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Trade and Development Board

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

Fifty-first session

Geneva, 1–5 September 2008

Agenda items 3 and 5

Agreed conclusions¹

1. Discussion of the four-year work plan for the period 2008–2011

(Agenda item 3)

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

Having discussed the four-year work plan for the period 2008–2011 contained in document TD/B/WP/203, which was prepared as part of the implementation of paragraph 221 of the Accra Accord,

1. *Takes note* of the four-year work plan, and *advises* the secretariat to implement the 2008–2009 work programme as reflected in the revised plan, and to reflect this plan in the 2010–2011 work programme;

2. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to fully implement the Accra Accord and to report regularly on its implementation;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to review the progress in the implementation of the work plan against the indicators of achievement for UNCTAD (TD/B/WP/L.130) and to report thereon to the Working Party;

4. *Encourages* the secretariat to increase its interdivisional work in the implementation of the work plan, taking advantage of each division's complementary skills and the synergies that such cooperative work creates;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, within the framework of the preparation of the draft programme budget for the next biennium, to review the use of ad hoc expert groups with a view to improving their cost-effectiveness, including by exploring the use of virtual meetings, and to ensure that they support full implementation of the Accra Accord;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to make efforts to mainstream cross-cutting issues contained in paragraph 173 of the Accra Accord into all divisions' work, and to ensure that all three pillars of UNCTAD's work are done in accordance with sub-theme 4 of the Accra Accord, highlighting paragraphs 171, 172, 174 and 178.

¹ As adopted at its final plenary meeting on 5 September 2008.

2. Progress report on the implementation of sub-theme 4 of the Accra Accord

(Agenda item 5)

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

Having considered the “Progress report on the implementation of sub-theme 4 of the Accra Accord” (TD/B/WP/207),

1. *Welcomes* the measures taken so far in the implementation of the Accra Accord, including sub-theme 4, inter alia, through the creation of the Accra Accord Steering Group, and *encourages* the secretariat to continue its efforts in this connection and to keep member States informed on further steps in this regard on a regular basis. The monthly consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board could provide an opportunity to do so;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the Accra Accord, including sub-theme 4, faithfully, comprehensively and in a balanced manner;

3. *Further emphasizes* the importance of partnership among all member States, relevant bodies within the United Nations system and the secretariat in their efforts to strengthen the organization;

4. *Stresses* the importance of developing a new communication strategy and *encourages* the secretariat to hold consultations with member States in that connection;

5. *Reiterates* the importance and priority UNCTAD should accord to helping countries to integrate trade into their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, when appropriate, and *requests* that the secretariat periodically update member States on progress in this regard, taking into account General Assembly resolution 62/208;

6. *Encourages* UNCTAD to assist United Nations resident coordinators in identifying and developing UNCTAD programmes for their countries and their inclusion in United Nations development frameworks;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to produce addenda to documents TD/B/WP/203 and TD/B/WP/207 showing how all the missing paragraphs in the work plan, as well as in the progress report on the implementation of sub-theme 4, will be implemented;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to inform member States on the efforts made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to attract voluntary contributions for the funding of the participation of experts from developing countries in expert meetings, including through the funding campaign to be launched in September 2008.