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Draft UNCTAD XI Negotiated Text

Draft annex¹

UNCTAD XI Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

A. Information and communication technologies for development (ICTfD)

1. Partnership activities will be built around the objective of “ICT applications for improving the economic competitiveness of developing countries”, especially as regards trade and development. UNCTAD will use its experience and associate itself fully with relevant existing initiatives. The ICTfD partnership will include:

- *Activities that enable developing countries to take full advantage of free and open source software.* Free and open source software (FOSS) is a key factor in the spread of ICT opportunities in developing countries. Partnership activities will be designed to encourage widespread information technology (IT) training programmes in developing countries on FOSS-related issues. IT companies and training institutions involved in ICT applications will be the main partners.
- *E-tourism.* For many developing countries, tourism is of strategic importance and a major source of foreign exchange earnings. As tourism is an information-intensive service, the UNCTAD e-tourism initiative is designed to give developing countries the technical means to promote, market and sell their tourism services online. Partners will include member States, the World Tourism Organization, UNESCO, national tourism authorities and universities. Other potential partners include regional groupings of developing countries, transport operators and IT companies.

¹ At its twenty-first special session, on 14 May 2004, the Trade and Development Board requested the Conference to take note of the multi-stakeholder partnerships launched at the Conference and annex the corresponding text to the final negotiated text.

- *The development of national e-strategies and e-policies.* Developing countries are seeking to design and implement national strategies to manage the development of appropriate ICT regulatory, legislative and policy frameworks. UNCTAD is joining the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET) as a partner by providing its expertise in the design of e-strategies, as well as on specific subjects such as e-commerce, legal and regulatory issues, e-measurement, e-finance and aspects of e-government, thereby enhancing efficiency and effectiveness. ePol-NET functions as a virtual network. Partners so far include the Government of Ireland, which is providing the secretariat for the partnership, as well as the Governments of Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom; ECA; ITU; UNDP; OECD and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.
- *E-measurement and ICT indicators.* E-measurement is crucial for assessing the state of advancement of developing countries in the use and impact of ICTs. The WSIS Plan of Action calls for the development of indicators to monitor progress in the use of information and communication technologies for development for – and after – the Tunis phase of the Summit. The principal stakeholders of the partnership have agreed on the following objectives: (i) to identify a set of core indicators that could be collected by all countries and harmonized at the international level so as to facilitate, *inter alia*, measurement of the attainment of international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; (ii) to assist developing countries in building capacity to monitor ICT developments at the national level; and (iii) to develop a global database on ICT indicators. Partnership activities will embrace member States, OECD, ITU, UNESCO and the UN ICT Task Force, as well as the UN regional commissions and other relevant regional bodies working on e-measurement issues.

B. Commodities

2. There is at present no comprehensive and systematic consultative framework that enables the sharing of information and the use of complementary expertise among representatives of all key actors involved in the review of the commodity situation and the operation of commodity markets. The efforts of all interested stakeholders should thus be put together and directed towards a pragmatic approach aimed at bringing both focus and priority to breaking the cycle of poverty in which many commodity producers and commodity-dependent countries are now locked.

3. Such a consultative process will address the commodity problematique in a concerted manner by proposing specific action with respect to the following issues: facilitating collaboration among all stakeholders and achieving greater coherence in the integration of commodity issues in development portfolios; collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned, and maximising the mobilization of resource flows; commodity sector vulnerability and risks; mechanisms to facilitate the participation of developing country farmers in international markets; distribution of value-added in the commodity value chain; promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable approaches to production and trade of individual commodities of interest to developing countries; mining and sustainable economic development; promoting business networks within developing countries and between developing and developed country enterprises; and commodity information and knowledge management.

4. An independent international task force on commodities will be established in consultation with interested stakeholders to address the above set of issues. The task force will function in an informal and flexible manner, with partners cooperating in a spirit of voluntary endeavour.

5. Partners will include, in addition to member States (both commodity-dependent developing countries and interested development partners, especially donors), international organizations (FAO, IMF, ITC, UNDP, the Common Fund for Commodities and the World Bank); commodity-specific

bodies (international commodity organizations and study groups); the private sector, in particular major corporations engaged in the production, marketing and distribution of commodities; non-governmental organizations that promote action on commodity issues; and the academic community researching into commodity problems and related solutions.

C. Investment

6. Domestic investment and FDI are key in building national supply capacities that are both central to development and essential to exploit opportunities offered by the multilateral trading system.

7. The very nature of the issues relating to investment for development lends itself to a partnership involving the public and private sectors. In addition, trade unions, NGOs and academics take an interest in the subject. The partnership, in the form of the Investment for Development Network, will seek to: increase understanding of issues related to FDI; help optimize national and international policies aimed at attracting FDI and benefiting from it; and promote related human resources and institutional capacity building. Areas of focus would include strategic investment advice, investment knowledge for development, improving the investment climate, good governance in investment promotion, information for investors, international investment policy issues, capacity-building in technology transfer and intellectual property rights, and linkages for development.

8. The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) will be a principal partner. Other partners will include: the World Bank Group/MIGA; OECD; ITC; the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development; UNIDO; the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); NGOs (the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS); the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)); the Earth Institute; national institutions (Ethos, SOBEET); subregional organizations; and institutions of higher learning (universities in developed and developing countries).

D. Capacity-building and training, including training and academic institutions

9. The UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development aims to support the building of national capacities in member countries so that they can analyse international and national trade and economic issues and formulate and implement appropriate home-grown economic policies. Training and research institutions, particularly universities, play a key role in building such capacities by educating future and current decision makers and providing expertise to Governments on issues relating to national economic policies.

10. The objective of the Virtual Institute is to assist academic institutions in developing countries to enhance their own capacity to design and deliver high-quality courses and to conduct research in the areas of trade and development. It does so firstly by giving them access to selected UNCTAD and other relevant resources (research reports, training materials and pedagogical tools) that they can use in their teaching and research. Secondly, it offers them the possibility to enhance their curricula and research work by exchanging resources (course materials and research) and experiences with members of the Virtual Institute Network and by strengthening their cooperation with UNCTAD.

11. Principal partners will be selected academic and training institutions of developing countries that agree to become members of the Virtual Institute Network and accept the rules for its functioning. In addition to participation in the Network, which will be governed by general terms and conditions, UNCTAD will continue the practice of concluding agreements for academic partnerships tailored to the needs of the partner institution concerned.