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**REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ON ITS FORTY-FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 18 to 20 April 2007

Rapporteur: Ms. Ana Inés Rocanova (Uruguay)

Volume II

Summary of formal statements

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Chapter I

OPENING STATEMENTS

1. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the discussions of the three Commissions, the reports of which had been prepared for the present session of the Board, had been useful, and that it had been possible to agree on recommendations. Although those recommendations would have benefited from being broader in scope, addressing key emerging issues in trade and development, a good start had nevertheless been made. He welcomed the intergovernmental agreement that had been achieved on the topics and schedule of the forthcoming expert meetings and the sessions of the Commissions. Referring to the Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its forty-eighth session, he highlighted the importance of that session since it had dealt with the next programme budget. Having taken note of the requests and comments addressed to it, the secretariat would provide delegations with all possible support at the resumed session.

2. The Secretary-General referred to two other important agenda items: the report on the in-depth examination of the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and the theme and preparatory process for UNCTAD XII. Regarding the former item, he said he would make his remarks in due course. Regarding the latter item, he noted that during the present session of the Board the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana would be making a presentation on progress made by his Government in the preparations for UNCTAD XII. He hoped that the present session would act as a launching pad for that event.

3. The representative of **Honduras**, speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China**, highlighted the successful conclusion of the Mid-term Review in 2006, which had reaffirmed the strengthening of the three functional pillars of UNCTAD's mandate, as well as the important outcomes of the eleventh sessions of the three Commissions in 2007, which had also reaffirmed the mandate as agreed in the São Paulo Consensus. The Commissions had provided a solid policy direction for UNCTAD on various substantive issues of interest to the G77 and China, and a validation of UNCTAD's work. Furthermore, the agreed recommendations of each Commission had provided a focus on areas of work that would deserve to be examined further in the UNCTAD XII process.

4. Thanking Ambassador Gafoor for his involvement in consultations on the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons, the speaker said that the G77 and China expected that those recommendations would make a positive contribution to the enhancement of UNCTAD's development role and impact.

5. The lessons learned during the negotiations on the themes for UNCTAD XII should provide a better basis for the work ahead on the negotiations on the outcomes of Accra. Those negotiations would require a real commitment by the international community to work together in a constructive way in order to achieve a result that would strengthen UNCTAD's mandates and its contributions to the reinforcement of the UN system in global development discussions.

6. In conclusion, the speaker said that UNCTAD XII should serve to relaunch UNCTAD in accordance with the current reform processes and the new realities in the field of trade and development.

7. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, welcomed the outcome of the work of the three Commissions, and expressed the Group's support for the plan to hold a two-day session with a focused agenda for each Commission prior to UNCTAD XII. His Group also supported the choice of topics for expert meetings, and emphasized the need to implement paragraph 32 (b) of the Mid-term Review so as to come up with development-oriented outcomes, including policy options. The Group suggested that the expert meetings attempt to brainstorm ideas for possible policy options for consideration by the Commissions.

8. With reference to item 3, the Asian Group welcomed Ambassador Gafoor's work in guiding discussions on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and endorsed the report on informal consultations. Regarding Cluster 1, there was a need for consultations among member States on various aspects of the recommendations in accordance with the outcomes of the Mid-term Review. Regarding Cluster 2, the Asian Group took note of the pros and cons of each recommendation and looked forward to continuing discussions.

9. With regard to item 4, the Group appreciated Ambassador Stephenson's work in guiding the deliberations for determining the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII. The Conference should provide opportunities to address UNCTAD's contribution to major international conferences, in particular the International Conference on Financing for Development. The speaker emphasized sub-theme 1, which would address systemic issues related to promoting consistency in the global economic system and enhancing the participation of developing countries in international decision-making through a stronger partnership. The Group also supported sub-theme 2, namely the idea of examining greater South-South cooperation to complement its North-South counterpart. It considered sub-theme 3 to be important, particularly the issues regarding the capacity-building capacity of the developing countries and making use of different resources and knowledge for their development and economic growth. Concerning sub-theme 4, it was important to address institutional issues at UNCTAD XII, with the aim of strengthening UNCTAD in all aspects, including its intergovernmental role and its positive impact on member countries.

10. In conclusion, the speaker expressed his hope that in the lead-up to UNCTAD XII, member States would build on the current positive momentum.

11. The representative of **Angola**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, congratulated all the member States and the facilitators on their hard work and the well-deserved results achieved in identifying the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII. The fact that Africa would host the Conference made his Group feel that it was at the centre of the preparatory work. While responsibility for the main part of the work lay with the member States, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should play a very important role in achieving success in Accra. In his Group's opinion, UNCTAD XII had to address substantive issues that were crucial for African countries, particularly regarding trade and development, including those issues related to commodities, productive capacities and international competitiveness, and multilateral and regional trade issues, including trade negotiations.

12. Unlike a number of other developing countries, the majority of countries in his Group continued to struggle to derive development gains from globalization, and this had given rise to the expectation that UNCTAD XII would address in concrete terms the opportunities and challenges of globalization. One of the sub-themes would require UNCTAD XII to find innovative and practical ways of addressing the continuing problems of commodities. If the sub-theme on productive capacity, trade and investment and mobilizing resources for

development received strong political commitment from major trading partners, this would go a long way to addressing fundamental problems in trade and development in Africa. Cautioning that the ongoing reform process should enhance, rather than erode, the substantive mandate and developmental role and impact of UNCTAD as the focal point in the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development, the speaker reiterated that the organization should continue its assistance to African countries regarding negotiations and development policies.

13. The representative of **Brazil**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, said that globalization affected countries differently, and he hoped that UNCTAD XII would look at systemic and global issues, taking into account new trends in the geography of the world economy. He expressed his Group's deep-seated commitment to UNCTAD's future, with the hope that it would continue to provide a space within the United Nations for dealing with issues related to trade and development. The formulation of the UNCTAD XII theme on the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development was a vital achievement in the preparatory process leading up to the Accra Conference and set forth the proper conditions for meeting the greatest challenges of the modern world within the mandate of UNCTAD.

14. The results of the consultations on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons were another important achievement, which made it possible to identify convergences and discuss proposals for strengthening UNCTAD. The Secretary-General would need to continue consulting on and reporting on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

15. His Group was pleased with the outcomes of the sessions of the three UNCTAD Commissions, which had covered issues of great importance to it. Reflecting on the Commissions and the expert meetings for 2007–2008 in preparation for UNCTAD XII should be done with a view to strengthening and broadening the contribution to development. Specifically referring to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, he said that the strengthening of work on South–South and North–South trade, and on biotrade and biofuels, would be particularly important for Latin America. Also, he emphasized the work on the liberalization of trade in services to support the fight against poverty, with account being taken of an adequate regulatory framework to help compliance with policy objectives such as ensuring universal access to basic services. The temporary mobility of people providing services would be also important.

16. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues had analysed international investment agreements and their economic and legal impacts, a topic of vital importance to his Group. The creation of a standing expert group on those matters was an issue that should be analysed within the framework of the agreed outcome of the informal consultations chaired by Ambassador Gafoor. Therefore, a decision on that issue could be examined only at UNCTAD XII. The Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development had considered the work done to promote and support small and medium-sized enterprises, which had important innovative capacities and played a key role in Latin America. In conclusion, he urged that UNCTAD undertake research on ways to strengthen links between remittances and investment in small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.

17. The representative of **Germany**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union (EU)**, said that the two major processes — the consultations on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the deliberations on the theme for UNCTAD XII — had achieved results. The

EU wished to thank Ambassador Gafoor and Ambassador Stephenson for ably steering member States through constructive and results-oriented consultations on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the theme for UNCTAD XII respectively, and welcomed the results achieved so far. Specifically referring to those recommendations by the Panel that had been endorsed by the Trade and Development Board, he said that the EU looked forward to the implementation process to be pursued by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and welcomed the fact that the deliberations on recommendations on Cluster 2 would continue in the context of the preparations for UNCTAD XII. The EU suggested that the Board establish a mechanism to ensure a timely follow-up to the work of the Panel.

18. The EU also noted with satisfaction that the three Commissions' sessions in 2007 had resulted in agreed outcomes and reflected the willingness of all partners to cooperate and to better manage time. Furthermore, it appreciated the efforts and the flexibility shown by all to accommodate the tight schedule of meetings, and the support from the secretariat in the decision-making process relating to the proposals for topics for expert meetings, which should be brought to a conclusion during the current session of the Board.

19. The work in the coming months would be crucial for determining UNCTAD's course during the next four years, and the EU stood ready to help bring to fruition the preparatory process and attract attention, at all levels, to UNCTAD XII.

20. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, said that his Group appreciated the action-oriented outcomes of the eleventh session of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, which had provided clear guidance for the secretariat's work for the period before UNCTAD XII.

21. With regard to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, he encouraged UNCTAD to undertake analytical and technical assistance work — for developing countries and countries with economies in transition — on enterprise development that would encompass global and regional value chains, outward investment and business linkages. He also suggested that UNCTAD assist countries in identifying policies and facilitative measures to enhance the competitiveness of their small and medium-sized enterprises, and help them in devising and implementing national and international policies for enhancing transport and trade facilitation, with the focus on the special situation of landlocked and transit countries. Group D would like UNCTAD to strengthen its work on training to enhance local research and policymaking capacities relating to trade and development issues through the training programmes of the Virtual Institute, and the TrainForTrade and Paragraph 166 programmes.

22. With respect to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, UNCTAD should continue its analytical work on foreign direct investment (FDI) and the dissemination of its findings through the *World Investment Report*, and should assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the formulation and implementation of policies conducive to attracting and benefiting from FDI. It should serve as a focal point in the UN system for dealing with matters related to international investment agreements, and should intensify its capacity-building efforts to maximize the contribution of those agreements to development. Group D highly commended the UNCTAD programme on Investment Policy Reviews, and asked the secretariat to strengthen its efforts to ensure timely responses to interested countries' requests.

23. Furthermore, Group D greatly appreciated and supported UNCTAD's work on WTO accession in the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, and requested that this activity be continued and further strengthened. Also, UNCTAD should continue its work on promoting awareness and understanding of better utilization of trade preferences available under the Generalized System of Preferences. Group D supported UNCTAD's work in the fields of new and dynamic sectors, non-tariff trade barriers and trade in services.

24. Group D attached the greatest importance to consideration of the draft proposal for UNCTAD's work programme for the biennium 2008–2009 in the framework of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget. It had been noted with satisfaction that in the agreed conclusions of the forty-eighth session of the Working Party it was confirmed that all activities, programmes and projects contained in the programme budget for the new biennium should be based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution of resources among all developing country regions as well as countries with economies in transition.

25. With regard to the in-depth examination of the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, Group D thanked Ambassador Gafoor of Singapore for his work and fully supported the agreed classification into three clusters and encouraged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to start implementing recommendations in the first cluster on the basis of consultations with member States. Concerning the recommendations identified in the second cluster, Group D was prepared to continue active deliberations on their content in the framework of the preparations for UNCTAD XII.

26. In conclusion, expressing his Group's gratitude to Ambassador Stephenson of Canada for his efforts to facilitate the open-ended informal consultations on formulating the main theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, the speaker noted that the latter were ambitious, forward-looking and relevant to all groups of countries, and focused enough to allow member States to agree on the work programme after UNCTAD XII.

27. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries (LDCs)**, expressed appreciation for the quality of the work done by the three Commissions and the efforts they had made to give attention to LDCs' concerns. However, more had to be done to meet those countries' growing and diverse needs. It was his wish that earnest efforts be made in implementing the conclusions presented in the reports of the Commissions.

28. Referring to the informal consultations on the recommendations in the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, the speaker said that his group hoped that the efforts made would strengthen the role of UNCTAD, improve its functioning and increase the impact of its technical cooperation activities, especially for LDCs. The greatest challenge for UNCTAD and the international community was to translate their wishes and objectives into concrete outcomes. LDCs supported any initiative aimed at strengthening UNCTAD while respecting its mandate and intellectual independence.

29. The LDCs hoped that UNCTAD XII would be a model conference, taking place in the context of many global changes in the economic, social, political and environmental areas. It would be held at a time when pressure for reform at the United Nations and UNCTAD was mounting, which was an opportune time for change and for building a common and more equitable future in international economic relations. The theme recommended for UNCTAD XII seemed similar to that of the previous two Conferences. All of them dealt with the

challenge of reducing the imbalance in the globalization process, and this meant that there was a risk of repetition. The LDCs would like UNCTAD XII to be innovative and to lead to a future characterized by more cooperation and dialogue. It could provide an excellent opportunity to define policies and strategies to solve efficiently the problems and challenges of LDCs, including the problems regarding the building of their productive capacity, so that they could integrate themselves effectively into the global economy.

30. LDCs would like UNCTAD to undertake reform to make itself more visible, with an intensified focus on their needs. In conclusion, the speaker said that UNCTAD XII should concentrate on poverty reduction, with the priority strategies aiming at developing physical infrastructure, improving human resources, creating job opportunities and increasing exports.

31. The representative of **India** said that the productive outcome of the sessions of the three Commissions provided the right setting for addressing the challenging tasks in the months ahead. He noted with satisfaction that member States had made a beginning with the agreed outcome of the open-ended informal consultations conducted so ably and skilfully by Ambassador Burhan Gafoor. Stressing UNCTAD's role in harnessing the development dimension of globalization for the benefit of developing countries, he urged that the international community do its utmost to strengthen UNCTAD so that it could fulfil its mandate and enhance development opportunities for developing countries.

32. The speaker welcomed the successful conclusion of the informal consultations on the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, which was a tribute to the vigorous efforts of Ambassador Don Stephenson of Canada. Development was a shared responsibility and a collective endeavour. UNCTAD's *Trade and Development Report 2006* indicated that economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa was expected to be 6 per cent in 2006.

33. As part of its commitment to South–South cooperation, India was working with the New Partnership for Africa's Development and in the Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement (TEAM-9) initiative involving mutually beneficial economic interaction based on concessional credit and transfer of relevant technology to Africa. It was also sharing its experience in information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical science and remote sensing with developing countries. It had started working on a connectivity mission in Africa, which would support tele-education, tele-medicine, e-commerce, e-governance, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological services.

34. In conclusion, he said that in a spirit of cooperation India would engage constructively in the negotiations ahead, with the objective of evolving a consensual outcome that would be in the best interest of all.

35. The representative of the **Russian Federation** congratulated Ambassador Stephenson of Canada and Ambassador Gafoor of Singapore on their success in helping the achievement of consensus on two issues that were very important to UNCTAD. The theme and the four sub-themes of UNCTAD XII reflected the appropriate balance of interests of various countries and groups of countries. The readiness demonstrated by member States to search for compromises gave hope for the success of UNCTAD XII as well as for the achievement of the goals decided on that occasion. The speaker underlined the importance of achieving practical results in the consultations on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons. The agreed recommendations prepared by Ambassador Gafoor testified to the clear understanding among member States of the imperative need to increase the efficiency of UNCTAD and the necessity to undertake a realistic approach to its processes. He concluded by saying that the

results of the work of UNCTAD's Commissions and expert groups would facilitate the fullest achievement of the São Paulo Consensus, and this would provide a firm foundation for UNCTAD XII.

36. The representative of **Switzerland** expressed his satisfaction with the work done during the two informal sets of consultations on the decisions to be adopted by the present session of the Board. He was particularly happy with the adoption by consensus of eight out of the 21 recommendations presented in the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the identification of seven more recommendations to be considered at UNCTAD XII. This "early harvest" was a result that exceeded expectations. Switzerland had been an early supporter of the idea of setting up the Panel of Eminent Persons, and he praised its present composition for its excellence in terms of the quality of its members and their geographical distribution. He encouraged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to implement those recommendations that were within his competence, such as those on internal management and technical assistance.

37. Concerning UNCTAD XII, the issue of UNCTAD's revitalization should be considered on that occasion. He hoped that the main theme and the sub-themes chosen for the Conference would be attractive enough to bring high-level participants from capitals, thereby making it a success. There was, however, a long way still to go for success in Accra. In conclusion, he thanked the two ambassadors who had managed successfully the difficult consultations on items 3 and 4, which had led to the decisions adopted.

38. The representative of **Argentina** said that the consensus-building at the open-ended consultations on the theme and sub-themes of UNCTAD XII had been laborious but fruitful. They would not only allow the Conference to deal with key and substantive trade and development issues, but also provide member States with an opportunity to hold discussions and reach the necessary consensus to strengthen UNCTAD institutionally. The theme and sub-themes would help member States maintain the specific identity of UNCTAD within the UN system as the only forum dealing with trade and development from a development perspective. They would also help UNCTAD to sustain its intellectual and academic independence, and ensure that it would be a multilateral driving force for proposing alternative ideas and policies, as well as for the provision of technical cooperation and assistance.

39. Regarding the agreed results of the open-ended consultations on the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, the speaker noted that they were somewhat at variance with the latter's Recommendation No. 10. In conclusion, the speaker paid tribute to the facilitators of both sets of open-ended consultations — Ambassador Stephenson from Canada and Ambassador Gafoor from Singapore — for their excellent respective contributions regarding the agenda items.

40. The representative of **China** said that the theme and sub-themes of UNCTAD XII were relevant to global economic development, and that UNCTAD could play a role in the process of globalization for development. The interesting sub-themes reminded delegates of the Monterrey Consensus, which had noted that external factors, such as the international macroeconomic and trading environment, and debt and aid flows, tended to influence the ability of countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals. UNCTAD also had a role to play in enhancing South–South cooperation, which had already evolved in terms of depth and sophistication. He expressed his country's desire to work with other developing country delegations to strengthen that cooperation and promote global development.

41. It was hoped, he said, that the institutional discussions concerning UNCTAD would increase the organization's developmental role and impact. It was also hoped that UNCTAD would provide policy options to help countries meet the challenges brought about by globalization. China had supported the adoption of the eight recommendations of the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and hoped that, in order to achieve an "early harvest", the secretariat would make arrangements to discuss their implementation. China had no objection to adopting the reports of the three Commissions, and anticipated that the two-day meetings would bring fresh ideas for UNCTAD XII. In conclusion, he said that his country was optimistic about the preparations for and outcomes of UNCTAD XII, and looked forward to the presentation by the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana.

42. The representative of **South Africa** said that the first quarter of 2007 had been taken up with intensive consultations to examine the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and establish the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII. Expressing her appreciation for the important role played by Ambassadors Gafoor and Stephenson, she said that the constructive spirit of those consultations should be carried forward to UNCTAD XII. Also, the positive momentum started at UNCTAD XI and retained through the period of the 2006 Mid-term Review should be strengthened.

43. It would be useful to critically evaluate the reasons why the implementation of the outcomes of UNCTAD XI had fallen short of expectations. While African economies had shown encouraging signs of economic growth, they were still often concentrated in natural-resource production sectors and were associated with capital-intensive sectors with low potential for technology and skill transfers. Sustainable development issues could be addressed only if underlying constraints were dealt with in a transparent and comprehensive manner at the international level. National development strategies could be effective if sufficient attention were paid to the impact of international financial, monetary and trade policies. UNCTAD had a specific mandate within the United Nations system to deal with the international coordination of issues related to trade and development. Lastly, she said that the consideration of issues relating to enhancing the role of UNCTAD should not be the focus of deliberations at UNCTAD XII.

44. The representative of **Bangladesh** expressed his satisfaction with the reports of the Commissions and the Working Party. Those reports, he emphasized, reflected the importance of consensus-building in the activities of the intergovernmental machinery. Expressing his appreciation for the efforts of Ambassador Gafoor in the informal consultations on all of the 21 recommendations presented in the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, he supported their outcomes, but said that the recommendations, while they enjoyed a broad consensus, came with many caveats. Following earlier concerns raised, Bangladesh looked forward to the reaction of the Secretary-General on each of the recommendations, as well as the agreed outcomes. As for UNCTAD XII, institutional discussion should not divert attention from focusing on substantive issues. Bangladesh was grateful to Ambassador Stephenson for his consultations on the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII.

45. The representative of **Mexico** expressed her appreciation for UNCTAD's unconditional support to member States in promoting and strengthening the organization's mechanisms. She applauded the efforts of the Panel of Eminent Persons, which would have an extremely positive impact on the organization. There was a need to prioritize the use of UNCTAD's resources, and their management was a key aspect of strengthening and increasing the organization's credibility. As for the strengthening of coordination among

institutions dealing with trade and development, UNCTAD should forge improved partnerships with international organizations and United Nations entities in order to achieve synergies and avoid duplication of functions. She thanked Ambassador Gafoor for his work in examining the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, including its 21 recommendations. She also expressed her appreciation to Ambassador Stephenson for his unconditional support in the quest for a theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII.

46. The speaker wished to stress that everyone was subject to the effects of globalization, which varied both in and among States, and presented challenges for humankind. In view of the asymmetries among developed and developing countries, different options were needed regarding how to face those challenges and derive benefits from globalization within a framework of cooperation and solidarity. Nations had an urgent duty to make globalization an efficient tool that took into consideration the human dimension of development. In that context, UNCTAD must be ready to face new global challenges with a development perspective, particularly the phenomenon of migration.

47. With regard to the consultations that been held, her delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the outcomes achieved. That was not the end, but just the beginning, of a series of intergovernmental meetings that would take place during 2007 and probably during the first months of 2008. Those meetings should include all parties concerned and be conducted in a transparent manner. She was certain that delegates would discuss items 3 and 4 of the agenda of the present session constructively, so that they could agree on a working method and the action that they should take.

48. The implementation of the development goals agreed in the relevant United Nations conferences and summits on economic and social matters, particularly those of the Monterrey Consensus, should be addressed urgently. This task should be carried out in a coordinated, coherent and comprehensive manner. In that connection, the review process in preparation for UNCTAD XII should take into consideration all aspects, decisions and proposals discussed in the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which would take place in Doha in 2008.

49. In conclusion, the speaker said that the Government of Mexico would work constructively in the preparations for UNCTAD XII. It was very interested in strengthening international organizations' capacity to assist their members' efforts and economic productivity.

50. The representative of **Peru**, highlighting the serious problem of climate change, expressed his belief that UNCTAD had an important role to play in promoting strong ties among developed and developing countries in the global effort needed to combat its effects. A few years earlier, UNCTAD had begun important work in the areas of biotrade, organic agriculture, biodiversity and biofuels. The organization had not only generated considerable expectation, but also provided a concrete basis on which to take decisive actions in the fields of agricultural trade, investment, promotion and research. Regarding issues that required the Board's action, it was particularly important to have swift implementation of the EMPRETEC programme in countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, the initiation of policy reviews regarding information and communication technologies, and the strengthening of training to build capacity in key areas of the international economic agenda. Lastly, the speaker commended the efforts of Ambassadors Gafoor and Stephenson as facilitators for the work on agenda items 3 and 4.

51. The representative of **Nicaragua** noted that UNCTAD's Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities was of special interest to his country, where national development strategy was intrinsically linked to the issue of small producers and structural limitations to their development. UNCTAD should continue working in that area and expand programmes for strengthening the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including those in Latin America. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues had emphasized that attracting and benefiting from foreign direct investment continued to be one of the main challenges. In that regard, the speaker noted that the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development had asked the UNCTAD secretariat to help countries strengthen the competitiveness of their SMEs so that they could benefit from information and communication technology. He suggested that UNCTAD's research and analysis efforts could enhance links between remittances and investments in SMEs. Reiterating his country's support for UNCTAD, he said that Nicaragua would work to strengthen the organization according to its mandate. In that regard, it was important to establish a consensus-building mechanism, which should be as transparent as possible, for the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons. In conclusion, the representative expressed his satisfaction with the forward-looking UNCTAD XII theme and sub-themes.

52. The representative of **Guinea** said that his delegation endorsed the 2008–2009 budget, which would finance economic development objectives for Africa and help experts from developing countries such as Guinea attend international meetings. The programme budget must also take into account the special situation associated with the preparations for UNCTAD XII, both in Geneva and at the regional level. The recommendations that had issued from the informal consultations on agenda items 3 and 4 had prepared the way for dynamic actions by UNCTAD in pursuing integrated global development, particularly in the least developed countries. He concluded by recommending that the present Board session reach decisive conclusions with respect to the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons.

53. The representative of **Pakistan** welcomed the fruitful and successful outcomes of the three Commissions and supported the decision to have two-day sessions in 2008, as well as the topics for expert meetings for 2007. He expressed appreciation for the work of Ambassador Burhan Gafoor of Singapore in facilitating the discussions on the recommendations of the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and for their successful outcomes. He endorsed the recommendations that reflected a convergence of views, although there would be a need for close consultations with member States on various aspects of their implementation in a fashion consistent with the outcomes of the Mid-term Review. Expressing appreciation for the work of Ambassador Don Stephenson of Canada in facilitating the informal consultations on the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, he emphasized his delegation's full support for and constructive engagement in the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII.

Chapter II

THEME AND PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR UNCTAD XII

(Agenda item 4)

54. The representative of **Honduras**, speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China**, thanked Ambassador Stephenson for taking up the challenge of facilitating the informal open-ended consultations with exemplary vision, outstanding dedication and patience. He also congratulated him on the results of the consultations. The G77 and China felt that the themes would be beneficial for both UNCTAD and developing countries. They welcomed the results and reiterated their support and their willingness to work with member States to strengthen UNCTAD so that it could best serve the needs and interests of developing countries.

55. The representative of **Germany**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, expressed support for the text. He suggested that the UNCTAD Secretary-General outline plans with respect to the themes after the text had been adopted.

56. The representative of **Brazil**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, expressed agreement with the statement made on behalf of the G77 and China, in addition to expressing appreciation for Ambassador Stephenson's work. He said that the main theme for UNCTAD XII could rightly encompass all the thought-provoking questions of modern times within UNCTAD'S mandate. Under sub-theme 1 GRULAC intended to discuss the systemic issues related to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Sub-theme 2 would make it possible to examine the new realities of the world economy. Sub-theme 3 dealt with issues that were core issues for UNCTAD as a knowledge-based organization. GRULAC believed that sub-theme 4 should be dealt with taking into account the discussions under sub-themes 1, 2 and 3, with the aim of strengthening UNCTAD. Lastly, the speaker requested the secretariat to make the necessary changes to the Spanish translations of the sub-themes in order to accurately reflect the meaning that had been negotiated and agreed upon.

57. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, thanked Ambassador Stephenson for his work and guidance on the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII. He expressed full support for the theme and sub-themes. The text was well balanced and was an important first step towards the Accra Conference, with relevance for all groups of countries.

58. The representative of **Angola**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, expressed his agreement with the statement made on behalf of the G77 and China, and said that the African Group was ready to work with all partners to make the outcome of UNCTAD XII a successful one.

59. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, expressed agreement with the statement made on behalf of the G77 and China, and appreciation for Ambassador Stephenson's work. The text had been successful in finding a balance between the interests of the different regional groups and delegations, and the Asian Group was ready to work with other partners.

60. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries (LDCs)**, thanked Ambassador Stephenson for the professionalism of the consultations, and the delegates for their spirit of cooperation. He emphasized that it was important to live up to the aspirations for UNCTAD with respect to strengthening the organization. A small matter

of concern was the absence of a footnote regarding the LDCs as a cross-cutting issue in the text.

61. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of **Group B**, agreed with the consensus expressed by other delegations, and thanked those delegations and Ambassador Stephenson.

62. The representative of **China** supported the statement made by the representative of Honduras, and welcomed the theme adopted for UNCTAD XII, which addressed the challenges of globalization. He expressed gratitude to the Canadian Ambassador in his role of facilitator and thanked him for his able leadership, the outcome of which had been balanced results satisfactory to all parties.

63. The representative of **Mexico** expressed his gratitude to the Canadian Ambassador. He suggested, however, that a detailed revision of the Spanish translation of the text be undertaken, because its meaning in various instances did not reflect the meaning intended during negotiations. Examples included "addressing" versus "examining", "enhancing" under sub-theme 3 and also "harnessing" in the context used under sub-theme 3. These were serious errors, and he requested the secretariat to consult with delegations during the preparations for UNCTAD XII, as well as calling for Spanish texts to be provided in a timely fashion.

64. The representative of **Rwanda** congratulated the President on choosing the appropriate facilitators, and also Ambassador Stephenson. He agreed with the statements made on behalf of the G77 and China, and the African and LDC groups. The outcome achieved had been very positive and balanced, and was supported by the Rwandan delegation. The key challenge was to devise strategies conducive to integrating economies into the international trading system, and at the same time to benefit from globalization, build productive capacities and harness knowledge, with resource mobilization, and coherence and an enabling environment at all levels. In conclusion, the speaker pointed to the importance of all the sub-themes.

65. The representative of **Mauritius** thanked Ambassador Stephenson for his work towards a positive outcome, and expressed his delegation's commitment to working closely with all member States for a successful outcome in Accra.

66. The representative of **Spain** congratulated Ambassador Stephenson and supported the statement made on behalf of GRULAC, as well as the statement by the representative of Mexico regarding the substance and interpretation of the Spanish text, and the need for Spanish documents to be made available on time.

67. The representative of **El Salvador** congratulated and thanked Ambassador Stephenson for the work done in the search for a consensus on the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII. In addition, he supported the statement made by the coordinator of GRULAC and by the representative of Mexico, and emphasized the need in the preparations for UNCTAD XII for special care to be taken in the translations into the four working languages of the United Nations, for documents to be submitted in a timely fashion and for meetings to have simultaneous interpretation in order to enhance all countries' participation in the discussions.

68. The representative of **Egypt** expressed his appreciation for the work of the President and that of Ambassador Stephenson, as well as for the role played by the secretariat. The Arabic translation of the text was considered "stronger" than the original English version

since it seemed to suggest a much wider scope for one of the sub-themes. While it was acceptable, for reasons of conformity it was important to align the different translations with the intent of the negotiators of the original English text. Furthermore, it would be very important for the outcome of UNCTAD XII, which would be result of the negotiations on the agreed theme and sub-themes, to include benchmarks and indicators to test how globalization should be contributing to development, enabling member States to evaluate progress at the next Conference, namely UNCTAD XIII.

69. The representative of **France** thanked Ambassador Stephenson for his work and said that the French translation was quite good, but that further time would be needed for the text to be revised more carefully, in conjunction with other delegations, and he reserved the right to suggest improvements.

70. The representative of **Ghana** agreed with the statements made on behalf of the G77 and the African Group. He also thanked delegates for all the hard work they had done on the themes and congratulated Ambassador Stephenson on the results.

71. **The Secretary-General** congratulated member States on having adopted the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, and said that he intended to prepare a report outlining his views on the theme and putting forward ideas to be taken up under the theme by the Conference.

Chapter III

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

(Agenda item 6)

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

72. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, referred to the decision that the Board had taken at its fortieth session, whereby it had requested Group D to continue consultations with a view to reaching consensus on Kyrgyzstan's application for membership of the Group. He announced that Group D had indeed reached consensus in its consultations and had approved Kyrgyzstan's application. Group D asked that the Board, in approving Kyrgyzstan's application, specifically state that it did so with the understanding that its decision would be without prejudice to the composition of the five United Nations regional groups for the purposes of the distribution of posts within the United Nations General Assembly and its bodies in New York.

73. The representative of **Kyrgyzstan** expressed gratitude to Group D and especially its coordinator, the representative of Belarus, for his active role in enabling the Group to reach consensus on his country's application. Kyrgyzstan, a member of several international trade organizations, was a country that practised trade liberalization, and its inclusion in Group D would mean additional support for the work of the Group.

74. The representative of the **Russian Federation** welcomed Kyrgyzstan as a new member of Group D. He was pleased to note that the Group had reached consensus on Kyrgyzstan's application for membership, which would have a positive impact on the work of the Group. He hoped that Kyrgyzstan would contribute actively to this work and to the preparatory process leading to UNCTAD XII, and that the prevailing spirit of cooperation would continue to grow.

75. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking in his national capacity, welcomed the acceptance of Kyrgyzstan's application for membership of Group D. This showed the importance of UNCTAD's work for countries with economies in transition, as well as the Group's potential for expanding and improving its work. It also helped countries outside the Group better understand the importance of participating in the work of UNCTAD, and it set an example to encourage other countries outside the Group to join.

Chapter IV

CLOSING STATEMENTS

76. The representative of **Angola**, speaking of behalf of the **African Group**, thanked the Minister of Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives of Ghana for informing the delegates about Ghana's progress in its preparations for UNCTAD XII in Accra. Ghana could count on the support of the African Group as those preparations moved into phase two, which had begun after the present session had reached agreement on the Conference's theme and sub-themes. More than 30 years after UNCTAD IV, held in Nairobi in 1976, issues relating to commodities, trade and development, which had been addressed at that Conference, were still relevant, and UNCTAD needed to remain in the forefront of efforts to deal with them. Lastly, he welcomed the approval of Kyrgyzstan's application for membership in Group D.

77. The representative of **Senegal** thanked Ghana's Minister of Trade, and said that he had no doubt that Ghana would host UNCTAD XII in the best traditions of African hospitality. Moreover, Senegal would do its part to ensure the success of the Conference.

78. The representative of **Egypt** thanked Ghana's Minister of Trade for his presentation, and congratulated him on the recent 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence. Egypt was confident that Ghana would host a very successful UNCTAD XII, and his country would assist Ghana any way it could in its preparations for the Conference.

79. The representative of **Germany**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union (EU)**, thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana for the detailed outline of his country's preparations for UNCTAD XII, saying that he had learned a great deal about the work already done. He expressed his satisfaction with the themes and sub-themes that had been adopted. UNCTAD XII would be a milestone Conference, and he was confident about its success.

80. The representative of **Rwanda** welcomed the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his statement supporting Ghana's efforts to organize UNCTAD XII. She welcomed the choice of theme and sub-themes for the Conference, and said that UNCTAD had an important role to play in helping developing countries come to terms with the challenges of globalization. Rwanda would continue to work closely and constructively with all UNCTAD member States towards strengthening the organization's development role and impact, and ensuring that it paid greater attention to Africa. Lastly, she expressed her confidence in Ghana's ability to make UNCTAD XII a success.

81. The representative of **Honduras**, speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China**, expressed satisfaction with the report by Ghana's Minister of Trade on the progress of Ghana's preparations for UNCTAD XII. There was much work to be done to achieve consensus, and this work was important not only to the G77 and China, but also to Africa. The G77 and China wanted Africa to foster democracy and respect for human rights. Africa had been called the "continent of hope", but should henceforth be called the "continent of the future". In conclusion, he said that the G77 and China supported the strengthening of UNCTAD, which he called a vital tool for developing countries.

82. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of **Group B**, welcomed the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and congratulated his country on the 50th

anniversary of its independence. It was clear that Ghana was well on track and had risen to the challenge of hosting UNCTAD XII.

83. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries (LDCs)**, thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana for his presentation, and said that the LDCs wished to make UNCTAD XII a success. Having listened to the Minister, he was confident it would indeed prove to be successful.

84. The representative of **Brazil**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)**, said he wished to align his country with the statement by the representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China. He expressed GRULAC's appreciation for the presence of Ghana's Minister of Trade, and said that Ghana could count on GRULAC's full support in its preparations for UNCTAD XII.

85. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana for his presentation, and aligned herself with the statement by the representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China. The Asian Group was pleased that the work in preparation for UNCTAD XII had been done in a positive spirit, and wished Ghana success in its preparations for the Conference.

86. The representative of **Tunisia** welcomed the Minister of Trade of Ghana, saying that his presence demonstrated the importance that Ghana attached to the preparations for UNCTAD XII. The Minister's presentation was reassuring, and he reiterated Tunisia's support for the Conference.

87. The representative of **Jamaica** associated her country with the statements made by the representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, and the representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of GRULAC. She thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and congratulated Ghana on the 50th anniversary of its independence. Although Jamaica and Ghana were separated by an ocean, they shared many ethnic and cultural ties, and Jamaica was certain that Ghana would host a successful conference. She was confident that UNCTAD XII would benefit the entire developing world.

88. The representative of **Guinea** welcomed the presence of the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and said that his country was certain that UNCTAD XII would be a success.

89. The representative of **Pakistan** thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana for his presentation, and congratulated Ghana on the golden jubilee of its independence. The road to UNCTAD XII led to a better world. Lastly, he asked for more information about the pre-events leading up to UNCTAD XII.

90. The representative of **China** welcomed and expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and said that UNCTAD XII would be a success, thanks to the efforts of the Government of Ghana.

91. The representative of **Côte d'Ivoire** thanked the Minister of Trade of Ghana for his presentation. There was no doubt that Ghana would be unstinting in its efforts to make UNCTAD XII a success, not just for UNCTAD, but also for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He said his country would spare no effort to help make the Conference a success, noting that the capitals of the two countries were only 30 minutes away from each other.

92. The representative of the **Russian Federation** extended greetings to Ghana's Minister of Trade, and congratulated his country on the 50th anniversary of its independence. It was clear that Ghana was taking very seriously its responsibilities in organizing UNCTAD XII, and he noted that people were working hard both in Geneva and in Ghana to make the Conference a success.

93. The representative of **Zambia** expressed appreciation for the presentation by Ghana's Minister of Trade about the progress that Ghana had made in preparing for UNCTAD XII. Her Government had no doubt that the Conference would be successful.

94. The representative of **Mexico** associated her country with the statement by the representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of GRULAC. Her delegation welcomed the presence of the Minister of Trade of Ghana, which demonstrated Ghana's commitment to the success of UNCTAD XII. Mexico stressed its unequivocal commitment to helping to improve the level of development worldwide and in each State. The speaker reiterated her Government's firm support for UNCTAD's role as the essential pillar for the coordination of actions that were fundamental to the establishment of a propitious environment that promoted the implementation of effective development policies.

95. The representative of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** associated his delegation with the statements by the representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Minister of Trade of Ghana for his presentation on Ghana's preparations for UNCTAD XII. He was confident that the Conference would be a success, and would strengthen UNCTAD and its contribution to development.

96. The representative of the **African Union (AU)** welcomed the Minister of Trade of Ghana, and assured his Government, as well as the people of Ghana, of the AU's full support for UNCTAD XII. She expressed her thanks to the Secretary-General and the entire secretariat of UNCTAD for their hard work during the present session. She associated the AU with the statements by the representative of Angola, speaking of behalf of the African Group, and the representative of Benin, speaking on behalf of the LDCs. She congratulated all those responsible for the preparations for UNCTAD XII, but stressed that they were only at the beginning of a long process. Furthermore, she congratulated the participants on the adoption of the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, and thanked Ambassadors Stephenson and Gafoor for their work in that area.

97. Given the great importance attached by the African Union to the issue of regional integration and the fundamental value of partnerships and solidarity, she welcomed the consensus on factoring the regional integration dimension into the first sub-theme. Also, she hoped that the spirit of cooperation and flexibility that had been manifest in the first phase of the preparatory work would prevail in the interest of a successful UNCTAD XII.

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