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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Second meeting of the Mid-term Review process
Geneva, 25 February - 1 March 2002

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS**

Rapporteur: Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

Speakers:
Bangladesh (for the LDCs)

Note for delegations

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.
Requests for amendments to statements by individual delegations should be communicated
by **Wednesday, 6 March 2002** at the latest, to:

UNCTAD Editorial Section, Room E.8104, Fax No. 907 0056, Tel. No. 907 5656/1066.

Chapter I

OPENING STATEMENTS

1. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that it was vital for the Bangkok Plan of Action to be implemented fully, and the LDCs reiterated their full commitment to the principles enshrined therein.
2. At the conclusion of the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process, there had seemed to be some confusion concerning the creation of the Office of the High Representative in New York. However, the functions of that Office actually complemented the functions of UNCTAD; the functions of the Office of the High Representative consisted of system-wide coordination, advocacy and reporting, while UNCTAD's functions continued to consist of providing the analytical and substantive support that the LDCs required. The General Assembly had stressed that UNCTAD's functions should be strengthened, and that was the wish of the LDCs.
3. There was a broad measure of support for the idea that UNCTAD, in reviewing the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, should devote special attention to two events that had occurred since UNCTAD X, namely the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference. In that connection, the Bangkok Plan of Action clearly stated that the LDCs should have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD.
4. Concerning the future work of UNCTAD, over the past decade the LDCs had failed to take advantage of the concessions offered by their development partners, and it might be that LDCs were often not aware of those concessions. That must be remedied. The Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 and the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Conference contained several commitments and best endeavour provisions in favour of LDCs. UNCTAD could analyse those, make an inventory and study their potential effectiveness in the LDCs, thereby helping LDCs to understand what was being offered to them.
5. In document E/2001/CRP.5 of July 2001, UNCTAD had summarized the theoretical benefits of LDC status in terms of the LDCs' structural handicaps, but it had indicated that an analysis was needed of the benefits effectively derived by the LDCs. UNCTAD should do that analysis as soon as possible.
6. Finally, it was hoped that, in the review of the intergovernmental machinery, a solution would be found to the problem of financing the participation of experts, and that the secretariat would table recommendations on the possible conversion of the Board's sessional committee to a standing committee.

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

7. The second meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 25 February 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, by Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the Board.

B. Officers

8. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President: Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation)
Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh)
Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic)
Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America)
Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand)
Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda)
Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan)
Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia)
Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)

Rapporteur: Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. At the opening meeting, the agenda was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery
3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action
4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report