



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: Limited  
3 October 2007

Original: English

---

## Trade and Development Board

### Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 1–11 October 2007

## Draft report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-fourth session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 1 to 11 October 2007

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran)

### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	2
I. Action by the Trade and Development Board .....	2
II. President's summary .....	2
A. Opening statements .....	2
B. High-level segment: globalization and inclusive development .....	3
III. Procedural and related matters .....	4
A. Opening of the session .....	4
B. New member of the Board .....	5
C. Election of officers .....	5
D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session..	5
 <i>Annexes</i>	
I. Agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board.....	6
II. Attendance .....	8

## Introduction

1. The fifty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 2 to 11 October 2007. In the course of the session, the Board held xx plenary meetings – the 1005th to the xxxth.

### I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

[Text to be inserted.]

### II. President's summary<sup>1</sup>

#### A. Opening statements

2. Many delegates from developing countries said that their countries had recently experienced relatively high growth rates. However, many of them, including the least developed countries (LDCs), still faced major challenges if they were to sustain development, given higher commodity prices. Several delegates expressed the hope that UNCTAD would act as a leader in promoting a new, development-oriented, international economic architecture.

3. A number of delegates called for UNCTAD to remain at the forefront of efforts to strengthen the multilateral trading system. LDCs suffered most from the delay in concluding the Doha round of trade negotiations. Various delegates expressed their appreciation for the efforts of UNCTAD to assist new members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the pre- and post-accession phases. It was stressed that the Doha round must remain a development round, and that progress towards concluding it should not be made at the expense of development concerns. Several delegates from developing countries highlighted the importance of strengthening the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) as a way of enhancing South-South cooperation and addressing the concerns of developing countries.

4. Many delegates welcomed the *Trade and Development Report, 2007*, with its focus on regional cooperation not just in trade but also in macroeconomic policies, finance, infrastructure and industrial policies. While agreeing that the report made a useful contribution to the debate, one regional spokesperson said that his group did not necessarily share its conclusions. Many delegates also expressed their appreciation for other publications that were the outcome of UNCTAD's research and analysis, including *The Least Developed Countries Report 2007* and the 2007 report *Economic Development in Africa*, which would provide important guidance for policymakers. One delegate warned, however, that UNCTAD should be cautious about promoting unrealistic policies that might have deleterious effects on developing countries, and that its support for attempts to reshape the global financial system would only reduce UNCTAD's credibility.

5. Regarding the role of UNCTAD in technical cooperation, many delegates were appreciative of its activities, including the training courses set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Delegates drew

---

<sup>1</sup> Electronic versions of statements by delegates are posted on the UNCTAD website in the form and language in which they are received. To find the speeches, go to [www.unctad.org/meetings](http://www.unctad.org/meetings), select the intergovernmental body and session, and click on Programme.

attention to the contribution of UNCTAD in helping developing countries understand international economic issues and improve the skills of their trade negotiators. Praising UNCTAD's reviews of investment policies as particularly useful, one regional spokesperson suggested that UNCTAD should strengthen its technical cooperation activities as a follow-up to them. Another regional spokesperson recommended strengthening the link between technical cooperation activities and UNCTAD's two other pillars: consensus-building and research and analysis. It was also recommended that UNCTAD's role in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 should be strengthened. Two delegates said that UNCTAD's technical assistance activities should be carried out in closer collaboration with new emerging donors.

6. Most delegates who took the floor expressed their commitment to the preparatory process for the twelfth session of UNCTAD XII. Some highlighted the importance of honouring prior commitments such as those undertaken in the São Paulo Consensus and at the major United Nations conferences and summits. Others stressed that the outcomes of UNCTAD XII should go beyond the conceptual stage to be translated into meaningful action. One delegate said that the implementation of reform of the UNCTAD secretariat, as recommended in the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons,<sup>2</sup> was vital if UNCTAD was to implement fully the mandate that would be the outcome of UNCTAD XII.

## **B. High-level segment: globalization and inclusive development**

### **1. Globalization**

7. Several delegations welcomed the fact that, since 2000, many developing countries – including several least developed and African countries, which had often shown erratic growth performance in the past – had been growing at much faster rates than in the late 1990s. The growing importance of the South was reflected in the world economy and was shaping the emerging new geography of international trade. Despite those achievements, several delegates cautioned against complacency in development policies at both the national and international levels. Inclusive development was a moral imperative, and diversification and broadening of the foundation of global growth were necessary if the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those concerning poverty reduction, were to be met. Lack of resources and productive capacities, lack of access to technology and knowledge, lack of appropriate infrastructure, and inadequate access to transportation and communications services to connect with the world economy continued to prevent many developing countries from reaping the full benefits of globalization.

8. Several delegations drew attention to the need to preserve policy space for developing countries to enable them to address the social impact of globalization and to better disseminate the benefits of economic growth to marginalized parts of their populations. Therefore, international action should not result in the shrinking of that space and policy formulation should address specific needs of countries at different levels of development.

9. Favourable price developments in international commodity markets were a major contributing factor to the recent improvements in the growth performance of developing countries. However, concerns were expressed concerning the long-term sustainability of the current rise in commodity prices and the adverse effects of high price volatility. Developed countries that exported agricultural

---

<sup>2</sup> UNCTAD/OSG/2006/1.

commodities while subsidizing domestic production were urged to reform their agricultural policies so as not to jeopardize export opportunities of developing countries. In that context, the need for a successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations, taking into account concerns of developing countries regarding trade-distorting measures and non-tariff barriers, was stressed. It was also pointed out that not all developing countries had benefited from higher commodity prices. Those that were net food importers and those that were dependent on energy imports faced additional burdens due to rising commodity prices.

## **2. Inclusive development**

10. A more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization at the national level necessitated a proactive, development-oriented State, according to several delegates. To make development more inclusive, developing countries should strengthen institutional capacity for policy formulation (as well as its implementation) that favoured the poor. Several delegates stressed that long-term high growth could only be driven by a vibrant private sector. Nonetheless, Governments had an important role to play in promoting local entrepreneurship through policies that were conducive to creating productive capacities and for attracting foreign direct investment to their economies.

11. The integration of developing countries into the world economy was seen as having progressed unevenly, benefiting some developing countries while leaving out or even marginalizing others. Several factors that could promote economic and social inclusion and help developing countries to integrate more effectively into the world economy were highlighted. For example, the development impact of climate change was seen as both a challenge and an opportunity. Access to clean technology, and the use and export of renewable energy, could help mitigate the adverse impact of climate change that affected developing countries. In addition, international labour migration could benefit both sending and receiving countries in terms of remittances and the moderation of workforce constraints.

## **3. The way forward**

12. The forthcoming quadrennial session of the Conference, UNCTAD XII, was considered an ideal opportunity for further advancing the discussion on opportunities and challenges of globalization for development. However, the promotion of inclusive development, as well as policies and measures aimed at making it sustainable, required a new approach to global economic governance and a new focus for national policies. Other delegates stressed the need to focus on substantive, practical and prioritized solutions within the areas of UNCTAD's mandates.

[Text to be inserted.]

# **III. Procedural and related matters**

## **A. Opening of the session**

13. The fifty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 1 October 2007 by Mr. Arsene Bahihuta (Uganda), the outgoing President of the Board.

## **B. New member of the Board**

14. At its 1005th (opening) plenary meeting, on 1 October 2007, the Board agreed to the request by Estonia to be the 151st member of the Trade and Development Board.

## **C. Election of officers**

(Agenda item 1(a))

15. At its opening plenary meeting, the Board elected Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria) President of the Board at its fifty-fourth session.

16. Also at its opening plenary meeting, the Board elected nine of its ten vice-presidents and the Rapporteur. The elected Bureau was as follows:

**President:** Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria)

**Vice-presidents:** Mr. Alberto Dumont (Argentina)  
 Ms. Mabel Gomez Oliver (Mexico)  
 Mr. Roger Julien Menga (Congo)  
 Mr. Mohamed Said-Douale (Djibouti)  
 Mr. Juan Antonio March (Spain)  
 Mr. Franciscos Verros (Greece)  
 Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation)  
 Ms. Lisa Carle (United States of America)  
 Mr. Chen Jianping (China)  
 [10th vice-president to be named]

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran)

## **D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**

(Agenda item 1(b))

17. At its opening plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session contained in TD/B/54/1. It also confirmed Mr. Juan Antonio March (Spain) as the chair of sessional committee I to consider agenda item 4, "Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010". [The chair of sessional committee II to consider agenda item 5, "Economic development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States", would be announced at a later stage.]

## Annex I

### **Agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board**

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-fifth session of the Board
2. High-level segment: globalization and inclusive development
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: regional cooperation for development
4. 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 2007: Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development*
  - (b) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs: sixth progress report
5. Economic development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States
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:

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
8. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (Report of the Working Party on its forty-ninth session)
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
9. Preparatory process for the twelfth session of the Conference:
  - (a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee
  - (b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference
10. 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 resumed forty-eighth session
11. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
- (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: fortieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 9–12 July 2007)
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its fortieth session (Geneva, 25–27 April 2007)
12. 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 2006–2007 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2008
  - (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 2008
  - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
  - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report

## **Annex II**

### **Attendance**

[Text to be inserted.]

---