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Trade and Development Board Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget

Fifty-first session

Geneva, 1–5 September 2008

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Progress report on the implementation of sub-theme 4 of the Accra Accord

Note by the secretariat*

Executive summary

Sub-theme four of the Accra Accord contains both orientational and operational elements. The orientational elements set out overarching goals that are to be achieved in the course of the coming four years through work in all three pillars. These elements will be operationalized through such instruments as the strategic framework, the work programme, the publications programme, the agendas of intergovernmental meetings, and the technical cooperation programme. They do not easily lend themselves to the identification of specific actions to be undertaken by specific dates. The degree to which they have been attained will be evaluated, for example, in the light of the activities that the organization has implemented by the time of the 2010 evaluation and review and UNCTAD's next quadrennial conference. An example of this type of orientational element is paragraph 171 of the Accra Accord.

The operational elements, on the other hand, refer to specific actions or activities for the implementation of which deadlines can be set. An example of this type of element is paragraph 186 of the Accra Accord. The table below attempts to identify all operational elements and establish a clear framework for their implementation.

* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
<p>Sub-theme 4: Strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness</p>		
<p>172. In the context of changing realities of the global economy and changing development needs, strengthening of UNCTAD's development role, impact and institutional effectiveness is needed in order for UNCTAD to be able to provide effective guidance and support with respect to both emerging issues and long-standing problems at the interface between trade and development. This strengthening process should include, inter alia, the adoption of new and improved indicators of achievement and performance measures in the context of the Strategic Framework, the continued adaptation of its working methods and structures and a more focused approach in order to better address those issues of trade and development within UNCTAD's mandate that continue to respond to the needs, concerns and priorities of its membership, as identified through the intergovernmental process.</p>	<p>New and improved indicators of achievement for 2010–2011 approved by the Working Party</p> <p>Drafting of work programme for 2008–2011 as per para. 221 of the Accra Accord</p>	<p>Reporting on performance to the Working Party and to the Trade and Development Board and in the Annual Report</p> <p>Implementation of the work programme following review and endorsement by member States</p>
<p>176. In this regard the Conference notes with appreciation the agreed outcome contained in the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-first executive session with the objective of strengthening UNCTAD. Those recommendations contained in clusters one and two that have already been endorsed by member States should be fully implemented. The secretariat should report to and consult member States on a regular basis in this regard.</p>		<p>Periodic reporting by the secretariat to the monthly consultations of the President (beginning December 2009)</p>
<p>177. Efforts to strengthen UNCTAD's role are also being made within the context of United Nations reform. UNCTAD should fully engage in the United Nations reform processes, particularly concerning the role of the United Nations in development and,</p>	<p>Participation in the Chief Executives Board (CEB), the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on</p>	<p>Participation in the Chief Executives Board (CEB), the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level</p>

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<p>consequently, efforts to strengthen system-wide coherence. Trade and development will remain a core preoccupation in the ongoing reforms in the United Nations, and UNCTAD will have a distinct role to play in carrying forward the trade and development mission of the United Nations. In order to implement effectively the United Nations reform process, it is important that the process be promoted by all organizations, and that all organizations focus on their comparative advantages and cost-effectiveness and avoid the overlapping of mandates.</p>	<p>Management</p> <p>Participation in the Senior Management Group</p> <p>Participation in the Interagency Cluster CEB on Trade and Productive Capacity</p> <p>Participation in working groups of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs</p>	<p>Committee on Management</p> <p>Participation in the Senior Management Group</p> <p>Participation in the Interagency CEB Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity</p> <p>Participation in working groups of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs</p>
<p>178. UNCTAD's three pillars of research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation form an organic whole and are inherently interlinked; they must be strengthened in order to ensure that the organization fulfils its mandate. To ensure synergy among its three pillars, UNCTAD should strengthen its internal coordination as well as align more closely the thematic focus of its research and analysis, technical assistance and intergovernmental discussions. It should also designate regional focal points, within the current structure and within existing resources, in order to deepen its regional perspectives.</p>	<p>Creation and operation of the Accra Accord Steering Group by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD</p> <p>Creation and operation of the Publications Committee</p> <p>Preparation of the draft Strategic Framework for 2010–2011</p> <p>Preparation of work programme for 2008–2011</p> <p>Creation of inter-divisional task forces (on the global food crisis, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and energy)</p>	<p>Adoption of work programme (September 2008)</p> <p>Designation of focal points (September 2008)</p>
<p>179. These three pillars should contribute, from a trade and development perspective, to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, as well as to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the</p>	<p>Inclusion of high-level segment on MDGs in agenda for Board's fifty-fifth session</p> <p>Participation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in the High-level Conference on</p>	<p>Reporting on the follow-up to major conferences to the Board at its regular sessions</p> <p>Contribution by Board to General Assembly high-level event on MDGs</p>

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Millennium Development Goals.	World Food Security Participation and contribution to the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and its elaboration of a comprehensive framework for action	(September 2008) Contribution by the Board to the Review of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development (September 2008)
180. UNCTAD and other parts of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and relevant international bodies should actively pursue stronger and more coherent cooperation with each other on matters pertaining to trade and development and related issues. This cooperation should be based on a clearer division of labour and maximizing synergies, complementarity and efficiency. UNCTAD should also enhance its work with civil society and the private sector, while preserving its intergovernmental nature.	Establishment of the CEB trade and productive capacity cluster (coordinated by UNCTAD) Joint inter-agency missions to pilot One United Nations countries and establishment of joint programmes Participation in the EC-ESA clusters Informal meeting with civil society/briefing held in June to discuss follow up to the Accra Accord	Continued involvement in the pilot One United Nations countries and in other countries that are preparing United Nations country assistance plans Outreach to civil society and the private sector to be enhanced within framework of the Communications Strategy Meetings with civil society organizations (CSOs) and member States to be organized periodically Briefings with CSOs and the secretariat to be organized periodically
181. UNCTAD should continue and strengthen its participation in the Economic and Social Council policy dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, given the importance of this dialogue in coordinating efforts to assist countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.	President of the Board participated in the dialogue this year	Continued participation by President of the Board in the dialogue
182. The Conference reaffirms its support for the International Trade Centre (ITC). There is particular potential for greater cooperation and complementarity between ITC and UNCTAD.	UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (ITC) are members of the core agencies of the enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-	Strengthening of UNCTAD-ITC consultations, participation of ITC in the UNCTAD Project Review Committee

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<p>ITC is the export development arm of UNCTAD and WTO, and it helps the business sector in developing countries take advantage of trade opportunities. ITC and UNCTAD should cooperate, each focusing on its comparative advantages. The development impact of many ITC activities could be enhanced through stronger linkages with UNCTAD. Similarly, many UNCTAD activities could benefit from the experience of ITC in meeting the needs of the business community. UNCTAD and ITC should also enhance their collaboration at the national level through mechanisms such as the inter-agency cluster on trade and productive sectors.</p>	<p>related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, and cooperate within that framework to assist trade development of least developed countries (LDCs)</p>	<p>when operations of common interest are discussed, and more UNCTAD-ITC joint initiatives in the framework of the inter-agency cluster on trade and productive capacity</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration under the Enhanced Integrated Framework</p>
<p>183. In view of the current challenges in commodities markets, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is urged to transform the existing Commodities Branch into an autonomous unit reporting directly to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, within existing resources of the Commodities Branch of the Division of International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, while retaining the Branch mandate and taking into account, without duplicating, the work of other relevant organizations. Through the guidance and leadership of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, this unit should contribute more effectively to developing countries' efforts to formulate strategies and policies to respond to the challenges and opportunities of commodity markets.</p>	<p>Branch transformed into a substantively autonomous unit reporting directly to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with its own clearly defined resources</p>	
<p>A. Research and analysis</p>		
<p>185. UNCTAD's research and analysis should stimulate and underpin, and draw input from, the discussion at all levels of the intergovernmental machinery in the areas of UNCTAD's mandate. The published outcome of UNCTAD's research and analysis should be subject to an effective clearance process within the secretariat to ensure coherence by the organization in</p>	<p>Establishment of Strategic and Policy Coordination Unit to enhance clearance process</p> <p>Launching of enhanced regular clearance process for flagships</p>	<p>Establishment of improved secretariat publications management process (autumn 2008)</p> <p>Soliciting inputs from think tanks and academia for work of intergovernmental</p>

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<p>all areas of major policy importance. In its research, UNCTAD should make use of inputs from national and regional think tanks and academia. It should also enhance its peer reviews to improve the quality of its work further. Greater impact and effectiveness of UNCTAD's policy research and analysis can be achieved by focusing the research commitment within each sub-programme element, ensuring interdivisional cross-fertilization and collaboration and further promoting creative partnerships with other United Nations entities and other international organizations, enhancing development-oriented complementarity, synergies and coherence consistent with each organization's mandate, and conducting systematic evaluation of research products.</p>	<p>Establishment of the Global Network of Development Think Tanks</p> <p>Establishment of interdivisional task forces (food security, MDGs, energy)</p>	<p>machinery and for research and analysis</p>
<p>186. UNCTAD should fully implement Trade and Development Board decision 449 (EX-17) and, on that basis, it should update and improve its publications policy by focusing on its flagship research products and on the major study series and high-quality technical materials. UNCTAD should also streamline its publication programme taking into consideration the needs of developing countries and the requirements identified in the intergovernmental process. UNCTAD's biennial publications programme should continue to be reviewed and endorsed by the Trade and Development Board, according to established programme budget categories (recurrent, non-recurrent and technical publications) to ensure consistency, effectiveness and relevance.</p>	<p>Establishment of Publications Committee</p> <p>Agreement reached in the Publications Committee on a system of up-front approval for publications and a schedule for flagship publications in 2009</p>	<p>Launching of improved secretariat publications management process (autumn 2008)</p> <p>Submission of draft list of publications for next biennium to members of Working Party (autumn 2008)</p> <p>Informal discussion in Working Party of list of publications for coming year and secretariat report on implementation of publications policy (early 2009)</p> <p>Review of draft list of publications for the next biennium by Working Party, as well as consideration of publication survey results (early 2009)</p>
<p>187. The secretariat should also develop a more effective communication strategy. The strategy should target a wider</p>	<p>Communications and Information Unit, Web Management Unit and Civil Society</p>	<p>Develop, finalize and implement the new communication strategy by fifty-sixth</p>

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<p>audience, including high-level policymakers, the media, academic and research institutions, and civil society entities in developed and, in particular, in developing countries. There should be greater use of electronic tools, including the UNCTAD website, and an emphasis on producing timely translations in all the official languages of the United Nations. Publications should also be disseminated in partnership with national, regional and other international organizations.</p>	<p>Liaison/Outreach Unit redeployed to the Office of the Secretary-General under the new Head, Communications, Information and Outreach Unit (CIO), with overall coordination by Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General</p> <p>Initial consideration being given to possible elements of a new communications strategy and consultative processes</p> <p>Participation in United Nations task force on communication in order to be more coherent with United Nations worldwide communication strategies. Training sessions organized to improve staff communication skills</p>	<p>regular session of the Board</p> <p>Migration to a new content management system for UNCTAD's website (fourth quarter 2008)</p>
<p>188. The communication strategy, including the updated publication policy, should be approved by the Trade and Development Board no later than its fifty-sixth session.</p>		<p>Communication strategy to be submitted to Board at fifty-sixth session</p>
<p>B. Consensus-building</p>		
<p>191. Greater participation of non-State actors, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders should be encouraged in UNCTAD's intergovernmental meetings, including expert meetings, in accordance with the established rules of procedure and as prescribed in paragraphs 115–118 of the São Paulo Consensus.</p>	<p>Meeting with CSOs held on 19 June 2008</p> <p>Preparatory meeting for CSO hearing at the Board's fifty-fifth session, involving CSOs and member States, 28 August 2008</p>	<p>Board hearing for CSOs, 17 September 2008</p> <p>Participation of civil society representatives in multi-year expert meetings or ad hoc meetings as panellists/resource persons to be encouraged</p> <p>Improved outreach to be considered as part of the new communications strategy (see</p>

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		para. 187 above)
1. Trade and Development Board		
192. As the highest body of UNCTAD between Conferences, the Board should strengthen its decision-making and policy function, and its governance function. It should ensure overall consistency in the organization's activities and their implementation in accordance with established mandates. In carrying out its mandated functions, the Board should place particular focus on:		
(a) Conducting policy dialogue and intergovernmental consensus-building on substantive and strategic policy issues;	Agenda for the fifty-fifth regular session of the Board approved (June 2008)	
(b) Reviewing the flagship publications and acting as a forum for disseminating key findings;	Item relating to topic of the World Investment Report 2008 inserted in the draft agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Board	Trade and Development Report, 2008 and The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 to be discussed at fifty-fifth session of Board (September 2008) In addition, World Investment Report 2008 to be discussed at fifty-sixth session of Board (September 2009)
(c) Integrating, in a systematic and coherent manner, the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies so as to provide overall policy guidance, including direction for new work covering its three pillars;		Reports of commissions to be taken up by Board at an executive session
(d) Ensuring that the interaction among the three pillars of UNCTAD is effective and that the synergies among them are operational;		Reports of the Working Party and the commissions to be taken up regularly

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
(e) Considering the work programme of the organization as a whole and its consistency with mandates;		Reports of the Working Party and the commissions to be taken up regularly
(f) Overseeing the operation of its subsidiary bodies and ensuring that they and the secretariat are discharging their mandates in accordance with intergovernmental decisions of UNCTAD;		Reports of the Working Party and the commissions to be taken up regularly
(g) Considering and approving UNCTAD's technical cooperation strategy, based on the recommendations of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget; and		Reports of the Working Party to be taken up regularly
(h) Following up on UNCTAD's communication strategy, including its publication policy and dissemination of publications, to ensure their effective implementation, and updating as necessary, based on the recommendations of the Working Party on the Medium Term-plan and the Programme Budget.		Reports of the Working Party and the Commissions to be taken up regularly (after the Board's fifty-sixth session)
193. The Board's agenda should reflect the interests and concerns of the UNCTAD membership, be policy-oriented, include varied and topical issues falling under the purview of UNCTAD, and be organized around themes agreed to by member States. In organizing the substantive discussions, including the high-level segment, particular attention should be paid to achieving an interactive debate drawing on, inter alia, UNCTAD's research and analysis findings.	Draft provisional agenda for fifty-fifth regular session approved	Future provisional agendas to be presented to Bureau for approval
194. The Board will add to the agenda of its regular session an additional item entitled "Development strategies in a globalized world".	Item inserted in draft provisional agenda for fifty-fifth regular session	

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<p>195. As an organ of the General Assembly, UNCTAD should enhance its contribution to the work of its parent body. The Board's report to the General Assembly will continue to comprise negotiated outcomes on Africa, the LDCs and technical cooperation, chair's summaries and negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat. The Board should also contribute more to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly to work related to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.</p>	<p>Issue of MDGs selected as topic for high-level segment of fifty-fifth session of Board in order to feed into General Assembly high-level event in September 2008</p> <p>Dates of regular session of the Board advanced, giving more time for Board report to be considered by the General Assembly before its discussion on trade and development</p>	<p>Regular reporting by Board to General Assembly</p> <p>Participation in the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council</p>
<p>196. The annual regular session of the Board will take place in early September.</p>	<p>Dates for fifty-fifth regular session of Board brought forward (15–26 September 2008)</p>	<p>Board regular sessions will be scheduled for earliest possible date in September</p>
<p>197. In accordance with its mandated functions, the Board should make arrangements to enhance links with intergovernmental bodies whose activities are relevant to its functions. In this respect, the President of the Trade and Development Board should continue to participate in the General Assembly deliberations on trade and development and in the special high-level meetings of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, and may participate in other major events in Geneva, upon invitation. The President of the Board will brief UNCTAD member States on the outcomes of such meetings and his or her participation therein.</p>		<p>Participation by President of the Board in General Assembly deliberations and in relevant Economic and Social Council meetings</p>
<p>198. The President of the Board should hold monthly consultations with the extended Bureau of the Board and interested member States to allow for regular briefings by the secretariat on forthcoming meetings, informal follow-up to meetings, and procedural and housekeeping matters. The monthly</p>	<p>First monthly consultations held on 10 June 2008</p> <p>Schedule of consultations for the last quarter of 2008 approved by the Board at its forty-fourth executive session in July 2008</p>	

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consultations should continue to serve as a forum for dialogue between the secretariat and member States on issues of interest to the organization.	Provision for future consultations included in the calendar of meetings	
199. The Conference welcomes the establishment of the Global Network of Development Think Tanks, involving institutions at the country level and regional networks. The Conference invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, on the basis of the experience gained and the lessons drawn in the operation of the network, in particular the virtual discussion forum, to explore the feasibility of organizing an annual meeting of the Global Network to be held in conjunction with the regular session of the Board.	Global Network of Development Think Tanks established Network website the under preparation First substantive discussion launched	Report by the Secretary-General to Consultations of President prior to fifty-sixth regular session of the Board
200. There will be an additional agenda item at the regular session of the Trade and Development Board in 2010 entitled "Evaluation and review of UNCTAD's implementation of the Accra Accord". To address this agenda item, this regular session will be extended by one week. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will present a report on UNCTAD's implementation of the Accra Accord; this report will be the basis for member States' discussion, which may result in recommendations to the secretariat regarding its implementation of the Accord.		Item to be included in agenda of fifty-seventh regular session of the Board in 2010
2. Commissions		
201. The commissions are subsidiary bodies of the Trade and Development Board and their reports, including any conclusions and recommendations agreed within the scheduled time of their sessions, will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for approval. They are intergovernmental meetings attended by government representatives. The role of the commissions is: to conduct policy dialogue on one or two selected issues; to consider reports of expert meetings; to manage and recommend for	Agendas for the commissions approved	

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
approval the work programme of expert meetings within their purview; and to promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars.		
202. There will be two commissions: one entitled the Trade and Development Commission and the second entitled the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. The Trade and Development Commission will have the mandate of the previous Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, and will also assume responsibility for transport and trade logistics issues from the previous Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will have the mandate of the previous Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, and will also assume responsibility for enterprise and ICT issues from the previous Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development.	Agendas for the commissions approved Commission sessions scheduled	
203. The outcomes of commission sessions will be agreed conclusions from the policy dialogue and recommendations to the secretariat achieved within the scheduled time of the session. In this regard, recommendations could include suggestions on areas and topics of research. On the basis of a dialogue between beneficiaries and donors, recommendations could also include suggestions on the implementation and, if so agreed by the interested parties, on the discontinuation of technical cooperation projects. These conclusions and recommendations should be focused, brief and directly related to the agenda of the session and should provide inputs to the research and analysis pillar and the technical cooperation pillar. They will be reflected in the reports of the commissions.		To be implemented during commission sessions (beginning April/May 2009)

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<p>204. The substantive topics for commission sessions will be decided upon by the Trade and Development Board, upon the recommendation of the Bureau of the Board, at least six months in advance of the commission session, and will be based on a topic or topics selected from the secretariat research or from issues of interest identified in the reports of expert meetings. In order to allow for greater responsiveness to member States' interest in preparing for commission sessions, between sessions the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board will follow up on preparations for the next commission's session.</p>	<p>Agendas approved by the Board on the basis of a recommendation by the Bureau</p>	<p>Bureau to be briefed regularly</p>
<p>205. Commission sessions will be held at the same time each year in the Spring and back-to-back, in order to allow better planning and attendance, including from capitals. Each session will have a duration of five days, and this time period will include a break of one day for informal consultations. The first three days will focus on the substantive items of the agenda, comprising one or two topics decided in advance by the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board and consideration of expert meetings' reports and work plans. After a break of one day, on the last day of the session the commission will address the institutional issues on the agenda and adopt any agreed outcome.</p>	<p>Commission sessions scheduled for April/May 2009</p>	
<p>206. The commission meetings will have as their inputs: substantive documentation prepared by the secretariat, providing secretariat views and recommendations based on secretariat research and analysis; reports of expert meetings; inputs from the Global Network of Development Think Tanks, civil society and the private sector; and secretariat activity reports. Documentation will be produced at least six weeks in advance of the session in all official United Nations languages, in accordance with United Nations rules.</p>		<p>Secretariat documentation to be circulated in accordance with United Nations rules (March 2009)</p> <p>Inputs from other stakeholders to be actively solicited</p>

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3. Expert meetings		
<p>207. Expert meetings will continue to be held under the auspices of the commissions. Expert meetings should be strengthened so that experts make a greater contribution to UNCTAD's programme of work in all three pillars. Expert meetings will be held in single sessions or in multi-year sessions. There will be no increase in the total number of expert meetings per year (eight), and individual sessions will not last more than three days. All expert meetings will comprise experts designated by member States but serving in their personal capacities. Balanced participation from capitals in different regions should be encouraged. Expert meetings should be interactive and enable all experts to participate fully; they should encourage sharing of experience and best practices; and they should facilitate networking among experts. They may generate, as part of the report of the Chair, practical options and actionable outcomes for consideration by the commissions, such as inventories of best practices, checklists, indicative guidelines, sets of criteria or principles, and model frameworks.</p>	<p>Consultations on topics and terms of reference well advanced</p>	<p>All topics and terms of reference to be approved by fifty-fifth session of the Board</p>
<p>208. The topics and the terms of reference for multi-year expert meetings will be determined by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-fifth session. The multi-year expert meetings will report annually to the commissions. Multi-year expert meetings will last for up to four years, though not beyond the session of the Conference following their establishment. In this regard, the Trade and Development Board will establish a multi-year expert meeting on commodities.</p>	<p>Draft topics and terms of reference presented to bureau</p> <p>Certain topics and terms of reference approved</p>	<p>Remaining topics and terms of reference to be approved by fifty-fifth regular session of the Board (September 2008)</p>
<p>209. Single-session expert meetings will be convened on specific topics that require in-depth examination. The topics will be decided by the Trade and Development Board.</p>	<p>Draft topics presented to bureau in June 2008 along with agendas for commissions</p>	<p>Topics to be approved by fifty-fifth regular session of the Board</p>

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<p>210. Funding for the participation of experts from developing countries, including LDCs, and countries with economies in transition must be sustainable and predictable. Funding will come from the trust fund that exists for this purpose, and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD is requested to make a renewed, sustained effort to attract contributions to the fund on a priority basis. Member States are encouraged to contribute to the fund.</p>		<p>Funding campaign to be launched in September</p>
<p>211. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting will continue to meet annually.</p>	<p>Ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy held in July 2008</p>	<p>Twenty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting scheduled to meet in November 2008</p>
<p>C. Technical cooperation</p>		
<p>212. As one of the three pillars of UNCTAD, technical cooperation should be fully integrated with the other two pillars. Technical cooperation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Deliver tangible results at the interregional, regional and national levels, to the benefit of all developing countries; (b) Be demand-driven and embrace country ownership; (c) Be based on the principles of transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability; (d) Continue to address the needs of all developing countries, in particular LDCs; (e) Particularly address the needs of the African continent; 	<p>Implementation of evaluators' recommendations on projects and programmes</p> <p>Compilation of requests for technical assistance established within the Technical Cooperation Service</p> <p>Project Review Committee established for interdivisional coordination</p> <p>Regarding country ownership, the One United Nations process and the enhanced Integrated Framework ensure full involvement of national authorities in the design of assistance plans</p>	<p>Increased consultations with beneficiaries on the design and implementation of UNCTAD operations</p> <p>Strengthened secretariat capacity to monitor the effective implementation of evaluators' reports</p> <p>More training of policymakers, as well as increased support to national research and academic institutions, in order to enhance developing countries' capacity to drive the assistance received</p> <p>Working Party (at its session on technical cooperation) to be the annual UNCTAD forum for matching technical</p>

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<p>(f) Be planned and implemented in a geographically balanced manner;</p> <p>(g) Continue to address the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries;</p> <p>(h) Also continue to address the special needs of small island developing States, and to address the special needs of other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies;</p> <p>(i) Be in accordance with Trade and Development Board decisions 492 (LIV) of 2007 and 478 (L) of 2003; and</p> <p>(j) Also be in accordance with the conclusions of the Mid-term Review in 2006.</p>		<p>cooperation requests and offers</p> <p>Project Review Committee to become the main tool of the secretariat to coordinate fund raising, increase interdivisional operations and monitor the implementation of thematic clustering</p> <p>Project Review Committee to facilitate UNCTAD participation in United Nations country plans and in the enhanced Integrated Framework</p> <p>Project Review Committee to monitor implementation of Board decisions 492 (LIV) and 478 (L)</p>
<p>213. Regional partnership-based delivery of technical assistance activities should be maximized in order to benefit from pooled resources. Local and regional expertise and material resources should be used to the maximum to enhance the institutional capacity of recipient countries and the sustainability of benefits.</p>	<p>UNCTAD secretariat has maintained regular contacts with regional and subregional organizations. Since 2007, all the United Nations regional commissions are members of the CEB cluster on trade and productive capacities. Within the cluster, regional commissions are providing regional perspectives related to the formulation of Aid for Trade concepts and methodologies</p>	<p>Regional focal points within the divisions to facilitate contacts and joint initiatives with regional organizations with a view to formulating technical assistance operations tailored to local regional agendas</p>
<p>214. With regard to LDCs, UNCTAD should intensify its contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. UNCTAD, in collaboration with other participating institutions, should contribute to strengthening in-country capacities for the effective management, implementation and monitoring of the mainstreaming of trade into LDCs' national development plans.</p>		<p>Activities will be undertaken in the context of the implementation of para. 90 of the Accra Accord, as described in the four-year work plan</p>

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The Conference takes note of the successful outcome of the Pledging Conference on the Enhanced Integrated Framework, held in Stockholm on 25 September 2007.		
215. Efforts should be pursued to improve the management, evaluation and reporting of all technical assistance activities, with greater attention being paid to:	Project Review Committee meets regularly	
(a) Measuring the effectiveness and evaluating the impact of those activities, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Trade and Development Board decision 478 (L) and relevant United Nations rules and procedures on technical cooperation evaluation;	<p>Working Party has conducted annual in-depth evaluations of selected technical cooperation programmes</p> <p>Ad hoc evaluations have been undertaken upon request from donors</p> <p>All evaluation reports have been made publicly available on the new evaluation website</p>	<p>Working Party will continue to conduct an in-depth evaluation annually</p> <p>UNCTAD evaluation policy to be established (2008) to clarify, inter alia, what types of evaluations will be conducted, when and how</p> <p>Project Review Committee to examine project proposals from the viewpoint of performance management (performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms). The results achieved, including those measurements, to be included in the report to the Working Party on technical cooperation programmes</p> <p>Project portal to include elements of performance reporting (to be decided in the light of a technical assessment of feasibility)</p> <p>Within each thematic cluster, divisions to submit to the Working Party (September session) the logical framework corresponding to the operations under their</p>

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
		responsibility, including interdivisional aspects, with a view to improving the management and the evaluation of these operations
(b) Clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities within the secretariat; and		Finalization of the terms of reference of the Project Review Committee and the Technical Cooperation Service regarding fund-raising and management and delivery of UNCTAD technical cooperation (September 2008)
(c) Tracking the demand for assistance and the availability of funding. There should be more cross-divisional cooperation in order to promote a holistic, UNCTAD-wide perspective and to enhance synergies, cost-effectiveness and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of technical assistance activities.		Technical assistance database portal to start dealing with requests for technical cooperation by summer 2008
216. The Conference underscores Trade and Development Board decision 492 (LIV) and encourages its effective implementation in order to increase predictability, transparency and coherence in the planning and implementation of technical assistance programmes with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and impact of UNCTAD technical cooperation.	Establishment of 17 thematic clusters	Consolidation of projects into multi-donor, multi-year thematic clusters; work in progress through 2008 and 2009
217. Fund-raising should also be further improved. In line with Trade and Development Board decision 492 (LIV), donors and potential donors in a position to do so are urged to provide multi-year contributions to the newly established thematic trust funds so as to increase predictability in the planning and implementation of the relevant technical assistance programmes. Other ways and options to improve fund-raising and diversify the	Regarding fund-raising, two consultations were held with donors before UNCTAD XII on the thematic clustering of technical cooperation in accordance with Board decision 492 (LIV). Letters sent to donors in April 2008 requested donors' authorization to merge their contributions to existing trust funds into new multi-donor trust	Further clustering can be envisaged in the next months and years, particularly for new operations to be launched, insofar as donors are willing to establish multi-donor trust funds. This will enhance the participation of UNCTAD in United Nations development country assistance

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
<p>funding base should also continue to be explored, such as more effective outreach and presentation of UNCTAD technical cooperation capacities and programmes and of funding needs.</p>	<p>funds. A small number of donors have indicated their willingness to authorize this kind of merging. Seventeen thematic clusters have been established. Within each of these clusters, the merging of contributions has started and will continue depending on donors' instructions.</p> <p>Through increased participation at country level, the aim is to reach donors resources allocated at national and regional levels so as to diversify and enlarge the funding base.</p>	<p>plans (including the One United Nations Programme) and a simplification of UNCTAD's financial structure.</p>
<p>218. One of the key aims of the current United Nations reform proposal is to improve the ways in which United Nations agencies operate at the national level. UNCTAD should reinforce its operational links with other United Nations organizations, particularly those operating at country level. The Conference welcomes the establishment by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination of the inter-agency thematic cluster on trade and productive sectors, the purpose of which is to enhance the role of trade and related issues in United Nations development assistance plans, undertake joint operations at the country level and enhance inter-agency cooperation in system-wide initiatives in these areas. The newly established training programme for United Nations resident coordinators on the activities and programmes of the thematic cluster should be pursued actively. As a complement to that training, the designated regional focal points referred to in paragraph 182 above should, within the framework of established secretariat procedures, also assist United Nations resident coordinators in identifying and developing UNCTAD programmes for their countries and their inclusion in United Nations development frameworks. General Assembly resolution 62/208, entitled "Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities</p>	<p>The interagency cluster is fully operational. It organized a pilot training workshop on trade and productive capacity for United Nations resident coordinators and economic advisers in Turin (19–22 May 2008) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Staff College.</p> <p>UNCTAD is chairing the United Nations Development Group's Task Team on Non-Resident Agencies.</p>	<p>Strengthen the capacity of UNCTAD to coordinate the interagency cluster, to chair the Task Team on Non-Resident Agencies, and to be a proactive member in the United Nations-wide interagency machinery in charge of the coherence reform process.</p> <p>Request donor support to establish a general trust fund to finance the participation of UNCTAD in the United Nations-wide development assistance plans at the country level (including the Delivering as One/One United Nations pilot countries) (last quarter, 2008)</p> <p>Regional focal points to be designated by September 2008</p>

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
for development of the United Nations system”, and subsequent resolutions on this subject, should be implemented by UNCTAD as expeditiously as possible.		
219. The Conference welcomes and encourages the implementation of the Aid for Trade initiative and takes note of the Aid for Trade Global Review held from 19 to 21 November 2007. The Aid for Trade initiative includes resources for technical assistance provided through both bilateral and multilateral channels to build capacity to formulate locally-owned trade policies, participate in trade negotiations, implement trade agreements, build supply-side capacities and offset adjustment costs. UNCTAD can contribute to the realization of the Aid for Trade initiative through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities, including through its participation in the trade and productive capacity cluster.	<p>The interagency cluster on trade and productive capacity is preparing a joint Aid for Trade needs assessment methodology, and is coordinating the cluster's views and initiatives on Aid for Trade</p> <p>Participation in the WTO Advisory Group on Aid for Trade</p> <p>Participation in a joint initiative with UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations University to prepare a publication on Aid for Trade in 2008</p>	The cluster should continue to be instrumental in facilitating interagency exchanges and initiatives related to Aid for Trade, particularly with a view to joint programming and assistance operations at the country level
220. UNCTAD should also improve its technical cooperation outreach towards potential recipients, including LDCs, taking into consideration Trade and Development Board decision 478 (L). The interaction between the secretariat, potential beneficiaries and donors on UNCTAD technical cooperation should be carried out in a more structured way and facilitated within the framework of the Working party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget (Technical Cooperation).	UNCTAD participation in the CEB cluster is already enhancing visibility and outreach among United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations Country Teams. The training of United Nations resident coordinators is already having an impact in this regard.	<p>The September sessions of the Working Party should become the main regular consultation mechanism between the secretariat, beneficiaries and donor countries on technical cooperation needs and resources</p> <p>Regional focal points within the divisions to contribute to outreach</p>
D. Implementation		
221. In order to implement the activities outlined in the operational paragraphs on UNCTAD's contribution and on strengthening UNCTAD in the Accra Accord in an efficient and timely manner, they should be presented, in accordance with		Work programme being presented to the Working Party in September 2008

Action required	Action taken to date	Future action
United Nations rules and practices, as the work programme for the next four years with clearly defined objectives and outputs, including timeframes and expected outcomes. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD should present the work programme to member States for discussion at the first meeting of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget and the subsequent session of the Trade and Development Board.		