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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 29–31 January 2007
Agenda item 3

**REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME: DRAFT PROGRAMME
BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009**

Agreed conclusions*

The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the draft proposal of the work programme for UNCTAD for the biennium 2008–2009, taking into account the possible need to revise the work programme after, inter alia, the twelfth session of the Conference, scheduled to be held in April 2008,

1. *Notes* document TD/B/WP/L.123 and *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to transmit the revisions proposed by the Working Party, contained in document TD/B/WP/L.123/Rev.1, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his consideration;
2. *Requests* that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD take into account the comments of delegations made during the session in implementing the programme;
3. *Requests* that the secretariat make the utmost effort to ensure the timely issuance of the pre-sessional documentation and its timely translation into all UN official languages to facilitate adequate consideration at future intergovernmental meetings;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to make the utmost effort to ensure that UNCTAD's main publications, in particular those to be discussed by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies, are translated into UN official languages as early as possible, taking into account the interests of member States;

* As adopted by the Working Party at its closing plenary meeting on 31 January 2007.

5. *Recalls* paragraph 3 of the agreed conclusions in document TD/B/WP/179 and paragraph 2 of the agreed conclusions in document TD/B/WP/183 and *reiterates its request* to the secretariat to provide in a timely manner a user-friendly explanatory note, drawn from the budget fascicle, including cross-references among subprogrammes with regard to types of activities performed, clear indications of new activities planned, and information about outputs under each subprogramme indicating how those outputs support the subprogrammes' accomplishments;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to make further efforts to improve the development and use of indicators of achievement, using well established results-based management tools consistent with UN norms and practices, so as to measure more effectively the performance in respect of implementation of UNCTAD's activities in the different subprogrammes, and to improve the draft programme budget itself to make it clearer and more user-friendly so as to be able to measure properly the impact of UNCTAD's activities;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to provide with the draft programme and budget an explanatory note on the methodologies and processes used to establish indicators of achievement and other important units of measurement;

8. *Requests* that the secretariat provide adequate quantitative information pertaining to the draft work programme, including estimates on technical assistance activities as well as identification of their sources of funding;

9. *Stresses* the importance of respecting previous agreed outcomes and reflecting them faithfully in the draft programme budget;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to explicitly and consistently highlight to member States for their consideration any proposals to move to the regular budget any activities specifically earmarked for funding through voluntary contributions;

11. *Looks forward* to the discussion at the resumed session to review the UNCTAD section of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations, with all the relevant and accurate information required for such a purpose within the relevant UN rules and regulations;

12. *Urges* UNCTAD to further explore modalities for financing participation in UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition on a predictable and sustainable basis, and *agrees* to discuss this issue further;

13. *Requests* the secretariat to organize information sessions prior to Working Party meetings in order to assist member States to gain a better understanding of the UN and UNCTAD budgetary processes, as well as the documents presented to the Working Party;

14. In view of the recent transfer of the programme on Africa into the subprogramme on Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, *requests* the secretariat to ensure that its ability to produce the required outputs is not diminished;

15. *Stresses* that all activities, programmes and projects contained in the programme budget for the new biennium should be developed and implemented based on needs and the principle of equitable geographical distribution of resources among all developing country regions as well as countries with economies in transition.