



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/52/SC.1/L.2
12 October 2005

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifty-second session
Geneva, 3-14 October 2005
Agenda item 4

Sessional Committee I

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE
DECADE 2001–2010**

Draft agreed conclusions ^{*}/

The Trade and Development Board, as part of its annual review of progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001–2010,

1. *Notes* the background reports submitted by the UNCTAD secretariat as contained in documents TD/B/52/3 and TD/B/52/4 as well as the 2005 progress report on implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for LDCs (IF); and *recalls* that it has invited the secretariat to provide the member States with more quantifiable and objective-oriented information on the specific projects;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* UNCTAD's extensive contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs in areas within its mandates and competence, and *encourages* it to make further efforts, in collaboration with beneficiary countries and their development partners, to enhance the delivery and effectiveness of its technical cooperation and capacity-building activities so as to improve their development impact on the economies of LDCs in general and on their national institutions in particular;

^{*}/ Approved at the Committee's informal meeting on 12 October 2005.

3. *Encourages* the UNCTAD secretariat to implement fully the relevant decisions of the São Paulo Consensus, including the annualization of the *Least Developed Countries Report*, and to further enhance efforts in favour of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and *calls on* the secretariat to make available adequate resources for this purpose, from within existing resources, and to seek, as appropriate, voluntary contributions. Members not currently providing voluntary contributions, and who are in a position to do so, are invited to support this effort;

4. *Encourages* the UNCTAD secretariat, within its mandate, and in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, to actively contribute to the comprehensive mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 and its preparatory processes and to make substantive contributions to the successful outcome of the review;

5. *Expresses* deep appreciation for the decisions recently taken as regards the full cancellation of multilateral debt owed by eligible heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) to the International Development Association (IDA), the African Development Fund (AfDF) and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the substantial increase in ODA, and *calls for* timely implementation of these commitments with a view to assisting these countries to make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Acknowledges* the contribution of preferential market access to the economic growth and development of LDCs and reiterates its appreciation to LDCs' trading partners who have granted or have taken initiatives toward granting duty- and quota-free market access to LDCs for all products of export interest to them, and *invites* other trading partners of LDCs who are in a position to do so to take similar measures;

7. *Recognizes* that multilateral trade liberalization has great potential to benefit LDCs by opening up new trading opportunities; *acknowledges* that some of these countries could be affected by the erosion of market access preferences involving certain products of export interest to them; and *calls for* intensified international support measures to enable LDCs to enhance their productive capacities, diversify their economies into non-preference-dependent activities, and improve their utilization of the market access preferences made available to them. Such international support measures could also aim at addressing any adverse effects of further multilateral trade liberalization on LDCs;

8. *Notes with appreciation* UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the IF, *inter alia*, through the preparation of an *IF Manual*, organization of pre-Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) activities, and follow-up to the DTIS Action Matrices, and *invites* bilateral and multilateral donors in a position to do so to increase their support and voluntary financial contributions to the IF;

9. *Recognizes* the contribution of the UNCTAD LDC Trust Fund as a vehicle to finance technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in LDCs; *expresses appreciation* to bilateral donors for their continued support and financial contributions to the Trust Fund; and *emphasizes* the need for continued contributions and broader donor participation, preferably through un-earmarked contributions, to ensure effective and efficient delivery and implementation of existing and new technical assistance programmes and projects in these countries.

* * * * *