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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Fifty-first session

Geneva, 4 – 15 October 2004

Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION
OF WORK OF THE SESSION**

*Note by the UNCTAD secretariat**

The provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

* The submission of this document was delayed due to the need to take into account the outcome of UNCTAD XI.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
 - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
 - (d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Board
2. High-level segment: Follow-up to UNCTAD XI: New developments in international economic relations
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Policy coherence, development strategies and integration into the world economy
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010
5. Economic development in Africa: Issues relating to Africa's debt sustainability
6. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
7. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:
 - (a) UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items
 - (b) Report by the President of the Trade and Development Board on his participation in the high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization
8. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its forty-third session)
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
 - (c) Investment Policy Review of Sri Lanka
9. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies
 - (a) Report on UNCTAD XI multi-stakeholder partnerships
 - (b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus

- (c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-third session, 13-17 September 2004
10. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
- (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-seventh annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (14–25 June 2004, New York)
 - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 26–30 April 2004)
11. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
- (a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2003–2004 and their impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2005
 - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
 - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
 - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
 - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2005
 - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Procedural matters

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

2. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended).

3. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since UNCTAD IX, the President of the Board for the fifty-first session will be a representative of one of the States in List B and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List A (Africa). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 3 from List B; 2 from List C; and 2 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

4. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

5. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session have been organized in such a way that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

Establishment of sessional committees

6. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 4 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 5 to Sessional Committee II.

Schedule of meetings

7. The overall timetable for the two-week period of the Board will be circulated at a later date to take into account developments before the opening of the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Board

9. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 - High-level segment: Follow-up to UNCTAD XI: New developments in international economic relations

10. Major transformations are under way in the world economy and international economic relations. An important aspect of these changes is the emergence of a new trade geography in which the South is increasingly playing a more prominent role in both North-South and South-South trade relations. Properly channelled, this process can make important contributions to long-term sustained growth of the world economy and trade, as well as to the timely realization of the Millennium Development Goals. It seems, moreover, that this new trend is not confined to trade relations only. Similar patterns are also emerging in international investment flows, suggesting the possible emergence of a new geography of international investment relations. A key question is how the international community can work together to ensure that the emerging international economic geography is harmonious and beneficial to all countries and peoples, particularly the poor and women. Development solidarity in favour of the South on the part of Governments, global corporations and other actors in the North will be important, and the issues of national policy space and corporate responsibility are relevant in this respect. The high-level segment provides an important opportunity to examine the policy implications that arise in connection with these new developments.

Documentation

TD/B/51/6	Follow-up to UNCTAD XI: New developments in international economic relations
TD/404	New geography of international trade: South-South cooperation in an increasingly interdependent world

Item 3 - Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Policy coherence, development strategies and integration into the world economy

11. The Board has, as a background document for its deliberations, the *Trade and Development Report 2004*. In Part One, the *Report* examines, from a developing country perspective, recent trends in the world economy and short-term prospects for growth and development. It analyses the geographical pattern of the present recovery and the remaining imbalances in world trade. It also examines the recent increase in international capital flows and foreign reserve accumulation from a development perspective. In Part Two, the *TDR 2003* provides an in-depth analysis of the problems of coherence between national development strategies and global processes and disciplines, as well as policy coherence in the world economy and its impact on development. It first addresses, from a historical perspective, the question of the prerequisites in terms of national and global coherence for successful integration in the world economy, and then examines coherence in the international trading system, highlighting areas where open and non-discriminatory access is being eroded by ongoing processes and disciplines, in particular obstacles to market entry, market structures in agricultural commodities, and anti-dumping measures. Finally, it discusses the impact of exchange-rate policy on international competitiveness.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2004 *Trade and Development Report, 2004*
and Overview

Item 4 - Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

12. The *Least Developed Countries Report 2004: Linking Trade and Poverty Reduction* (UNCTAD/LDC/2004) serves as a background document for the deliberations of the Board on this item. The *Report* assesses the relationship between international trade and poverty within the LDCs and identifies national and international policies as well as support measures that can make trade a more effective mechanism for poverty reduction in these countries. It argues that, despite the fact that most LDCs have undertaken deep trade liberalization over the last couple of decades, these policies combined with improved market access conditions have not resulted in poverty reduction for many LDCs. The report also warns that if current trends continue most of the LDCs are likely to become the major locus of extreme poverty and lag far behind in attaining the poverty reduction objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and those contained in the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. It suggests a two-way mainstreaming of trade and development within national poverty reduction strategies, increased and effective international financial and technical assistance for building domestic productive capacities, and an enabling international trade regime that

includes, *inter alia*, (a) reduction of agricultural subsidies in industrialized countries, (b) new international policies to reduce vulnerability to negative commodity price shocks, and, (c) more effective market access preferences and enhanced South-South cooperation.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/2004 *The Least Developed Countries Report 2004:*
and Overview *Linking Trade and Poverty Reduction*

Item 5 - Economic development in Africa: Issues relating to Africa's debt sustainability

13. In the São Paulo Consensus adopted by UNCTAD XI, UNCTAD was mandated to “continue to address problems of developing countries arising from ... the question of debt sustainability” (TD/410, para. 28). The Board will have before it a summary of a study of debt sustainability in Africa. The full study is contained in document UNCTAD/GDS/AFRICA/2004/1, which will also be available as a background document. It analyses progress in the implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) in indebted African countries and it suggests ways and means of applying alternative criteria in order to ensure a permanent exit solution to the debt overhang.

Documentation

TD/B/51/3 Economic development in Africa
Debt sustainability: Oasis or mirage?
Summary by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 6 - Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

14. The Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its sixth session held from 4 to 8 February 2002, recommended that the Trade and development Board review regularly developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. At its twenty-eighth executive session, held on 12 March 2002, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Commission and endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein. By placing the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme, the implementation of the Doha Declaration provides a major opportunity and challenge for all stakeholders to fully, effectively and in a timely manner integrate these needs and interests into the trade negotiations and work programme. This item gives the Board an opportunity to discuss progress attained in the work programme in areas of interest to developing countries since the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14

September 2003, in the light of the outcomes of the eleventh session of UNCTAD, held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004. The secretariat will circulate a note to assist the Board in carrying out this mandate.

Documentation

TD/B/51/4 Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

TD/397 Assuring development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations: Background note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 7 - UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:

(a) UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items

15. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, it invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

16. Paragraph 2 of the São Paulo Consensus states that UNCTAD is expected to make substantial contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of recent global conferences. Paragraph 10 of the same document states that UNCTAD has a special responsibility to contribute to the achievement of the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

17. The Board is expected to respond to the two requests addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27(a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of an issue note to be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/51/5 UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the

implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

(b) Report by the President of the Trade and Development Board on his participation in the high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

18. In response to paragraph 27(c) of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, the President of the Trade and Development Board participated for the first time in the high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, which was held on 26 April 2004. Paragraph 10 of the São Paulo Consensus states that the invitation for the President of the Trade and Development Board to participate in the high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO is important and should be institutionalized.

19. The President of the Board will present an oral report on his participation in the high-level meeting of ECOSOC, as well as on the outcome of the meeting.

Item 8 - Technical cooperation activities

(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its forty-third session)

20. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2003, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular issues related to trade and investment-related capacity building and progress in the implementation of decision 478 (L) of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will have before it the outcome of the forty-third session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 13 to 17 September 2004, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2003.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/172	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/WP/172/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 2003 (English only)
TD/B/WP/172/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)

(b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

21. In line with the 2002-2005 United Nations medium-term plan, paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, and paragraph 35 of the São Paulo Consensus, the UNCTAD secretariat continues to intensify its activities to assist the Palestinian people in the sectors of international trade, investment, public finance and related services. The secretariat has reported annually since 1985 to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people.

22. In accordance with the provisions of the biennial work programme, the secretariat has prepared its 2004 report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people for consideration by the Trade and Development Board. This report marks two decades of UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people and reviews ongoing technical cooperation activities in this area in the context of Palestinian economic performance and the findings of related policy analysis and research. The first chapter of the report summarizes recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and the prerequisites for linking relief, rehabilitation and development efforts in a strategic framework. Chapter II highlights progress and constraints affecting technical cooperation activities and pending resource needs.

23. In taking note of the report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, the Board may wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item in its report on its fiftieth session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445, and to highlight the need for rapid and effective donor response to the secretariat's outstanding resource needs.

Documentation

TD/B/51/2

Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

(c) Investment Policy Review of Sri Lanka

24. Investment policy reviews are intended to assist countries in improving their investment policies with a view to attracting foreign direct investment and benefiting more from it. The policy reviews are undertaken upon request by member States. The policy reviews are taken up at the intergovernmental level in order to promote the exchange of national experiences and, in particular, to familiarize Governments and investors with these countries' investment environment.

25. The Board will have before it the Investment Policy Review of Sri Lanka. The secretariat and a high-level representative will introduce the country report, and this will be followed by deliberations of the review panel and a general discussion.

Documentation

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2003/8 Investment Policy Review: Sri Lanka

Item 9 - Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies

(a) Report on UNCTAD XI multi-stakeholder partnerships

26. In accordance with paragraph 114 of the São Paulo consensus, the Board will review, annually, the implementation of the partnerships launched at UNCTAD XI in the areas of ICT for development, commodities, investment and capacity building and training, including training, academic and research institutions. In view of the short interval between the Conference and the session of the Board, an oral progress report will be provided, with information on the progress achieved in building and implementing each of the partnerships.

(b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus

27. In accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus, the Trade and Development Board will hold a half-day informal hearing with non-state actors to allow them to express their views on the issues before the Board. The outcome of the informal hearings will be summarized by the secretariat for submission as an input into the discussions of the Board. Participation will be based on the procedure applied for the participation of civil society and private sector organizations during the preparatory process of the Conference.

(c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-third session, 13-17 September 2004

28. The report of the Working Party on its forty-third session will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/176

Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its forty-third session

Item 10 - Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-seventh annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (14–25 June 2004, New York)

29. The thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 14 to 25 June 2004. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

Documentation

A/59/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its thirty-seventh session

(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 26–30 April 2004)

30. At its thirty-seventh session (26–30 April 2004), the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed ITC's technical cooperation activities in 2003 and took note of the report of the Consultative Committee on the ITC Global Trust Fund.

Documentation

ITC/AG(XXXVII)/200 Report of the Joint Advisory Committee of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO at its thirty-seventh session

Item 11 - Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2003–2004 and their impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2005

31. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the President of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166.

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

32. At present, there are 111 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/5. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

33. At present, there are 192 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/7. Of these, 107 are in the General category and 85 in the Special category. The Board will be invited to consider one application received from Traidcraft Exchange.

Documentation

TD/B/51/R.1 Application by Traidcraft Exchange

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

34. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2004 and an indicative calendar for 2005.

Documentation

TD/B/51/L.1 UNCTAD calendar of meetings

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2005

35. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2005 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

(f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

36. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 12 - Other business

Item 13 - Adoption of the report

37. Under this item, the Board will adopt its report for transmittal to the General Assembly.