	H.E. Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez Mr. Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco
Ethiopia	H.E. Mr. Fisseha Yimer Aboye
India	Ms. Homai Saha
Iran	H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Alborizi
Malaysia	H.E. Ms. Hussain Rajmah Mr. Rahim Zainuddin Zainol
Morocco	H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale
Peru	H.E. Mr. Jorge Voto-Bernales
Russia	Mr. A. Peragov
Spain	Mr. Antonio Luis Bullon Camarasa
Uruguay	H.E. Mr. Carlos Perez Del Castillo Mr. Frederico Perazza

**Secretariat:**

Mr. Carlos Fortin	Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Reinaldo Figuerado	
Mr. Peter Froehler	
Mr. John Burley	
Ms. Gloria Koch	
Mr. Karma Tenzing	
Mr. Mohandas Panicker	