

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Thursday, 18 September 2008

10 a.m. **Sessional Committee I - First plenary meeting** **Room XXVI**

Item 4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010: (TD/B/55/

(a) *The Least Developed Countries Report 2008*: Recent economic, social and policy trends

(b) Sectors of key interest to the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010: Export competitiveness – policy issues and priorities

Opening statement by Mrs. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD

Presentation by Mr. Habib Ouane, Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

General statements

3 p.m. **Sessional Committee I - Second plenary meeting** **Room XXVI**

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

Panellists:

Mr. Philippe Besson, Senior Adviser, Issue Manager, Harmonization and Alignment, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

Mr. Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco, Director, Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE), Maputo, Mozambique

Followed by

- Interactive discussion

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
19 September 2008

10 a.m. **Sessional Committee II - First plenary meeting** **Room XXVI**

Item 5 Economic development in Africa: Trade liberalization and export performance in Africa

Presentation by Mr. Habib Ouane, Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

General statements

Followed by

Interactive discussion

3 p.m. **Sessional Committee II - Second plenary meeting** **Room XXVI**

Item 5 Economic development in Africa: Trade liberalization and export performance in Africa
(continued)

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Arsene Bahihuta, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda, Geneva

Mr. Arne Lennart Bigsten, Director at large, Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Mr. Jean Michel Debrat, Deputy Director General, Agence Française de Développement, Paris

Followed by

Interactive discussion

Bureau of the fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board

President	H.E. Mr. Debapriya BHATTACHARYA	(Bangladesh)
Vice-presidents	H.E. Mr. Arcanjo Maria DO NASCIMENTO	(Angola)
	H.E. Mr. Alberto DUMONT	(Argentina)
	Mr. Paulo ESTIVALLET DE MESQUITA	(Brazil)
	H.E. Mr. Tomáš HUSÁK	(Czech Republic)
	Mr. Christophe GUILHOU	(France)
	H.E. Mr. Kwabena BAAH-DUODU	(Ghana)
	H.E. Mr. Masood KHAN	(Pakistan)
	Mr. Vassily NEBENZIA	(Russian Federation)
	H.E. Mr. Javier GARRIGUES	(Spain)
	Mr. Otto VAN MAERSSSEN	(United States of America)
Rapporteur	Ms. Andriani FALKONAKI SOTIROPOULOS	(Greece)

Sessional Committee I

Chair	H.E. Mr. Jean FEYDER	(Luxembourg)
Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur	Mr. Ravi Bhattarai	(Nepal)

Sessional Committee II

Chair	H.E. Mr. Kwabena BAAH-DUODU	(Ghana)
Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur	Mr. Joannes Ekaprasetya TANDJUNG	(Indonesia)

Information for participants

Registration

Registration forms will be placed on the desks in room XVIII. It would be appreciated if delegations and observers would complete the forms before leaving the meeting.

Distribution of documents

The documents distribution counter is in the lobby on the second floor of the E-building (door 40).

Participants should bring with them pre-session documents, i.e. documents circulated prior to the opening of the session. Additional copies of pre-session documents may be available, stock permitting, at the distribution counter in the conference room.

Arrangements for regional group meetings

Requests for rooms for regional group meetings should be made to the UNCTAD Meetings and Credentials Unit (*ext.* 75599/75497, office E.3061).

Statements

Delegates are invited to send electronic versions of their statements for posting on the web to editorialsection@unctad.org. The statements will be made available in the form and language in which they are submitted.

Audio files

Audio files (floor/English) of general statements and statements made at the high-level segment are now available on the UNCTAD website (www.unctad.org). Under the "Meetings" tab, you will find a link to the Programme of the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-fifth session, where there are quick links to MP3 (audio) files.

Announcements by delegations

The African Group will meet on Thursday, 18 September 2008 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Room XVIII.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Thursday, 18 September 2008

Sessional Committee I

First plenary meeting

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

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, made an opening statement.

Mr. Habib Ouane, Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, made an introductory statement on agenda item 4.

The general debate was opened. Representatives of the following member States made general statements: Zimbabwe (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Bangladesh (on behalf of the least developed countries); Honduras (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States); Chad (on behalf of the African Group); Indonesia (on behalf of the Asian Group); France (on behalf of the European Union); Nepal; China; Japan; and Haiti.

Sessional Committee

Second plenary meeting

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

Panel discussion

The Board held an informal panel discussion on *The Least Developed Countries Report 2008: Growth, Poverty and the Terms of Development Partnership*, with the participation of the following panellists: Mr. Philippe Besson (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and Mr. Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Economicos, Mozambique).

In the interactive debate that followed, representatives of the following member States took the floor: Bangladesh (on behalf of the least developed countries); Zimbabwe (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Benin; Argentina; Mali; Indonesia (on behalf of the Asian Group); and Rwanda.
