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**DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ON ITS TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

Held at the Palais des Nations
from 3 to 10 October 2006

Rapporteur: Mr. Levan Lomidze (Georgia)

Speakers:

Chairperson
The Secretary-General of
UNCTAD
Prime Minister of
Rwanda
Minister of Commerce
and Industry of India
Minister for Foreign
Trade and Development
of Finland

Deputy Assistant
Secretary of State of the
United States
Director of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of
Norway
Ambassador of
Bangladesh
Pakistan for the Group of
77 and China

Belarus for Group D
Finland for the European
Union and the acceding
countries of Bulgaria
and Romania
Benin for the LDCs
Indonesia

Note for delegations

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.
Requests for amendments to statements by individual delegations should be communicated
by **Tuesday, 17 October 2006** at the latest, to:

UNCTAD Editorial Section, Room E.8106, fax no. 917 0056, tel. no. 917 1437.

CHAPTER I

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE AND THE WAY FORWARD

(Agenda item 4)

Opening statements

1. **The Chairperson** opened the High-level Policy Dialogue by noting that all sub-themes of the dialogue were critical for ensuring a meaningful and equitable integration of developing countries into the world economy, so as to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction. UNCTAD's independence and integrated treatment of trade development and related issues defined its unique role as a think-tank on development issues. In the context of globalization, it was as important as ever to have appropriate development strategies at the national level, accompanied by an enabling and supportive environment at the international level.

2. **The Secretary-General of UNCTAD** noted that the aim of the High-level Policy Dialogue was to examine (i) the role of globalization in development, (ii) the relationship between national and international development strategies, and (iii) what the UN system, UNCTAD in particular, should do in those processes. While globalization indisputably offered huge opportunities for growth and development, there was a dramatic disparity in the distribution of gains from globalization among developing countries. Certain developing countries, largely LDCs, were increasingly marginalized from the process of global economic integration. UNCTAD's Trade and Development Index showed that even if a country opened its markets and received developed-country market access, this might not be enough to make a positive impact on development. What mattered most was the capacity to make the best use of opportunities arising from globalization, namely the ability to produce goods and services, the knowledge needed to create a broad industrial base, and the infrastructure that enabled countries to trade and communicate, as well as capacity in terms of having the financial means to sustain a population's health and education and implementing good macroeconomic policies that fostered employment, entrepreneurship and competition.

3. Good domestic policies needed to be complemented by coherent and coordinated efforts by the international community. In that context, Aid for Trade should play a critical role in capacity building, in terms of building infrastructure, creating supply capacity and covering the cost of adjustment to trade reform. Capacity building called for a large increase in productive investment, including ODA, in the following three areas: improving the basic resources for production, including natural, human and financial resources; strengthening entrepreneurial and technological capabilities; and establishing strong production linkages.

4. UNCTAD would continue working towards enhancing developing countries' productive capacity through cross-fertilization of its three pillars — research and analysis, technical cooperation and intergovernmental consensus-building. It would also make the best use of its expertise in areas such as trade policies and strategies, trade facilitation, debt management, entrepreneurship, investment promotion and diversification from commodity dependence. In the process of rethinking the role of the UN system in development, UNCTAD's indisputable *raison d'être* remained addressing current issues in trade and development and assisting developing countries in their integration into the world economy. In the period leading up to UNCTAD XII and beyond, UNCTAD's most pressing goal was to help developing countries acquire the capacity to gain from trade, such that it would promote development and reduce poverty. UNCTAD would progress towards this goal through, inter

alia, implementing the recommendations made by the Panel of Eminent Persons, in close consultation with member States.

Keynote speakers

5. **H.E. Mr. Bernard Makuzu, Prime Minister of Rwanda**, remarked that the delivery of UNCTAD's Investment Policy Review and Investment Guide for Rwanda had been like an accelerated training course on UNCTAD. In the age of globalization, UNCTAD had an even greater role to play than when it was created, in order to support those countries still without a solid footing in the global economy. Among so-called third world countries, there were those that had enjoyed sustained and steady socio-economic improvement and had essentially caught up with the developed world. But there were also countries that were still developing, and others that were still searching for the way forward to development.

6. In considering UNCTAD's "way forward", one must start by looking at the organization's past. UNCTAD had been established to help developing countries integrate into the world economy and achieve progress. Its research and analysis had highlighted developing country issues, and its technical assistance was great demand among developing countries. Moreover, developing countries actively sought its technical assistance. Rwanda was an example of a country that had just recently enjoyed the concrete results of UNCTAD's technical assistance in the form of an Investment Policy Review.

7. UNCTAD had been a forum for the exchange of ideas among multiple partners in development: Governments, international organizations, UN organizations, NGOs, the private sector and academia. UNCTAD faced the pressing challenge of harmonizing the views of the different stakeholders in order to reach a common understanding of how to boost countries' socio-economic development.

8. When the situation of countries marginalized in global development was considered, the continued need for UNCTAD was clear. The Prime Minister acknowledged UNCTAD's special focus on Africa and its various forms of assistance on that continent, including in international trade negotiations, support for national and regional strategies, research and analysis on essential problems, technical assistance, training and advice on investment strategies.

9. Although UNCTAD was as relevant today as it had been 40 years ago, it should constantly seek to reinvent itself in order to become ever more effective in a changing world. The poorest countries should benefit the most from UNCTAD's activities. Furthermore, the link between UNCTAD's research and technical assistance should be strengthened for greater effectiveness.

10. **H.E. Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India**, drew attention to the remarkable economic performance of developing countries in recent times, in particular the historically outstanding current economic performance in Africa. He stressed the importance of UNCTAD's role in addressing the development dimension in the international trading system and affirmed his support for UNCTAD's independent research on trade and development issues. UNCTAD should continuously monitor the evolution of world trade, for example the shifting focus towards innovation-driven products and services, and South-South trade liberalization and economic integration, in order to ensure that all participants would share in the benefits.

11. With regard to the institutional architecture involved in international economic governance, a focus on development was lacking. To resolve the political inequity between developed and developing countries, the current power asymmetries within the WTO and at the institutional level should be eliminated through capacity building and technical assistance. This would allow the meaningful participation of small developing countries in trade negotiations. The creation of trade exchanges among the developing countries was also a promising area of future trade growth; for example, India had played an active role in the establishment of recent regional free-trade and economic cooperation agreements.

12. UNCTAD's activities to improve development opportunities for developing countries were very important, including assistance in facing complex trade and development challenges, in policy analyses, in the examination of asymmetries in the international marketplace and in building trade capacity. Finally, the Minister noted that development was a collective endeavour requiring an effective partnership between developed and developing countries to confront current problems.

13. **H.E. Mrs. Paula Lehtomäki, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland**, speaking on behalf of the European Union's member States and acceding States, noted that in a changing world UNCTAD's main mission — to integrate the developing countries into the world economy — had remained crucial in the global strategy to alleviate the situation of those countries. Globalization raised complex challenges, but it also opened up opportunities for beneficial integration into the world economy. To that end, developing countries needed socially and environmentally sustainable policies to strengthen their regulatory framework, good governance, productive capacities and infrastructure. Trade could be a powerful catalyst for economic growth and poverty reduction, and should be integrated into the national development plans of developing countries.

14. The EU would do its utmost to secure an early resumption of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations, the completion of which would substantially help developing countries better integrate into the world economy. The EU would also continue to provide trade-related assistance to support countries' efforts aimed at making use of the opportunities offered by market opening. It expressed its support for initiatives such as Aid for Trade, in which UNCTAD had an inherent role, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework, which should be implemented soon. It called upon UNCTAD to cooperate with other organizations in order to continue helping developing countries strengthen their trade-related institutions and policies, overcome their supply constraints, and improve product competitiveness and quality. The EU expressed its concern about the risk of marginalization of LDCs and other poor and vulnerable countries in the global economy, particularly those in Africa. The profound challenges that these countries faced, especially in the fields of exports, investments and institution building for competitiveness and innovation, should remain a major focus of UNCTAD's work.

15. The UNCTAD Mid-term Review was taking place in the broader context of UN reform, which sought to improve the functioning of the United Nations. The UNCTAD Secretary-General had been active in reviewing the internal work of the organization, and courageous in tackling challenges in a creative and open-minded way. The EU welcomed the work of the Panel of Eminent Persons and expressed its willingness to reflect together on the recommendations of its report.

16. The Minister noted that Finland had allocated a substantial part of its total trade-related development assistance to UNCTAD for its technical cooperation activities.

Nevertheless, a great deal of attention was being paid to the efficiency and effectiveness of all technical cooperation programmes and organizations, and their relevance was continuously being evaluated. UNCTAD could make better use of its comparative advantages within the UN system and in relation to other organizations. It could be "leaner, meaner and more profitable".

17. Despite the strong commitment of all member States, there was a genuine concern about the future of UNCTAD. Consensus, dialogue and interaction were needed to face this challenge. UNCTAD had the knowledge and capacities to become stronger as a focal point of the UN system for the integrated management of trade and development. It needed to adapt to the present global environment and to the pace of change. Finally, the ongoing reform efforts should in no way diminish the status of UNCTAD, but should ensure its continued efficiency, effectiveness and relevance.

Lead discussants

18. **Mr. Gerald Andersen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the United States**, said that UNCTAD's greatest contribution was its work to address supply-side constraints, such as weak institutions, burdensome administrative and legal processes, poor trade-related physical infrastructure, high costs of inputs to production and trade, and low productivity. UNCTAD could contribute with its expertise in Aid for Trade. However, he pointed out that donors would provide aid where there was the best value for money and where political will was already evident. UNCTAD should suggest ways to secure greater development benefits from workers' remittances and FDI. States had a vital role in creating conditions to attract investment, including private flows, and in fostering an environment conducive to entrepreneurship. UNCTAD was neglecting domestic savings and untitled real estate capital, which could be very high in developing countries, as sources of financing for development.

19. On the issue of coherence between national development strategies and international processes, the speaker addressed the concerns regarding a possible proactive trade and industrial policy. He suggested that the role of Governments be restricted to identifying areas in which the private sector was lacking in competitiveness or where markets had shifted. As regards developing countries lacking sufficient policy space, in particular regarding the restriction of subsidies and the imposition of performance requirements of foreign investors, the participation of developing countries in multilateral negotiations would open up opportunities for influencing negotiated outcomes. The United States had contributed significant funds to capacity building on trade in order to ensure that negotiation partners could adequately assess the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by loss of policy space.

20. In the context of UN reform, he did not agree that the reform had placed undue emphasis on what should be done at the national level. National development plans were the best way to ensure development outcomes, through the coordinated work of national Governments with field offices of multilateral and bilateral agencies. UNCTAD should enhance its relationship with UNDP, UNOPS and country teams, so that they could make greater use of its expertise.

21. In conclusion, UNCTAD should cross the boundaries of UN mandates to address the international structures for finance.

22. **Mr. Henrik Harboe, Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway**, affirmed UNCTAD's relevance to the treatment of development issues within the UN family, but was not convinced that the organization was playing its role optimally. The UNCTAD and UN reforms did not aim merely at streamlining structures or saving financial resources, but also at making the UN system deliver more for development and poverty reduction. The Norwegian Government supported the UN system as a main foreign policy objective, since the multilateral system was crucial for small countries and for achieving the MDGs. UNCTAD faced a trade-off between a broad mandate in trade and development and related issues, and calls for increased focus in its activities. The speaker said that UNCTAD lacked clear focus and priorities, and policy coherence. It had increasingly lost its role and relevance as the focal point for trade and development in the global arena, and the debates at UNCTAD meetings had lost their edge. The organization risked failure if it did not make the necessary changes. UNCTAD must find its place in the changing global economic architecture, and the intergovernmental dialogue should lead to more operational results. Moreover, he felt that the UNCTAD secretariat was too dominant as compared with the active role of government representatives, which was very important for the debate because it was based on reality.

23. The Norwegian Government endorsed the recommendations of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and welcomed the secretariat's initiative and the involvement of all stakeholders. UNCTAD reform should lead to the organization's strengthening its role as a think-tank, providing relevant, authoritative and forward-looking analyses on globalization and on the participation of developing countries in the multilateral system. UNCTAD's technical assistance and capacity building should complement the technical assistance and capacity building provided by other organizations such as ITC and WTO. The recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons were a good starting point for the reform process, to which the Norwegian Government was committed.

24. **H.E. Mr. Toufiq Ali, Ambassador of Bangladesh**, noted that all international organizations had needed to adapt to changing circumstances, but he was concerned about the philosophical aspects of those changes. To enable all countries to benefit from globalization, one must ask why there were asymmetries between countries. In the "development paradigm", trade had become more important than aid, as developing countries depended on developed partners for market access and technologies. The financial architecture of globalization, which was market-driven, emphasized private capital flows. However, those flows could not be profitable for development if there were not adequate structures and conditions in developing countries.

25. The three pillars of UNCTAD reinforced each other. UNCTAD flagship publications informed the thought process of developing countries, and the organization's technical assistance continued to help those countries. Developing countries were more aware of globalization, and they could participate more in global trade, thanks to UNCTAD's work. UNCTAD should be a think-tank, providing ideas that were not bound by ideology. In the context of UNCTAD reform, the speaker asked for the secretariat's views on the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and on the implementation of its recommendations.

26. Not all countries had met expectations of higher growth linked to trade. While trade was vital for development, there were other development components such as environment, biodiversity and good governance. Since global economic policies were currently discussed in institutions where developing countries did not have an effective say, UNCTAD's very important role was to raise the voice of those countries to address the two asymmetries in

global economic governance. First, current monetary and financial arrangements were not organized on a multilateral rules basis, whereby core principles applied to all participants. Second, multilateral trade rules were equally legally binding for all, but economically they were biased towards developed countries, and this resulted in reduced policy space for developing countries.

President's summary of the interactive debate

27. During the interactive debate, several delegates said that the Mid-term Review should serve to strengthen UNCTAD and make it more dynamic. They appreciated the Secretary-General's attempt to do so through the Panel of Eminent Persons and looked forward to participating in the discussion of the Panel's recommendations. The secretariat announced that a forthcoming Board session would be devoted to discussing the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and member States were urged to contribute comments on how to implement them. The secretariat said that a working group would be set up to enhance internal coordination and make better use of UNCTAD's limited resources and allow it to better honour its core mandates. In order to deliver results, UNCTAD needed further support from member States on resources, although not necessarily only financial. Most importantly, it needed clear guidance through agreed outcomes through the intergovernmental machinery.

28. Any effort to strengthen UNCTAD should take into account the organization's core competencies and comparative advantage, as well as its history and place within the UN system. UNCTAD's mission on trade and development remained the same, but its mission should be distinguished from its tasks, which adapted to changes in the international economic agenda. UNCTAD had to be a results-based organization, and needed to be more efficient and effective. In the broader context of UN reform, a delegate noted that it was important that UNCTAD reform be driven by the Geneva intergovernmental machinery. UNCTAD should continue to respond to the changing economic reality and to globalization, so that it could better address contemporary issues and stay ahead of the curve. A delegate noted that even a perfect reform would require political will in order to be implemented effectively. Another delegate argued that UNCTAD reform should aim to revitalize the organization rather than reinvent it.

29. Delegates recalled that UNCTAD was the only organization that had dealt with trade from a development perspective since its inception, so there should be no duplication with work in other parts of the UN system. It must rather be asked whether other organizations had not recently been encroaching on UNCTAD's mandate. Recalling a panellist's call for increased focus in UNCTAD work, one delegate enquired whether this meant reducing the volume of UNCTAD's activities or its areas of action, and whether it was possible to treat multi-faceted development in a narrow or streamlined manner. Another delegate thought it worrisome that UNCTAD should be asked not to reflect on the work coming out of international financial institutions; even when dealing with the same issues, UNCTAD brought a different voice. UNCTAD should not be restrained from conducting the policy analysis that many LDCs could not do for themselves.

30. UNCTAD's mandate was discussed in the context of its contribution to internationally agreed development goals and of the equal importance and interconnection of its three pillars. Despite a long history of intellectual integrity and innovation, the quality and coherence of UNCTAD's current research and analysis should improve, as well as its

connection with the other two pillars. UNCTAD could work more closely with other institutions, including UN regional commissions. UNCTAD's research and analysis should be independent and foster political dialogue and help shape consensus. Its technical assistance should be fed by research and analysis, be demand-driven and translate into real action at the field level. It should also serve as the basis of its capacity building programme, which was part of UNCTAD's comparative advantage. It should be more effective and planned strategically over the long term. Such planning should ensure fair geographical distribution and identify more and sustainable sources of funding. One delegate commented that there should be more and better feedback between UNCTAD's secretariat and participants at meetings, while another said that the dissemination of UNCTAD's work should be improved.

31. Although some delegates said that UNCTAD needed focus, others held that since development was a multifaceted phenomenon, UNCTAD should remain flexible in order to stay relevant. It had to be able to broach new and even controversial subjects and deal with them in depth. UNCTAD should respond to the needs of developing countries and special groups of countries, such as LDCs, transition economies, highly indebted countries and landlocked countries. UNCTAD's mandate on issues related to trade and development should include economic governance, since international monetary, financial and trading systems affected development. Governance also encompassed macroeconomic policy to, *inter alia*, control inflation, manage debt, attract investment and facilitate trade, which were all part of UNCTAD's current work. At the national level, good governance could not be separated from the issue of ownership, which could be fostered through long-term commitments and coordinated projects. Ownership was the key for sustainable development.

32. On the issue of economic governance, there were several reminders that globalization should benefit all parties. UNCTAD could contribute to managing globalization by, for example, helping developing countries to overcome trade barriers and LDCs to become involved in multilateral trade negotiations. A delegate also said that UNCTAD should participate in the follow-up to the Conference on Financing for Development, and it had a role to play in assessing the development impact of the policies and binding norms of the Bretton Woods institutions. Efforts by developing countries in the area of national economic governance had to be matched by the delivery of commitments from developed countries to create an enabling international environment. UNCTAD could assist developing countries to achieve a balance between national and international strategies. It could identify areas in the current international trade rules and regulations where developing countries had "policy space" available to them but lacked the capacity to exploit and preserve it, and it could even help countries create such space. A civil society representative said that the Mid-term Review should decide whether UNCTAD's work on policy space would continue and expand, and that the issue should be the subject of a true debate in the intergovernmental machinery. There was also a need for significant support to promote South-South cooperation to complement North-South cooperation.

33. It was suggested that UNCTAD address the issue of remittances, including by helping developing countries create the conditions to encourage the development-oriented investment of remittances rather than using them for consumption. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD noted that he was currently active in the Global Migration Group, which put the issue of the short-term movement of workers and remittances on the international agenda. He explained that for progress to be made in this area, enhanced statistical information must first be available.

34. Several delegates suggested that the Doha round of negotiations should be resumed at the earliest possible date and that the negotiations on the GSTP should be intensified. UNCTAD also had a potentially very important role to play in Aid for Trade.

General statements

35. The representative of **Pakistan**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that the main theme and the three subthemes of the third part of the Mid-term Review were most relevant at a time when great challenges and opportunities faced the entire UN system, including UNCTAD. A key challenge in UN reform was to develop norms and strategies that could meaningfully respond to the growing complexities of the global economy. As regards the impact of globalization on development, while the fruits of globalization continued to be elusive, the risks were real for many developing countries. Over the past decade, only a few developing countries had made significant development gains, while poverty continued to affect millions of lives in others. The interconnectivity in today's world enhanced the awareness of global disparities and imbalances. Globalization should thus be managed effectively with a view to leveraging its opportunities and surmounting the challenges posed to broad-based development.

36. General Assembly resolution 60/265 – which recognized, *inter alia*, the UN's fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals – confirmed that UNCTAD had a key role to play. UNCTAD had earned the trust and confidence of developing countries as the focal point in the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and other related areas such as investment, finance and technology. UNCTAD must continue to retain its relevance by furnishing the development perspective on the current trends in the global economy. It should be utilized optimally with a view to evolving a sustainable system of global economic governance that could best address the development challenges of globalization. With its unique development perspective, the three pillars of UNCTAD's work must be preserved and strengthened through a sequential approach. Research and analysis should feed into the consensus building pillar, which in turn should guide technical assistance in a demand-driven fashion. The high-level policy dialogue should focus on defining an exercise that would enhance the visibility, effectiveness and outreach of UNCTAD as it implemented the São Paolo Consensus.

37. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, reaffirmed his Group's support for the full and effective implementation of the UNCTAD XI mandate. UNCTAD should continue to publish impartial and independent research on macroeconomic policies, finance, debt and poverty, as well as assisting transition and developing economies in overcoming the challenges posed by globalization. UNCTAD was encouraged to improve the dissemination of its research through its flagship and other publications. Group D attached particular importance to investment promotion, where UNCTAD had a solid comparative advantage, and it valued UNCTAD's Investment Policy Reviews. UNCTAD should help attract FDI to developing and transition economies by assisting the formulation and implementation of investment policies and relevant regulatory environments, in line with countries' development strategies. In addition, UNCTAD should support developing and transition economies in the design of their trade-related and national trade policies in order to maximize their share of world trade. Technical assistance should be provided to developing and transition economies prior to, during and in the follow-up to WTO accession.

38. The representative of **Finland**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and the acceding countries of Bulgaria and Romania**, stressed the importance of UNCTAD's mission to integrate developing countries into the world economy. Trade flows were very important to help countries escape the poverty trap. However, despite economic growth, poverty remained high in most countries as a result of poor governance. The failure of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations had stalled the integration of developing countries into the world economy, and was especially costly for the LDCs. The European Union supported the resumption of negotiations and was strongly committed to Aid for Trade; in fact, it provided more than half of global trade-related assistance.

39. The European Union concurred with UNCTAD on the importance of domestic financing of investment to create economic growth and of proactive industrial policy in development. It attached particular importance to the EU-Africa strategy, which included investments in transboundary and regional infrastructure. The EU was concerned about the risk of marginalization of LDCs and poor countries. UNCTAD had a role to play in assisting developing countries to increase their exports and attract foreign direct investment. The EU reiterated the importance for economic growth of sound democratic institutions, as recognized in the Monterrey Consensus.

40. Finally, the EU noted that, in a fast-changing world, it was important that UNCTAD's mandate be revised every four years. However, the process of implementing and evaluating the mandate could be more efficient.

41. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **LDCs**, recognized the remarkable work done by UNCTAD since its inception on all trade and development issues. Development and important economic issues had always been at the heart of UNCTAD debates. UNCTAD XI had brought a fresh vision and a new emphasis in favour of LDCs. Considerable work had been done to implement the UNCTAD XI mandate, and the important contribution of UNCTAD to the Mid-Term Review of the Brussels Plan of Action for LDCs should be mentioned in that context.

42. UNCTAD technical assistance related not only to development and poverty reduction at the macroeconomic level, but also to specific sectors covered by UNCTAD's mandate such as transport, ICTs and investment. UNCTAD should be encouraged to pursue the assistance programmes it had already started to implement in favour of LDCs.

43. In the future, UNCTAD should give priority to matters of real interest for development. In order to do this, research and analysis activities should better integrated and backstop the implementation of technical cooperation activities. LDCs should be assisted primarily in improving their infrastructure and in building up competitive export capacities where they had a clear comparative advantage. Other priorities should be South-South trade, the Aid for Trade initiative, sustainable job creation, the reinforcement of capacities, and sustainable industrialization.

44. The political dialogue within UNCTAD should be revitalized in the field of commodity trade, as a sector of vital importance for economic growth, poverty reduction and development in LDCs. The greatest challenge for UNCTAD and for the international community was the translation of expressed intentions and agreed objectives into concrete measures. UNCTAD's visionary analyses and broad competencies could further contribute to that aim. In order to be able to accomplish its mandate, UNCTAD should be provided with

sufficient and predictable resources. It also needed to adapt and modernize in order to be able to serve the interests of its member States.

45. The representative of **Indonesia** emphasized that the three pillars of UNCTAD should be implemented in a sequential and balanced manner. They provided a comprehensive framework for treating development issues. The discussions during the Mid-term Review were even more important in the context of the UN reform and the suspended Doha trade negotiations. He looked forward to considering the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and noted that UNCTAD's assessment of the report would be a valuable tool for the future discussions. The aim should be to increase the role of UNCTAD within the United Nations. The proposals by the secretariat on creating a working group and task force to implement UNCTAD reforms required more in-depth study to consider their relevance to the enhancement of UNCTAD work, as well as the involvement of Member States.

CHAPTER II

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

A. Agenda

46. The agenda was as adopted at the first part of the session, namely:
1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 2. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus¹
 3. Strengthening the three pillars of UNCTAD:²
 - (a) Consensus building
 - (b) Research and analysis
 - (c) Technical cooperation
 4. High-level policy dialogue and the way forward
 5. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
 - Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
 6. Other business
 7. Adoption of the report of the Board

B. Bureau

47. The Bureau of the Board was as elected at its fifty-second session. The Bureau was thus as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya ³ | (Nepal) |
| Vice-Presidents: | Mr. Juan Antonio March | (Spain) |
| | Mr. Wegger Christian Strømmen | (Norway) |
| | Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios | (Cuba) |
| | Mrs. Brigitta Maria Siefker-Eberle | (Germany) |
| | Mr. Iouri Afanassiev | (Russian Federation) |
| | Ms. Melissa Kehoe | (United States) |
| | Mr. Sameh Shoukry | (Egypt) |
| | Mr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei | (Ghana) |
| | Mr. Musa Burayzat | (Jordan) |
| Rapporteur: | Mr. Levan Lomidze | (Georgia) |

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¹ Taken up at the first part of the session (TD/B(S-XXIII)/4).

² Taken up at the second part of the session (TD/B(S-XXIII)/5).

³ Replaced Mr. Ransford Smith (Jamaica).