



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
1 July 2011

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Fifty-eighth session

Geneva, 12–23 September 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter 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: Volatile capital flows and development
4. Interdependence: Addressing trade and development challenges and opportunities after the global economic and financial crisis
5. Implementation of the outcome from LDC-IV: UNCTAD's contribution
6. Economic development in Africa: Fostering industrial development in Africa in the new global environment
7. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective
8. Development strategies in a globalized world: A new role for the government and fiscal policy
9. Investment for development: Implications of non-equity forms of transnational corporations' operations
10. 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
11. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
12. Preparatory process for the thirteenth session of the Conference:
 - (a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee
 - (b) Approval of the provisional agenda of the Conference
13. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-fourth 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
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. 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 2010–2011 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2012
 - (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 2012
 - (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
16. Adoption of the report on credentials
 17. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Board
 18. Other business
 19. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the Consultations of the President on 19 May 2011.

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-eighth session will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa) and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list C. The 10 vice-presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); four from list B; one 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 chapter 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 5 to sessional committee I and agenda item 6 to sessional committee II.

Item 3. High-level segment: Volatile capital flows and development

8. A multitude of factors underpin the movements of short-term capital flows, whose volatility can have adverse effects on developing countries, especially in the wake of the global recession, and offset their potential benefits. UNCTAD's latest research examines the persistent inflows and their resilience after shocks and emphasizes that nominal interest rates are persistently high in the countries receiving these flows compared to rates in the countries in whose currencies they are funded. Today, a new form of "Dutch disease" is at work, although this time currency overvaluation is provoked by international carry-trade rather than from commodity-export earnings. The effects are just the same, however: distorting exchange rates, and frustrating countries' efforts to develop their manufacturing industries and to diversify domestic production and exports. The high-level segment will address ways and means to ensure that capital flows to developing countries work in favour of sustained, strong and balanced growth.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2011 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2011*

Item 4. Interdependence: Addressing trade and development challenges and opportunities after the global economic and financial crisis

9. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review how the world economy has evolved after the global economic and financial crisis and the pending challenges being faced. Special attention will be given to the evolution of global imbalances and the terms of trade and to assessing the implications of unchecked commodity price volatility in articulating policy responses at the national, regional and global levels. The Board has as a background document for its deliberations, the chapters of the *Trade and Development Report, 2011* that review current trends in the world economy, the implications of global economic interdependence for developing countries and the need for a more concerted response to global economic challenges.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2011 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2011*

Item 5. Implementation of the outcome from LDC-IV: UNCTAD's contribution

10. Under this sub-item, the Board will consider the report of the secretariat titled: Preliminary review of the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV): What is new and the way forward (TD/B/58/7). The primary objective of the report is to provide a brief assessment of the outcome of the Conference with the aim of (a) initiating discussions at the Trade and Development Board on issues related to implementation of the relevant commitments by UNCTAD; (b) contributing to the reviews of progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as mandated by the Conference; and (c) exploring ways and means of mainstreaming the relevant priorities of the new Programme of Action in the work of the UNCTAD secretariat and the intergovernmental machinery. Furthermore, the report provides a comparative review and analysis of the Istanbul Programme of Action with its predecessor – the Brussels Programme of Action. It also indicates tentative implications of the outcome of the Conference to the work of UNCTAD on LDCs for the current decade.

Documentation

TD/B/58/7

Preliminary review of the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV): What is new and the way forward

Item 6. Economic development in Africa: Fostering industrial development in Africa in the new global environment

11. The *Economic Development in Africa Report 2011: Fostering Industrial Development in Africa in the New Global Environment* examines the status of industrial development in Africa with a focus on the identification of “stylized facts” associated with African manufacturing. It also provides an analysis of past attempts at promoting industrial development in the region and the lessons learned from these experiences. Furthermore, it offers policy recommendations on how to foster industrial development in Africa in the new global environment characterized by changing international trade rules, growing influence of industrial powers from the South, the internationalization of production and increasing concerns about climate change.

12. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review past attempts at promoting industrial development in Africa and the lessons learned from these experiences. Deliberations will focus on the need for African countries to adopt a new strategic approach to industrial policy based on the following principles: (a) supporting as well as challenging entrepreneurs to perform; (b) building effective State-business relations; (c) recognizing the political feasibility of proposed actions; (d) focusing on lifting binding constraints; and (e) putting in place a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and accountability. Special attention will be given to the new global environment characterized by changing international trade rules, growing influence of industrial powers from the South, the internationalization of production and growing concerns about climate change.

Documentation

TD/B/58/2

Economic Development in Africa: Fostering industrial development in Africa in the new global environment (overview)

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2011

Economic Development in Africa Report 2011: Fostering Industrial Development in Africa in the New Global Environment

Item 7. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective

13. The Trade and Development Board will review developments in the international trading system and international trade of particular relevance to developing countries. Trade remains an important engine of economic recovery, growth and development. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations stands at a critical juncture. The objective of concluding the Round by the end of 2011 is unlikely to be met and WTO members now aim to agree instead on a package of limited developmental issues by December, particularly in favour of LDCs. The agricultural sector, a major source of income and jobs in many developing countries, has been at the heart of the development dimension of the Round. The search for post-crisis growth and development path, as well as recent recurrent food crises and heightened food security concerns, have led many countries to refocus their attention to agriculture as a central pillar of strategies for economic

diversification, value addition and structural transformation, as well as for food security, poverty alleviation and employment creation. Against this backdrop, the Board will examine the role of the agricultural sector and agricultural trade in growth and development, and consider the contribution of the international trading system to agriculture-based development strategies. A background note will be prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/58/3 Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective

Item 8. Development strategies in a globalized world: A new role for the government and fiscal policy

14. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will focus on the effectiveness of the policies adopted to cope with the global economic and financial crisis and the economic reforms needed in order to support sustainable and inclusive growth. The *Trade and Development Report, 2011* chapters dealing with the reorientation of fiscal policy towards the expansion and better use of available fiscal space – as well as management of sovereign debt and the regulation of the financial sector – will serve as background to the deliberations of the Board under this item.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2011 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2011*

Item 9. Investment for development: Implications of non-equity forms of transnational corporations' operations

15. Global value chains governed by transnational corporations (TNCs) have considerably evolved over the last decade. Not only has the international spread of production processes increased dramatically, there has also been a reconfiguration of ownership and control. This has led to the increasing importance of so-called “non-equity modes of TNC operations”, in which TNCs exercise a level of control over economic activities and business entities in overseas markets without equity participation or ownership. Common non-equity forms are contract manufacturing, services outsourcing, contract farming, licensing and franchising. To ensure participation of developing economies in global value chains, it is no longer enough to focus only on attracting FDI and subsidiaries of TNCs. Policymakers must now consider a myriad of alternative forms of TNC engagement in their economies, each of which comes with its own set of development impacts and policy implications.

16. The session will therefore focus on how the promotion of non-equity modalities (NEMs) may be integrated into domestic industrial development strategies to make investment work for development. The Overview of the *World Investment Report 2011* will serve as the document for this agenda item, and the full Report will be the background document that will inform the debate.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2011 and Overview *World Investment Report 2011*

Item 10. 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

17. 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.

18. 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."

19. 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/58/5 Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD's contributions

Item 11. Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

20. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2010, 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-ninth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, due to be held from 5 to 7 September 2011 and including a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2010.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/232	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
TD/B/WP/232/Add.1	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2010 (English only)
TD/B/WP/232/Add.2	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/ 236	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its fifty-ninth session

(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

21. The secretariat's report on assistance to the Palestinian people will provide an update on recent performance of the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory with a focus on gross domestic product growth, the fiscal situation, external trade, unemployment, poverty and food insecurity in the context of the key factors constraining Palestinian economic development. The report also examines new evidence regarding the actual scale of the Palestinian bilateral trade deficit with Israel as well as the economic ramifications of the severance of East Jerusalem from the rest of the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory and the resultant lost development opportunities. As in previous years, the report also gives an account of the rationale and scope of technical cooperation activities implemented by UNCTAD in support of the Palestinian people.

22. Following the decision by the Trade and Development Board in 2009, UNCTAD has been mandated to carry out an independent evaluation of its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people. The Board will have before it the report of the independent evaluator, which contains his findings, conclusions and recommendations on UNCTAD's work in this area.

Documentation

TD/B/58/4	Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory
TD/B/58/6	Report of the independent evaluator on UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 12. Preparatory process for the thirteenth session of the Conference:**(a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee**

23. In accordance with past practice, the Board will establish a Preparatory Committee under the chairmanship of the President of the Board in order to prepare, inter alia, the pre-Conference text.

In-session documentation

(b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference

24. The substantive theme and sub-themes for the Conference were approved by the Board at its fifty-second executive session (14 April 2011). The Board will have before it a draft provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, comprising the substantive theme and subthemes already approved by member States and other standard items.

*In-session documentation***Item 13. Other matters in the field of trade and development:****(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 27 June–8 July 2011) will be before the Board.

Documentation

A/66/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-fourth session

(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

26. At its forty-fourth session held from 16 to 17 December 2010 and its forty-fifth session, held from 30 June to 1 July 2011, the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed the Centre's technical cooperation activities.

Item 14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

27. The report of the Working Party on its fifty-ninth session will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/236 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-ninth session

Item 15. 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 2010–2011 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2012**

28. 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 2012, 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

29. 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

30. At present, there are 201 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 112 in the general category and 89 in the special category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/12. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

31. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2011, and for 2012.

In-session documentation

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2012

32. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2012, 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)

33. 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

34. 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 16. Adoption of the report on credentials

35. 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 17. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Board

36. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth 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 18. Other business

37. Under this item, the Board will consider the Report on the third UNCTAD Public Symposium: Making trade and finance work for people and the planet.

Documentation

TD/B/58/8 Report on the third UNCTAD Public Symposium: Making trade and finance work for people and the planet

Item 19. Adoption of the report

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