



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Fifty-second (resumed) session

Geneva, 8–12 June 2009

Agenda item 3

Review of the work programme: draft programme budget
for the biennium 2010–2011

Agreed conclusions

The Working Party

1. *Expresses strong dissatisfaction* that the budget fascicle was not made available to member States prior to the meeting of the Working Party; further expresses concern that the informal budget document contains several discrepancies, and was not circulated sufficiently in advance to enable member States to consider it adequately; in this regard, requests the secretariat's bodies responsible for programme budget matters to ensure that all available support is extended to ensure that the Working Party can fully carry out its work, including through the timely availability of documentation, and requests the President of the Trade and Development Board to consider conveying an appropriate message to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the relevant views of the Working Party to the General Assembly;

2. *Expresses its concern* that the views and recommendations of the Working Party at its fifty-second session, as contained in documents TD/B/WP/209 and TD/B/WP/L.135/Rev.1, were insufficiently taken into account in the UNCTAD section of the budget fascicle, contained in United Nations General Assembly document A/64/6 (Sect. 12), and urges the competent bodies of the United Nations General Assembly to consider reflecting these views and recommendations in the approved UNCTAD budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

3. *Recommends* that the Trade and Development Board undertake a process to strengthen the Working Party with a view to contribute more efficiently to the formulation of the UNCTAD sections of the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, within the broader budgetary process of the United Nations; in this regard, requests the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board at its next regular session a comprehensive proposal to strengthen the Working Party, taking into account the relevant rules, regulations and practices of the United Nations, as well as the schedule of budget-related meetings in New York, the deadline

for budget-related documents and the need for close collaboration with the relevant entities of the United Nations in New York;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to fully implement paragraph 183 of the Accra Accord and the related decisions of the Trade and Development Board, and notes with concern that these are not fully reflected in the budget fascicle; in this regard, the Working Party requests the relevant bodies of the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that the budget for the biennium 2010–2011 clearly reflects the recent establishment of the sub-account for the Special Unit on Commodities, and indicate clearly in the UNCTAD organizational chart that the Special Unit on Commodities, within subprogramme 3, reports directly to the UNCTAD Secretary-General;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Accra Accord, including in particular relevant provisions pertaining to developing countries with special needs;

6. *Recognizes* that the 12 new posts allocated to UNCTAD under the strengthening of the United Nations' development pillar, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/260, can contribute to an enhancement of UNCTAD's implementation of the Accra Accord, and requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to appropriately apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution – in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations – and give due consideration to underrepresented member States, to bring about greater geographical and gender balance in UNCTAD's staffing; further requests the secretariat to annually furnish an updated staff profile of UNCTAD, in terms of nationality, grade and gender, to the regular session of the Trade and Development Board;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the resources provided by the General Assembly for the development pillar are also used to strengthen South–South cooperation, in light of paragraph 43 of the Accra Accord, and notably the item “special programmes” in subprogramme 5;

8. Recalling paragraphs 171, 212 and 215 of the Accra Accord, and underlining that technical cooperation is the third pillar of UNCTAD's work, *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Technical Services Unit is fully staffed and has adequate resources to fulfil its additional coordination responsibilities from the Accra Accord, including presenting UNCTAD technical assistance programmes for inclusion in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

9. *Recalls* the agreed conclusions of the Working Party, particularly paragraph 4 of document TD/B/WP/L.25, and paragraph 41 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to strengthen its special focus on the needs of the least developed countries and Africa across all areas of its mandate; expresses deep concern that the resources for the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes remain seriously inadequate, which seriously impedes the work of the Division; requests the General Assembly, during its sixty-fourth session, without prejudice to the preliminary estimate for the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 63/266, to consider this issue on a priority basis to ensure that the Division concerned is enabled to carry out its mandated activities; requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, within his authority as regards the use of resources, to enhance the organization's focus on Africa, the least developed countries and special programmes under all subprogrammes, without prejudice to the full implementation of the Accra Accord;

10. *Recalls* that other developing countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and, in that regard, requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that, in the implementation of UNCTAD's work programme, full regard is paid to the development needs and poverty reduction of developing countries;

11. Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Working Party contained in document TD/B/WP/L.125, and paragraph 41 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to strengthen its special focus on the needs of the least developed countries and Africa across all areas of its mandate, *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure greater coordination between the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes and other divisions regarding activities benefiting Africa, least developed countries and special programmes; in this regard, requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the report on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa, which is considered at an executive session of the Trade and Development Board, and the report on least developed countries and special programmes, which is considered at the regular session of the Trade and Development Board, include a full report on activities undertaken by each division responsible for subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in support of Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, and the amount of resources allocated thereto;

12. Recognizing the need for UNCTAD to provide the mandated level of support for the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, *requests*, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227, that the budget for the biennium 2010–2011 take into account the need to provide adequate resources in this regard, especially to the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes; in this regard, the Working Party underlines the importance of achieving the initial agreed funding target, and encourages the developed countries, and the developing countries who are in a position to do so, to contribute to the Least Developed Countries Trust Fund, and also requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to redouble his efforts in securing contributions for the fund;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to the countries which have responded to the call to contribute to the trust fund to finance the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD expert group meetings – particularly Turkey, Switzerland and India – and invites donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to make contributions to the trust fund as an important step towards finding a sustainable solution to this issue;

14. Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Working Party contained in document TD/B/WP/L.125, and paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to intensify the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, and that adequate resources be provided to UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in view of recent developments, to ensure that the new regular budget resources provided by the General Assembly for the development pillar are also used to strengthen the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, including by examining how South–South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, can better support the development of the Palestinian economy, in accordance with paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord;

15. *Stresses the importance* of UNCTAD publications to developing countries in formulating and reviewing their developmental policies; notes with appreciation

the secretariat's efforts in preparing the "Report on the readership survey of main publications of UNCTAD" in 2008 and the results contained therein; and requests the secretariat to continue to improve the usefulness and quality of the readership survey by, inter alia, improving the survey's questions, expanding the survey to cover more UNCTAD publications, and adding to the survey results the number of each publication printed, whether or not the survey results are statistically significant, as well as the range of responses and the mode;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that member States continue to be fully consulted on UNCTAD's publications programme and the number of publications contained therein, and encourages member States to respond to UNCTAD's publications surveys;

17. Recalling paragraph 15 of agreed conclusions 493 (LV) which the Trade and Development Board adopted in its fifty-fifth session (TD/B/55/10), *reiterates* the request for allocation from regular resources to fund the *Least Developed Countries Report*;

18. *Emphasizes* that the final programme budget should not constrain member States from proposing new areas of work, within UNCTAD's mandate and existing resources, to respond to emerging challenges in the global economy and follow-up programmes, where required.
