



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board

Fifty-sixth session

Geneva, 14–25 September 2009

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and organization
of the work of the session**

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth 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.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
3. High-level segment: The global economic crisis and the necessary policy response
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 2009: The State and Development Governance
 - (b) UNCTAD-wide activities in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001– 2010: eighth progress report
 - (c) UNCTAD's contribution to the preparatory process of and to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 2011
5. Economic development in Africa: Strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development
6. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective: Impact of the crisis
7. Development strategies in a globalized world: Meeting the development challenge of climate change
8. Investment for development: Transnational corporations, agricultural production and development
9. 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
10. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
11. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the twelfth session of the Conference:
 - (a) Hearing with civil society
 - (b) UNCTAD's communication strategy and publications policy
12. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
 - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its forty-second session
13. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

14. 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 2008–2009 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2010
 - (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 2010
 - (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
15. Adoption of the report on credentials
16. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Board
17. Other business
18. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the Consultations of the President on 30 April 2009. During that same meeting, the Consultations welcomed the idea of having an overarching theme for the Board, namely, the global financial crisis.

Item 1. Election of officers

2. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.
3. 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. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.
4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since UNCTAD IX, the President of the Board for the fifty-sixth session will be a representative of one of the States in list B and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa). The 10 vice-presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two from list C; and two from list D.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

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

Organization of work

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

Establishment of sessional committees

7. 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

8. The overall timetable for the two-week period of the Board is provided at the end of this document.

Item 3. High-level segment: The global economic crisis and the necessary policy response

9. This agenda item will provide an opportunity for delegations to review the genesis of the global financial and economic crisis, examine its effects, and debate policy responses aimed both at lessening the effects of the unravelling crisis and at discouraging the reoccurrence of such a crisis. The *Trade and Development Report 2009* – especially its chapters dealing with current trends in the world economy, the financialization of commodity futures trading, the strengthening of financial regulations, and the multilateral coordination of monetary and financial policies – will serve as background to the deliberations of the Board under this item, together with presentations by the secretariat and external experts.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2009 and Overview *Trade and Development Report 2009*

Item 4. 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 Least Developed Countries 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 2009: The State and Development Governance

11. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance* will be presented to the Board. The report focuses on the question of the role of the State in promoting development, and on the possibility of rebuilding the developmental State in a way that is adapted to the challenges and concerns of least developed countries (LDCs) in the twentieth-first century. The current global economic crisis is already undermining the gains of the last several years and is likely to impose very serious damage on the economies of LDCs, implying that “business as usual” is no longer possible and that an urgent re-examination of current approaches to international development is required. The 2009 report offers viable new policy orientations, and argues

that the role of the State is crucially important in promoting development in LDCs. The report further argues that it is now necessary to adopt more active State policies to promote structural transformation and the development of productive capacities. This will require the development of both industrial and agricultural policies, embedded within a framework of growth-oriented macroeconomic policies.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/2009 and Overview *The Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance*

(b) UNCTAD-wide activities in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001– 2010: eighth progress report

12. Under this sub-item, the Board will consider the report of the secretariat entitled “UNCTAD-wide activities in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001– 2010: eighth progress report”. This report provides a brief assessment of recent trends towards selected goals and targets, and of UNCTAD’s contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It also includes policy conclusions, lessons learned, and to the extent possible, best practices drawn from the implementation of the Programme of Action. The report shows that while the research and policy analysis work of the secretariat has contributed to policy dialogue and consensus-building at the national, regional and global level on issues of trade and development interest to LDCs, its technical cooperation and capacity-building activities have also greatly assisted in building the institutional and human resources capacities of LDCs.

Documentation

TD/B/56/2 UNCTAD-wide activities in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001– 2010: eighth progress report

(c) UNCTAD’s contribution to the preparatory process of and to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 2011

13. This item provides member States with an opportunity to exchange views on the expected role and contribution of UNCTAD to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UNLDC IV) – both to the preparatory processes and to the Conference itself, on issues within UNCTAD’s mandates and competence. To assist the Board in its consideration of this item, the secretariat has produced an issues note outlining arrangements for the Conference, mandates, and UNCTAD’s contribution to and perspectives on broad issues of interest to LDCs that need to be addressed during and beyond the Conference. UNLDC IV will be convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227 and pursuant to paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.

Documentation

TD/B/56/6 UNCTAD’s contribution to the preparatory process of and to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 2011

Item 5. Economic development in Africa: Strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development

14. The *Economic Development in Africa Report 2009: Strengthening Regional Economic Integration for Africa's Development* will be presented to the Board. The report closely examines regional economic integration in Africa and its potential contribution to effectively addressing long-standing structural weaknesses in African economies and to improving national and regional economic performance. It analyses key features and patterns of intra-African regional integration in trade (goods and services), and investment and migration within regional integration arrangements. Furthermore, it identifies some of the key opportunities that African countries could exploit or capitalize upon in their development processes. The report provides policy conclusions and recommendations aimed at facilitating regional economic integration, which serves as a building block for Africa's effective integration into the world economy.

Documentation

TD/B/56/4

Economic development in Africa: Strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development (overview)

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2009

*Economic Development in Africa Report 2009: Strengthening Regional Economic Integration for Africa's Development***Item 6. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective: Impact of the crisis**

15. The Board will review recent developments in the international trading system and international trade that are of particular relevance to developing countries against the backdrop of the global financial and economic crisis. It will consider the impact of the crisis on trade and development prospects, and crisis-mitigating trade-related policy responses at national, regional and international levels – including the recent initiatives taken by the G-20 Summit in London in April 2009; and the systemic implications, including those for the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. The Board will also examine the implications of the economic crisis for the development dimension of ongoing negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha work programme and other regional trade negotiations. A background note will be prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/56/7

Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective: Impact of the crisis

Item 7. Development strategies in a globalized world: Meeting the development challenge of climate change

16. This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Board to examine the pressing challenge of reinvigorating and sustaining economic development while combating climate change. This challenge is addressed in a dedicated chapter of the *Trade and Development Report, 2009* which serves as the background to the Board's deliberations under this item, together with presentations by the secretariat and by external experts.

*Documentation*UNCTAD/TDR/2009 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2009***Item 8. Investment for development: Transnational corporations, agricultural production and development**

17. The *World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development* contends that after decades of slow growth, transnational corporation (TNC) interest and participation in agriculture – including foreign direct investment (FDI) – is again on the rise. Involvement by TNCs in agricultural production ranges widely, from FDI to contractual farming. The trend is significant enough to raise questions about whether foreign investment in agriculture can contribute to the development of this long-neglected sector through its economic, environmental and social effects on host developing economies, especially at a time when a number of governments in developing regions are reviewing their policies on the role that foreign investors can and should play in agriculture. Under this item, the Board will examine all of these issues and their policy implications for developing countries.

*Documentation*UNCTAD/WIR/2009 and Overview *World Investment Report 2009***Item 9. 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**

18. 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 the progress made in the implementation – of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

19. Paragraph 11 of the Accra Accord states that: “UNCTAD, within its mandate, should make a contribution to the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences. It should continue to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. With all aspects of its work it will help to implement the global development agenda and pave the way to 2015. It should also contribute to the implementation of specific actions requested in the 2005 World Summit, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society. It should also contribute to furthering the implementation of the internationally agreed goals in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and other relevant decisions.”

20. The Board is expected to respond to the request addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27(a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/56/8 Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD's contributions

Item 10. Technical cooperation activities:**(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD**

21. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2008, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation; in particular, matters of trade- and investment-related capacity-building, and issues related to progress in the implementation of decision 478 (L) of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the fifty-third session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, due to be held from 7 to 9 September 2009 and including a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2008.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/212 Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

TD/B/WP/212/Add.1 Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2008 (English only)

TD/B/WP/212/Add.2 Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)

TD/B/WP/215 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its fifty-third session

(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

22. In line with the Accra Accord, the São Paulo Consensus, and the United Nations strategic framework for 2008–2009, UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people was intensified in 2008. UNCTAD's activities seek to alleviate the adverse economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and to create conditions conducive to building a sovereign and viable Palestinian State. The activities aim at building Palestinian capacity related to development strategies, trade policy and facilitation; public finance modernization; and enterprise, investment and competition policy. As in previous years, the secretariat reports to the Trade and Development Board on its technical assistance to the Palestinian people. The report also includes an update on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, and the secretariat's research findings and policy analysis.

23. In the 25 years that UNCTAD has been monitoring the Palestinian economy, the last twelve months have undoubtedly represented an all-time low. The eroded economic, productive and natural resource bases continue to deteriorate, due to more than nine years of tight Israeli closures, the expansion of settlements, and the separation barrier. The Palestinian economy today faces a real challenge to its integrity. In particular, the prolonged blockade imposed and the devastation visited upon the Gaza Strip has plunged almost 1.5 million Palestinians into poverty unknown for generations. UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people does not only address the realities of stunted development under occupation; it also contributes to institution-building, which is essential

for the emergence of a viable and sovereign Palestinian State, as called for by the international community.

24. In taking note of the report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, the Board may wish, in its report on its fifty-sixth session, to draw the General Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445. In light of the recent disturbing events in Gaza, the Board may also wish to consider the need to intensify UNCTAD's interventions and to strengthen its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people with predictable and adequate regular and extra-budgetary resources.

Documentation

TD/B/56/3 Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory

Item 11. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the twelfth session of the Conference:

(a) Hearing with civil society

25. 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 to 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 processes for UNCTAD XII. The report on the hearing will be before the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/56/5 Report on UNCTAD's public symposium on the global economic crisis and development: the way forward

(b) UNCTAD's communication strategy and publications policy

26. In accordance with paragraphs 187 and 188 of the Accra Accord, the Board will have before it a draft communication strategy and a draft publications policy, for its approval.

Documentation

TD/B/56/9 Draft UNCTAD communication strategy
TD/B/56/10 Draft UNCTAD publications policy

Item 12. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

27. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the forty-second session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 29 June–17 July 2009) will be before the Board.

Documentation

A/64/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-second session

(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its forty-second session

28. At its forty-second session, held from 10 to 11 December 2008, the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed the Centre's technical cooperation activities.

Item 13. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

29. The reports of the Working Party on its fifty-second, fifty-second (resumed) and fifty-third sessions will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

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| TD/B/WP/209 | Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-second session |
| TD/B/WP/210 | Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-second (resumed) session |
| TD/B/WP/215 | Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-third session |

Item 14. 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 2008–2009 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2010

30. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the President of the Advisory Body will inform the Board about the activities of the Advisory Body and about the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2010, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

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

31. At present, there are 112 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/7. The Board will be invited to consider two applications: one from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and the other from the Eurasian Development Bank.

Documentation

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| TD/B/56/R.1 | Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purpose of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board: application from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States |
| TD/B/56/R.2 | Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purpose of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board: application from the Eurasian Development Bank |

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

32. At present, there are 198 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 110 in the general category and 88 in the special category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/10. The Board will be invited to consider two applications: one from the Grain and Feed Trade Association for inclusion in the special category, and the other from IQsensato for inclusion in the general category.

Documentation

- TD/B/56/R.3 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board: application from the Grain and Feed Trade Association
- TD/B/56/R.4 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board: application from IQsensato

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

33. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2009, and an indicative calendar for 2010–2011.

In-session documentation

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2010

34. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2010, on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

35. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

Documentation

- TD/B/Inf.215 Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

(g) 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 15. Adoption of the report on credentials

37. 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

Item 16. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Board

38. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh 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.

Item 17. Other business

Item 18. Adoption of the report

39. In accordance with paragraph 195 of the Accra Accord, the report of the Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes on Africa, the LDCs and technical cooperation, Chair's summaries and negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat.

Schedule of meetings for the fifty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board First week					
	Monday 14 September	Tuesday 15 September	Wednesday 16 September	Thursday 17 September	Friday 18 September
am	<p>Opening plenary</p> <p>Item 1. Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2. Adoption of the agenda</p> <p>Opening statements</p>	<p>Item 7. Development strategies in a globalized world</p>	<p>Item 6. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective: Impact of the crisis</p>	<p>Item 5. Economic development in Africa: Strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development</p>	<p>Item 4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010</p>
pm	<p>Item 3. High-level segment The global economic crisis and the necessary policy response</p>	<p>Prebisch Lecture</p>	<p>Item 11(a). Hearing with civil society</p>	<p>Item 5. Economic development in Africa: Strengthening regional economic integration for Africa's development</p>	<p>Item 4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010</p>

Schedule of meetings for the fifty-sixth session of the Board 2nd week					
	Monday 21 September	Tuesday 22 September	Wednesday 23 September	Thursday 24 September	Friday 25 September
am	United Nations holiday: No meetings	Item 8. Investment for development: Transnational corporations, agricultural production and development	Item 11(b). UNCTAD's communication strategy and publication policy	Informals	Item 10(a). Technical cooperation Item 12(a). UNCITRAL report Item 12(b). Joint Advisory Group report Item 13. Reports of the Working Party Items 14(a) to 14(g)
pm	United Nations holiday: No meetings	Item 10(b). Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people Item 9. 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	Informals	Informals	Closing plenary Report of Sessional Committee I on item 4 Report of Sessional Committee II on item 5 All other items Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board