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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Working Party on the Medium-term Plan  
and the Programme Budget

Thirty-third session (resumed)

Geneva, 27-28 May 1999

Agenda item 3 (a)

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

**AGREED CONCLUSIONS ON THE PROPOSED  
BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001 \***

The Working Party,

1. Notes the need for recourse to consultancy services for the implementation of the programme of work and requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure efficient and cost-effective use of such resources;
2. Encourages the UNCTAD secretariat to use judiciously the resources allocated to convening of the *ad hoc* expert group meetings; invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to enhance transparency on this matter by appropriately informing member States on the purposes for which *ad hoc* expert groups are convened; and recommends that *ad hoc* expert meetings be organized on accession to WTO and implementation of the WTO agreements and that no *ad hoc* expert meetings be organized on export credit insurance;

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\* As adopted at its closing plenary on Monday 31 May 1999.

3. On policy-making organs,
  - (i) Recommends that the proposed allocation in paragraph 11A.18 for contractual services for “the production of two presentation films on UNCTAD and its Conference” be deleted and the corresponding amount be reallocated to Subprogramme 5 as an additional provision under other staff costs for the purposes of the preparation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (paragraph 11A.75).
  
4. On executive direction and management:
  - (i) Considers that the proposed increase of resources to be made available to Executive Direction and Management (paragraph 11A.26, the net result of the inward redeployment of one General Service (Principal level) post to the Office of the Secretary-General) is not justified when compared with the needs of another subprogrammes and recommends that this redeployment not take place;
  
5. On subprogramme 3, International trade in goods and services, and commodities,
  - (i) Emphasizes that the proposed outward redeployment of posts from the Subprogramme does not imply any lowering of the priority attached to the Subprogramme; and in this context understands that the D1 post referred to in paragraph 11A.56 has been reallocated to Subprogramme 1 as a result of the mid-term review to strengthen the co-ordination activities in the area of cross-sectoral issues while the work on the interface between investment and trade will continue to be carried out in the same manner as in the current biennium;
  - (ii) Recommends against the proposed redeployment of one P-5 post to Subprogramme 2 (paragraph 11A.56) in the light of the important activities likely to be undertaken within this Subprogramme in relation to support for developing countries’ preparations for the built-in agenda and any new Round, as well as assistance to such countries in their WTO accession needs
  
6. On subprogramme 4, Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency,
  - (i) Understands that, in view of the ongoing review of the Trade Point Programme, implementation of the “maintaining/updating of electronic trade opportunities database” (paragraph 11A.63, (b), (iv)) and the utilization of the consultancy resources for the “updating and maintenance of the GTPNet” (paragraph 11A.65) would proceed on the basis of specific authority by the Trade and Development Board;

- (ii) Recommends that the consultancy resources proposed for the “development of an internet-based global trade finance and credit insurance database” (paragraph 11A.65) be reallocated to Subprogramme 5 as an additional provision under other staff costs for the purposes of the preparation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (paragraph 11A.75).
7. On subprogramme 5, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries:
- (i) Emphasizes the importance of ensuring the full and effective utilization of all resources allocated to the Subprogramme, in particular the D-1 post, and of strengthening work on LDCs through LDC components in all activities of the Divisions.