SUMMARY OF MEETINGS Thursday, 9 October 2003

First and second meetings

- Item 3 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:
 - (a) <u>UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs</u>
 - (b) The expected impact of recent initiatives in favour of least developed countries in the area of preferential market access

The Chairman, Mr. Marc Giacomini (France) opened the Sessional Committee, and elected Mr. Patrick Krappie (South Africa) was elected Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, addressed the Committee.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Special Coordinator for the LDCs, Landlocked and Small Island Developing States introduced the item.

The following representatives made statements: Thailand (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Benin (on behalf of the least developed countries); Oman (on behalf of the Asian Group and China); Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African Group); Haiti (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group); Bangladesh; China; the United States of America; the Russian Federation; Japan; Afghanistan; Italy (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries — Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia - aligned themselves with this statement); and Nepal.

At its second meeting, the Sessional Committee continued its general debate under this agenda item with statements from the following representatives: Ethiopia; Mauritania; Zambia; Norway; and Uganda.

It then pursued its deliberations in an informal interactive debate on agenda item 4(b) with the following panellists: H.E. Mr. Mpho M. Malie, Minister of Trade, Lesotho, and Mr. William Cline, Joint Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development, Institute for International Economics, Washington, D.C.