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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-third session
Geneva, 25 January 1999
Agenda item 3 (a)

REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME:
(a) DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Draft agreed recommendations

At its thirty-third session, the Working Party reviewed the proposed work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium in line with paragraph 107 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" inviting the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult with member States at an early stage of the programme planning process, and in line with standing United Nations instructions on the preparation of the programme budget calling for consultation with specialized intergovernmental bodies governing the work of the various United Nations departments concerned. For this purpose, the Working Party had before it the draft Programme of Work for the 2000-2001 biennium, and the outcome of the *ex-ante* survey conducted among all member States of publications proposed therein. In its review, the Working Party benefited from presentations by, and discussion with, the programme managers responsible for the work of the subprogrammes in the UNCTAD work programme.

The Working Party recommends that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should:

(i) Amend the draft programme of work as indicated in the text in document UNCTAD/ISS/Misc.200/Rev.1;

(ii) Reflect in the Overview of the Programme the fact that UNCTAD, in the pursuit of its objectives, will promote policy dialogue and exchange of experiences among Governments, cooperation with other international organizations, and the participation of non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector and other actors of development in its activities;

(iii) Strengthen the capacity to provide timely global macroeconomic analysis, if necessary through redeployment of resources;

(iv) Ensure that the financial and human resources available to subprogramme 5 , Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least-developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, are identical to those in the 1998-1999 programme budget and that sufficient resources are made available in view of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be convened in 2001;

(v) Ensure, in implementing the work programme and particularly in extending technical assistance, that LDCs have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD, and that specific needs of certain developing countries with structurally weak and vulnerable economies are addressed, and that UNCTAD continues to provide technical assistance to economies in transition;

(vi) Ensure that important issues such as poverty alleviation and employment generation are fully taken into account in the implementation of all subprogrammes;

(vii) Ensure that the gender dimension of development is included in the implementation of the work of the five subprogrammes as required by "A Partnership for Growth and Development" which calls for the question of the empowerment of women, to achieve equality between women and men in all sectors of the economy, to be handled as a cross-sectoral issue and thus reflected in the work of all subprogrammes, and promote initiatives towards this end in all of them;

(viii) Ensure that the outcome of the Trade and Development Board's consideration of the results of the meeting on Partners for Development held at Lyon in November 1998 is reflected in the work of the relevant subprogrammes and that any future implications for the programme of work will be submitted to the Board for approval;

(ix) Provide the Working Party at its future sessions, with documentation similar to that provided at its thirty-third session, which was welcomed by the members of the Working Party as a good basis for their work;

(x) Provide electronic on-screen text-editing at future UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings, as provided at the current session of the Working Party;

(xi) Make the necessary arrangements to enable the Working Party to meet in resumed session to examine section 11 A of the proposed programme budget of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001.