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**Trade and Development Board**

**Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

Fifty-second session

Geneva, 26–30 January 2009

**Report of the Working Party on the Strategic  
Framework and the Programme Budget  
on its fifty-second session**

**Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 26 to 30 January 2009**

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## I. Agreed conclusions<sup>1</sup>

*The Working Party,*

*Having considered the draft proposal of the work programme for UNCTAD for the biennium 2010–2011,*

1. *Reiterates* that the Accra Accord is the basis for UNCTAD's work programme, and in this respect refers to the work plan for 2008–2011 for the implementation of the Accra Accord (TD/B/WP/203/Rev.1);

2. *Notes* document TD/B/WP/L.135 and *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to transmit the revisions proposed by the Working Party, contained in document TD/B/WP/L.135/Rev.1, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his consideration;

3. *Recalls* paragraphs 10, 41 and 42 of the Accra Accord and *requests* the secretariat to ensure that all activities, programmes and projects contained in the programme budget for the new biennium should be developed and implemented based on needs and on the principle of equitable geographical distribution of resources among all developing-country regions as well as among countries with economies in transition, with particular attention to the least developed countries (LDCs) and the African countries;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 41 of the Accra Accord and *urges* its faithful implementation in a transparent manner, in order for UNCTAD to strengthen its special focus on the particular needs of the LDCs across all areas of its mandate, and *stresses the need* for adequate resources for UNCTAD's activities, programmes and projects for the LDCs, as well as those relating to the upcoming fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs as mandated by General Assembly resolution 63/227;

5. *Recalls* that other developing countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that regard, *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that in the implementation of UNCTAD's work programme, full regard is paid to the development needs and poverty-reduction of developing countries;

6. *Emphasizes* UNCTAD's role in providing assistance to the Palestinian people in accordance with paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord, and *urges* the UNCTAD secretariat to further strengthen its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, with adequate resources and further operational activities, particularly in light of recent developments;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 183 of the Accra Accord concerning the autonomous unit on commodities and the decision of the Working Party at its fiftieth session establishing a sub-account for this unit, and *urges* its faithful implementation, in order that UNCTAD will contribute more effectively to the efforts of developing countries – especially those of the LDCs – to formulate strategies and policies to respond to the challenges and opportunities of commodity markets;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 90 of the Accra Accord and *urges* UNCTAD to strengthen technical assistance projects to developing countries acceding to the World Trade Organization – in particular to the LDCs and countries with economies in transition – and to explore new finance mechanisms for these projects;

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget at its fifty-second session, held from 26 to 30 January 2009.

9. *Welcomes* the improved indicators of achievement and their performance measures, and *requests* the secretariat to make further efforts to improve the development and use of indicators of achievement, using well-established results-based management tools consistent with United Nations norms and practices, so as to measure performance more effectively in respect of implementation of UNCTAD's activities in the different subprogrammes;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to provide an explanatory note on the programme budget documents that explain the various output categories and quantities and the indicators of achievement, in order to make the programme budget clearer and more user-friendly, and *requests* the secretariat to continue to organize information sessions prior to Working Party meetings, in order to assist member States to gain a better understanding of United Nations and UNCTAD budgetary processes and of the documents presented to the Working Party;

11. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the addenda (TD/B/WP/203/Rev.1/Add.1; TD/B/WP/207/Add.1) produced by the secretariat, which show how all the missing paragraphs in the work plan, as well as in the progress report on the implementation of sub-theme 4, will be implemented;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in raising the funds necessary to ensure adequate participation by experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD's expert meetings and *commends* the Government of Turkey for its contribution to this trust fund. *It notes with concern*, however, that such funding is still largely insufficient, and therefore *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to redouble his efforts in this endeavour, and *invites* all countries in a position to do so to contribute to this fund;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 186 of the Accra Accord on publications and *urges* its faithful implementation, while ensuring the effective allocation of resources. *Takes note* of the lists of publications for 2008, 2009 and 2010–2011 provided by the secretariat at its informal meeting on publications, *requests* the secretariat to revise the list of publications for 2009 as soon as possible in light of the comments made, *looks forward* to discussing the results of the publications survey at its resumed fifty-second session, and *agrees* to continue the discussion on UNCTAD's publications policy at future sessions;

14. In accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 63/246 adopted on 24 December 2008, *stresses the importance* that resources of the regular budget are used in an efficient and effective way, and *requests* the secretariat to prepare a comparative table of assigned and spent resources by subprogrammes and regions well in advance of the resumed fifty-second session of the Working Party, so that the member States can consider it at that meeting;

15. *Requests* the secretariat, within the framework of the preparation of the draft programme budget for the next biennium, to review the use of ad hoc expert groups with a view to improving their cost-effectiveness, including by exploring the use of virtual meetings, except in the case of the three ad hoc expert groups to be determined by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD under part B of section 12 of the programme budget, and to ensure that they support full implementation of the Accra Accord;

16. *Looks forward* to the discussion at the resumed session to review the UNCTAD section of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations, with all the relevant and accurate information required for this purpose to be provided by the secretariat within the relevant United Nations rules and regulations.

## **II. Proceedings**

### **A. Chair's summary**

#### **Opening statements**

1. The following speakers made opening statements: Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD; the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union; the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries; the representative of Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of China; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and the representative of Nepal.

#### **Review of the work programme: draft programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011**

(Agenda item 3)

2. During the Working Party's deliberations on the UNCTAD section of the draft programme budget for 2010–2011, the secretariat was requested to intensify its special focus on the needs of LDCs across all areas of its Accra Accord mandates. Some delegations also called for the strengthening of UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in light of recent developments in the Palestinian territories. It was agreed that the planned outputs of the Special Unit on Commodities should be presented distinctly from the subprogramme that it resides within, in order to better reflect its autonomy.

### **B. Informal meetings**

3. After its opening plenary meeting, the Working Party pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

### **C. Action by the Working Party**

4. At its closing plenary meeting, on 30 January 2009, the Working Party adopted the agreed conclusions on the draft programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 and on the financing of experts and UNCTAD publications (see section I).

### **III. Organizational matters**

#### **A. Election of officers**

(Agenda item 1)

5. At its opening plenary meeting, on 26 January 2009, the Working Party elected Mr. Anas Alami-Hamedane (Morocco) as its Chair and Mr. Elmer Schialer Salcedo (Peru) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

#### **B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

(Agenda item 2)

6. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/208). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the work programme: draft programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011
4. Progress report on the financing of participation of experts from developing countries and economies in transition in UNCTAD's intergovernmental expert meetings
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Working Party
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

#### **C. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board**

(Agenda item 7)

7. At the same meeting, the Working Party authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its session.

## Annex I

### Attendance\*

8. Representatives of the following States members of the Working Party attended the session:

Albania	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belarus	Japan
China	Mexico
Congo	Morocco
Djibouti	Peru
El Salvador	Philippines
Finland	Russian Federation
France	Switzerland
Indonesia	United States of America

2. Representatives of the following States members of UNCTAD but not members of the Working Party attended the session:

Algeria	Greece
Angola	Haiti
Austria	Honduras
Azerbaijan	Iraq
Bangladesh	Israel
Benin	Kyrgyzstan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lesotho
Botswana	Lithuania
Brazil	Mali
Burkina Faso	Mauritius
Burundi	Nepal
Cameroon	Portugal
Canada	Qatar
Colombia	Spain
Côte d'Ivoire	Syrian Arab Republic
Cuba	Thailand
Czech Republic	Turkey
Ecuador	Venezuela
Egypt	(Bolivarian Republic of)
Germany	Yemen
Ghana	Zimbabwe

3. The following observer was represented at the session:

Palestine

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African Union  
European Community  
Organisation internationale de la francophonie

\* For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(52)/Inf.1.