



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

Twenty-fourth special session

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Agenda item 3

Substantive preparations for the twelfth session of the Conference

1. At the 1007th plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, held on 2 October 2007 during its fifty-fourth session, the Board decided to establish an open-ended Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII, to be chaired by the President of the Board. The purpose of the Committee was to produce the negotiating text for the Conference, to be held from 20 to 25 April 2008 in Accra, Ghana.
2. Between 20 October 2007 and 14 March 2008, the Preparatory Committee held 48 meetings, with more scheduled until 8 April 2008. The most recent consolidated negotiating text has been issued as document UNCTAD/IAOS/MISC/2008/13.
3. The facilitators for the sub-themes for UNCTAD XII are:
 - (a) Sub-theme 1: Enhancing coherence at all levels for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in global policymaking, including the contribution of regional approaches – Mr. Christophe Guilhou (France);
 - (b) Sub-theme 2: Key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy – Mr. Arsene M. Balihuta (Uganda);
 - (c) Sub-theme 3: Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development – Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria); and
 - (d) Sub-theme 4: Strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness – Mrs. Mabel Gomez Oliver (Mexico).
4. The Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII decided at its meeting of 2 November 2007 to hold two half-day hearings with civil society. The first was held on 28 January 2008 and the second was held on 3 March 2008. The outcomes of the hearings are contained in documents TD(XII)/PC/2 and TD(XII)/PC/3 respectively.