



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/53/1
21 July 2006

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifty-third session
Geneva, 27 September – 2 October and 10 October 2006
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-third 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.

* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

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-fourth session of the Board
2. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Global partnership and national policies for development
3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010:
 - (a) The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities
 - (b) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs
4. Economic development in Africa: Doubling Aid – Making the “Big Push” work
5. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
6. 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:
 - 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
7. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (Report of the Working Party on its forty-seventh session)
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
8. 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-sixth session
9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (New York, 19 June – 7 July 2006)
 - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 24–28 April 2006)

10. 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 2005–2006 and their impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2007
 - (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 2007
 - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
11. Other business
12. 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-third session will be a representative of one of the States in List A (Africa) and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List C. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 1 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 of the Board 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.

Schedule of meetings

6. The tentative timetable for the five-day period of the Board is annexed to this document.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

7. 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-fourth session of the Board

8. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth 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: Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Global partnership and national policies for development

9. The Board has, as a background document for its deliberations, the *Trade and Development Report 2006* and its *Overview*. The *Report* reviews recent trends in the world economy from the point of view of developing countries, with a particular emphasis on global imbalances as a systemic issue. It also provides an outline of the evolution of mainstream thinking on development strategies since the early 1980s, and its influence on practical policy-making in terms of its implications for capital accumulation, productivity growth and technological progress. The *Report* provides a background analysis on how the external environment for development has evolved in recent years, with a focus on export opportunities for developing countries, ODA and debt relief, remittances and FDI flows. The *Report* also discusses the need for macroeconomic policies that are conducive to capital formation and for proactive trade and industrial national policies in support of productive dynamism. In this context, it addresses the principles on which the formulation of industrialization and technological upgrading strategies and policy instruments should be based, as well as the degree of freedom that remains for policy implementation, given the increased importance of international rules and commitments stemming from international trade agreements. Finally, the *Report* analyses the importance of institutional arrangements for successful economic development.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2006
and Overview

Trade and Development Report, 2006

Item 3: Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

10. Pursuant to paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010, UNCTAD has continued its efforts to undertake concrete steps to mainstream actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its activities and into the work of the intergovernmental machinery. Its activities focus on research and policy analysis, consensus building, technical cooperation and capacity building.

(a) The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities

11. The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities (UNCTAD/LDC/2006) serves as a background document for the deliberations of the Board on this item. The Report's part I focuses on recent economic trends in the LDCs and the progress that these countries are making towards achieving the quantitative development targets of the Brussels Programme of Action. Part II focuses on the issue of developing productive capacities in the LDCs and the adequacy of current national and international policies. It argues that there is a need for a paradigm shift in which the development of domestic productive capacities is put at the heart of policies to promote sustained economic growth and poverty reduction in the LDCs. The development of productive capacities will be particularly important during the next 15 years because the LDCs face a major employment challenge. More and more people are seeking work outside agriculture and urbanization is accelerating. For the LDCs as a group, the decade 2000-2010 is going to be the first decade in which the growth of the economically active population outside agriculture is predicted to be greater than the growth of the economically active population within agriculture. This transition will affect more than half the LDCs during the decade and even more in the decade 2010-2020. In

terms of overcoming constraints on the development and fuller utilization of productive capacities, the Report identifies three broad policy areas which are likely to be relevant in many LDCs:

- The low and poor-quality stock of transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure;
- Weaknesses in the domestic private sector and related institutions, notably the so-called "missing middle" in enterprise development, and the nature of domestic financial systems and domestic knowledge systems;
- Inadequate domestic and external demand stimuli, which lead to weak incentives to invest and innovate and underutilization of domestic productive resources and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/2006
and Overview

The Least Developed Countries Report 2006
Developing Productive Capacities

(b) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs

12. At its regular sessions, the Trade and Development Board reviews progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010 (PoA) in areas within the mandates and competence of UNCTAD. In its agreed conclusions 476(L) of 17 October 2003, the Board urged the secretariat to continue to report to the Board at its regular sessions on UNCTAD's activities in favour of LDCs, including on activities related to the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF), and emphasized the need for UNCTAD to continue to contribute to the mandated reviews by ECOSOC and the General Assembly of the implementation of the PoA. The report before the Board that has been prepared in response to this decision (TD/B/53/3) aims at assisting the Board in its annual review of UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the PoA. The report provides policy conclusions and lessons learned from the 2001–2005 implementation experience of UNCTAD. It suggests, among other things, that international cooperation for development and related policies should increasingly take into account and be responsive to national conditions and priorities of LDCs. In this regard, the report calls for strengthened efforts on the part of LDCs themselves and their development partners to enhance further the implementation of commitments and actions of the PoA during the remaining five years.

Documentation

TD/B/53/3

UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of least developed countries

Item 4: Economic development in Africa: Doubling Aid – Making the “Big Push” work

13. The Board will have before it an overview of a report on aid to Africa to be read in conjunction with the fully study, contained in document UNCTAD/GDS/AFRICA/2006/1, which will be available in English and French. The current commitments to double the amount of aid to Africa by 2015, and the recent economic performance of the continent (in large measure thanks to increased demand for commodities in emerging economies), has raised hopes that Africa can sustain this growth performance as a basis for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Yet concerns remain with

respect to the effectiveness of aid, the absorptive capacities of recipients, and whether aid can raise growth and help reduce poverty. The report addresses these issues and argues that, while a “big push” designed to instigate a virtuous circle of higher investment, income and savings is necessary for poverty reduction, policies by aid donors and recipients alike are crucial for its success. The impact of aid cannot be separated from national policy autonomy or from the quality of aid. Based on past successful aid experiences, it argues for a new aid architecture with a much larger multilateral component in order to deal with the present “chaotic” state of the aid system, which suffers from high transaction costs, politicization, lack of transparency, incoherence, unpredictability and too much demand on weak institutions of recipient countries.

Documentation

TD/B/53/4	Economic Development in Africa: Doubling Aid – Making the "Big Push" Work (Overview)
UNCTAD/GDS/AFRICA/2006/1	Economic development in Africa: Doubling Aid – Making the “Big Push” work

Item 5: Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

14. Since 2002, the Board has undertaken a regular review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. The ongoing multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha work programme represent major opportunities and challenges for assuring development gains for developing countries from the international trading system and trade negotiations. The secretariat will circulate a note to assist the Board in carrying out this mandate.

Documentation

TD/B/53/5	Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
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Item 6: 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:

- **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 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.

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 a note to be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/53/6 Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD's contributions: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 7: Technical cooperation activities

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

18. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2005, 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 478L of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the forty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 11 to 15 September 2006, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2005.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/188	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/WP/188/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 2004 (English only)
TD/B/WP/188/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/191	Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its forty-seventh session

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

19. In line with paragraph 35 of the São Paulo Consensus, paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action and UNCTAD's 2006-2007 work programme, the secretariat reports annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people. The programme is

aimed at assisting the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective management and policy making in the areas of development strategies and trade policy, public finance reform and modernization, trade facilitation and logistics, and investment and enterprise development. The secretariat reports also provide updates on Palestinian economic performance and on the findings of related policy analysis and research undertaken by the secretariat.

20. The 2006 report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people will be before the Board for its consideration. Its first chapter reflects on some of the enduring and recurrent features of the Palestinian development predicament, while the second chapter reviews recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and assesses the possible impact of the intensification of the ongoing crisis and recent changes in international aid on poverty, productive capacity and economic performance. Chapter three highlights some of the related areas that require policy intervention. The fourth chapter reviews UNCTAD technical assistance activities in 2005-2006, as well as urgent resource shortfalls that have forced suspension of strategic technical cooperation projects scheduled for implementation in 2006.

21. In taking note of the report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, as in previous years the Board may wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item in its report on its fifty-third session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445. The Board may also wish to consider the implications of the new extrabudgetary resource constraints affecting the implementation of technical cooperation projects extended by the secretariat to the Palestinian people.

Documentation

TD/B/53/2 Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian
People

Item 8: 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

22. In accordance with paragraph 114 of the São Paulo consensus, the Board reviews 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. 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

23. 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 used for the participation of civil society and private-sector organizations during the preparatory process of the Conference. The report on the hearing will be before the Board

In-session documentation

(c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-sixth session

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

Documentation

TD/B/WP/186	Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its forty-sixth session
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Item 9: Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (New York, 19 June – 7 July 2006)

25. The thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 19 June to 7 July 2006. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

Documentation

A/61/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its thirty-ninth session
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(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 24-28 April 2006)

26. At its thirty-ninth session (24–28 April 2006), the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed ITC's technical cooperation activities in 2005 and took note of the report of the Consultative Committee on the ITC Global Trust Fund.

Item 10: 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 2005–2006 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2007

27. 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

28. At present there are 112 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/6. 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

29. At present there are 196 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 108 in the General Category and 88 in the Special Category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/8. The Board will be invited to consider one application received from the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

Documentation

TD/B/53/R.1

Application from the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

30. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2006 and an indicative calendar for 2007.

Documentation

TD/B/53/L.1

UNCTAD Calendar of Meetings

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2007

31. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2007 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

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

32. 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 11: Other business

Item 12: Adoption of the report

33. In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from

the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS (27 September to 2 October 2006, and 10 October 2006)

	Wednesday 27 September	Thursday 28 September	Friday 29 September	Monday 2 October	Tuesday 10 October
10.00 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<u>PLENARY</u> Opening: Procedural matters Statements: S-G of UNCTAD Regional groups Item 5 Post-Doha work programme: Review of developments and issues of particular concern to developing countries	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 2 Interdependence (Trade and Development Report)	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 7 (b) Report on Assistance to Palestinian people Item 4 Africa (Report on Africa)	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 7 (a) Review of TC activities <u>INFORMALS</u> Draft agreed outcome	<u>PLENARY</u> 11:30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Item 8 (a) Partnerships Item 8 (b) Hearing with civil society (report)* Item 8 (c) - Report of WP Item 9 (a & b) - UNCITRAL & JAG reports Item 10 (a to e)
3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 5 Post-Doha work programme: Review of developments and issues of particular concern to developing countries	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 3 LDCs (LDC Report 2006)	<u>PLENARY</u> Item 4 Africa (Report on Africa) Item 6 Follow-up to major UN Conferences	<u>INFORMALS</u> Draft agreed outcome	<u>CLOSING PLENARY</u> Item 1(c) & (d) Item 10 (f) All other items Adoption of draft agreed outcome Adoption of the report of the Board

* The Hearing with civil society will take place on 26 September 2006 and its report will be formally presented to the Board on 10 October.