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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-eighth session
Geneva, 17 – 21 September 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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* As approved by the Working Party at the first part of its thirty-seventh session on 19 January 2001.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

In accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, the Working Party elects its own officers. In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the Chairman at the thirty-eighth session would be a representative of one of the States members in List B, and the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia).

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (TD/B/WP/141)

The provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Working Party was approved on 19 January 2001. A note on the organization of work of the session will be circulated at the opening of the meeting.

At its resumed thirty-seventh session, the Working Party decided to review, at a resumed thirty-eighth session, the impact on the system-wide coordination aspects contained in subprogramme 9.5 (Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) of the decisions of the General Assembly on paragraph 116 of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. The Working Party may therefore wish to include in its agenda an item entitled ‘Review of the impact on subprogramme 9.5 of the decisions of the General Assembly on the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs’, to be considered at a resumed thirty-eighth session.

Item 3 - Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

(a) Overall review

For its consideration of this item, the Working Party will have before it two reports:

(i) The report on technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2000, which is being submitted both to the Trade and Development Board at its forty-eighth session and to the Working Party at its current session “Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD” (TD/B/48/5- TD/B/WP/139).

This document provides information on trends and developments in UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in 2000, as well as information on progress made on the implementation of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action and the decisions of the Trade and Development Board at its

forty-seventh session regarding technical cooperation. The report provides a brief description of mobilization of resources for operational activities of UNCTAD, as well as information on distribution of activities among regions and programmes. The report also briefly reviews developments with regard to activities in favour of least developed countries, cooperation with other organizations, cooperation with the private sector, and implementation of paragraph 166 of UNCTAD X Plan of Action. It includes information on the evaluation of technical cooperation programmes.

Annex I to the above document – “Review of activities undertaken in 2000” (TD/B/48/5/Add.1- TD/B/WP/139/Add.1) – provides a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2000 under different programmes and projects. It contains information on the background for activities and their impacts and results.

Annex II – Statistical tables (TD/B/48/5/Add.2- TD/B/WP/139/Add.2) – provides data on financial contributions, project expenditures and distribution of activities among different regions and programmes. It also provides a list of projects under implementation in 2000.

(ii) The “annual indicative technical cooperation plan for 2002” (TD/B/48/8-TD/B/WP/142 and Add.1).

This document is submitted to the Working Party pursuant to paragraph 164 (vi) of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action. It contains a list of ongoing technical cooperation projects that are expected to continue in 2000, as well as new projects proposed as the result of specific requests addressed to the secretariat.

(b) *Information on the implementation of Board decision 462 (XLVII)*

Board decision 462 (XLVII) relates to the "Review of the financial sustainability of certain technical cooperation programmes and activities". Section V of the “Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD” (TD/B/48/5- TD/B/WP/139) provides information on the implementation of the above decision. Full details of the most recent developments on implementation of the decision will be reported to the Working Party.

Item 4 - Evaluation of technical cooperation activities:

(a) *Evaluation of the TRAINMAR Programme*

In the context of its annual consideration of an in-depth evaluation of a technical cooperation programme, the Working Party, at its thirty-sixth session held in September 2000, “decided that an in-depth evaluation of the TRAINMAR Programme would be considered at the

session of the Working Party in 2001 dealing with technical cooperation.” The evaluation report was prepared by an independent evaluation team composed of a professional evaluator with extensive experience in this area, complemented by two additional members with a knowledge of the TRAINMAR Programme, who were familiar with UNCTAD programmes and their planning and assessment procedures and were constantly involved in the work of UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies. The latter were intended to bring into the evaluation process the perspective of both the beneficiary and the donor communities. The evaluation report is contained in document TD/B/WP/144, with supporting documentation provided in UNCTAD/EDM/Misc.175.

(b) Follow-up action to the in-depth evaluation of the EMPRETEC Programme

After considering the evaluation of the EMPRETEC Programme (TD/B/WP/129) at its thirty-six session held in September 2000, the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget “urged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to implement the recommendations and report on the implementation at the session of the Working Party in 2001 dealing with technical cooperation.” The relevant report prepared by the secretariat is contained in document TD/B/WP/145.

(c) Progress report on the implementation of the Trade Point Strategy

At its thirty-fourth session, the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget approved a three-year Trade Point Programme Strategy (TD/B/WP/120). At UNCTAD X, it was decided that “UNCTAD shall fully implement the Trade Point Programme strategy, as proposed by the secretariat in document TD/B/WP/120, including the transfer of the electronic trading opportunities system to a non-profit entity as soon as possible” (Bangkok Plan of Action, paragraph 158). At its thirty-sixth session, the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, having taken note of the documents ‘Implementation of the Trade Point Programme Strategy: Progress report’ (TD/B/WP/128) and “Transfer of the ETO system to a non-profit entity” (TD/B/WP(XXXVI)/CRP.1), reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the strategy and further “requested the secretariat to report to the autumn session of the Working Party in the year 2001 on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy, including on the work undertaken and to be undertaken, as well as on the strategy’s financial aspects.” In response to these requests, the Working Party will have before it for consideration document TD/B/WP/143.

Item 5 - Financing of participation of experts from developing countries and economies in transition in UNCTAD’s intergovernmental Expert Meetings

At the closing meeting of its resumed thirty-seventh session on 12 June 2001, the Working Party, in paragraph 9 of its agreed conclusions, invited the Secretary-General of

UNCTAD “to explore further possibilities for predictable and stable financing of participation of experts from developing countries and economies in transition in UNCTAD expert meetings and to provide proposals at the next session of the Working Party”. A note on the matter will be provided to the Working Party.

Item 6 - Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party

The secretariat will submit, in the course of the session, a draft provisional agenda for the next session of the Working Party.

Item 7 - Other business

Item 8 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

The final report will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.

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