



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: Limited
5 September 2008

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
Fifty-first session
Geneva, 1–5 September 2008
Agenda item 4

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

Draft decision for consideration by the Trade and Development Board

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities and expresses gratitude for the continuous support provided by bilateral and multilateral donors;
2. *Reaffirms* the role of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget as the mechanism for consultations among member States on all issues regarding technical cooperation;
3. *Recalls* its decision 492 (LIV) and paragraphs 215 (c), 216 and 217 of the Accra Accord regarding the need for more coherence in the planning and implementation of technical cooperation programmes and more interdivisional coordination of technical assistance programmes and activities, including streamlining through the use of thematic clusters and programmes;
4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the 17 thematic clusters – including existing and proposed multi-year, multi-donor trust funds – and *invites* the secretariat, in consultation with member States, to continue the consolidation process in terms of the number of clusters as well as within each cluster, where appropriate, without compromising the scope, content and manner of delivery;
5. *Invites* donors and potential donors in a position to do so to provide multi-year contributions to the newly established thematic trust funds; *urges* the secretariat to provide administrative information on the trust funds and donors to provide the secretariat with the required financial instructions for the establishment of multi-donor trust funds and the closing of completed projects; and *encourages* more proactive communication among the secretariat, beneficiaries and donors, so as to make progress in the clustering process;
6. *Takes note* with interest of the information regarding requests for technical assistance and *requests* the secretariat to keep member States updated on these requests, as well as on their follow-up, on a regular basis. This information

could serve as a basis for further discussion among beneficiary countries, donors and the UNCTAD secretariat on possible ways to translate requests into action, and may assist the secretariat and member States in defining UNCTAD's areas of focus for technical cooperation within its mandate;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to include an agenda item in the fifty-third session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for the interaction between the secretariat, potential beneficiaries and donors on UNCTAD's technical cooperation in accordance with paragraph 220 of the Accra Accord;

8. *Notes* that the new "portal" on UNCTAD technical cooperation is being established and should serve as a useful instrument to improve transparency, describe UNCTAD's technical assistance programmes and identify developing countries' needs and priorities;

9. *Notes* with satisfaction the active involvement of UNCTAD in the inter-agency processes related to the Delivering as One system-wide coherence process and its leading role within the Chief Executives Board (CEB) cluster on trade and productive capacity, and *appreciates* member States' continued support for this inter-agency mechanism;

10. *Encourages* the UNCTAD secretariat to strengthen efforts regarding the integration of economic and trade-related issues in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, national development strategic plans and poverty reduction strategy papers, including by assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in doing so in accordance with paragraph 90 (i) of the Accra Accord, and *requests* the secretariat to keep member States updated in this regard on a regular basis;

11. *Invites* the UNCTAD secretariat to explore the possibilities for increasing the total number of training courses on key issues of the international economic agenda (courses mandated by paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action) and other capacity-building activities, including the Virtual Institute network and TrainForTrade;

12. *Notes* the importance of greater cooperation between UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre in the field of technical assistance, each focusing on its comparative advantages;

13. *Encourages* member States to include in their delegations officials from the field in beneficiary countries that are directly involved in the implementation of technical cooperation to participate in the sessions of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget and to provide, from their perspective, an assessment of the impact of technical assistance in their countries and, in this regard, *encourages* UNCTAD to facilitate the use of virtual conference facilities to enable the broadest possible participation;

14. *Invites* donors and countries in a position to do so to provide funds to assist field-based beneficiary officials to take part in the discussion of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget;

15. *Proposes* that an assessment be made by the CEB cluster, led by UNCTAD, within approximately a year of the conduct of each training workshop for resident coordinators within the framework of the CEB cluster on trade and productive capacity, of the extent to which trade and trade-related issues have been included in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.