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Working Party on the Strategic Framework
and the Programme Budget
 Fifty-second (resumed) session
 Geneva, 8–12 June 2009

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 8 to 12 June 2009

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I. Agreed conclusions

The Working Party

1. *Expresses strong dissatisfaction* that the budget fascicle was not made available to member States prior to the meeting of the Working Party; further expresses concern that the informal budget document contains several discrepancies, and was not circulated sufficiently in advance to enable member States to consider it adequately; in this regard, requests the secretariat's bodies responsible for programme budget matters to ensure that all available support is extended to ensure that the Working Party can fully carry out its work, including through the timely availability of documentation, and requests the President of the Trade and Development Board to consider conveying an appropriate message to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the relevant views of the Working Party to the General Assembly;

2. *Expresses its concern* that the views and recommendations of the Working Party at its fifty-second session, as contained in documents TD/B/WP/209 and TD/B/WP/L.135/Rev.1, were insufficiently taken into account in the UNCTAD section of the budget fascicle, contained in United Nations General Assembly document A/64/6 (Sect. 12), and urges the competent bodies of the United Nations General Assembly to consider reflecting these views and recommendations in the approved UNCTAD budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

3. *Recommends* that the Trade and Development Board undertake a process to strengthen the Working Party with a view to contribute more efficiently to the formulation of the UNCTAD sections of the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, within the broader budgetary process of the United Nations; in this regard, requests the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board at its next regular session a comprehensive proposal to strengthen the Working Party, taking into account the relevant rules, regulations and practices of the United Nations, as well as the schedule of budget-related meetings in New York, the deadline for budget-related documents and the need for close collaboration with the relevant entities of the United Nations in New York;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to fully implement paragraph 183 of the Accra Accord and the related decisions of the Trade and Development Board, and notes with concern that these are not fully reflected in the budget fascicle; in this regard, the Working Party requests the relevant bodies of the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that the budget for the biennium 2010–2011 clearly reflects the recent establishment of the sub-account for the Special Unit on Commodities, and indicate clearly in the UNCTAD organizational chart that the Special Unit on Commodities, within subprogramme 3, reports directly to the UNCTAD Secretary-General;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Accra Accord, including in particular relevant provisions pertaining to developing countries with special needs;

6. *Recognizes* that the 12 new posts allocated to UNCTAD under the strengthening of the United Nations' development pillar, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/260, can contribute to an enhancement of UNCTAD's implementation of the Accra Accord, and requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to appropriately apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution – in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations – and

give due consideration to underrepresented member States, to bring about greater geographical and gender balance in UNCTAD's staffing; further requests the secretariat to annually furnish an updated staff profile of UNCTAD, in terms of nationality, grade and gender, to the regular session of the Trade and Development Board;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the resources provided by the General Assembly for the development pillar are also used to strengthen South–South cooperation, in light of paragraph 43 of the Accra Accord, and notably the item “special programmes” in subprogramme 5;

8. Recalling paragraphs 171, 212 and 215 of the Accra Accord, and underlining that technical cooperation is the third pillar of UNCTAD's work, *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Technical Services Unit is fully staffed and has adequate resources to fulfil its additional coordination responsibilities from the Accra Accord, including presenting UNCTAD technical assistance programmes for inclusion in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

9. *Recalls* the agreed conclusions of the Working Party, particularly paragraph 4 of document TD/B/WP/L.25, and paragraph 41 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to strengthen its special focus on the needs of the least developed countries and Africa across all areas of its mandate; expresses deep concern that the resources for the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes remain seriously inadequate, which seriously impedes the work of the Division; requests the General Assembly, during its sixty-fourth session, without prejudice to the preliminary estimate for the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 63/266, to consider this issue on a priority basis to ensure that the Division concerned is enabled to carry out its mandated activities; requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, within his authority as regards the use of resources, to enhance the organization's focus on Africa, the least developed countries and special programmes under all subprogrammes, without prejudice to the full implementation of the Accra Accord;

10. *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;

11. Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Working Party contained in document TD/B/WP/L.125, and paragraph 41 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to strengthen its special focus on the needs of the least developed countries and Africa across all areas of its mandate, *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure greater coordination between the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes and other divisions regarding activities benefiting Africa, least developed countries and special programmes; in this regard, requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the report on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa, which is considered at an executive session of the Trade and Development Board, and the report on least developed countries and special programmes, which is considered at the regular session of the Trade and Development Board, include a full report on activities undertaken by each division responsible for subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in support of Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, and the amount of resources allocated thereto;

12. Recognizing the need for UNCTAD to provide the mandated level of support for the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, *requests*, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227, that the budget for the biennium 2010–2011 take into account the need to provide adequate resources in this regard, especially to the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes; in this regard, the Working Party underlines the importance of achieving the initial agreed funding target, and encourages the developed countries, and the developing countries who are in a position to do so, to contribute to the Least Developed Countries Trust Fund, and also requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to redouble his efforts in securing contributions for the fund;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to the countries which have responded to the call to contribute to the trust fund to finance the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD expert group meetings – particularly Turkey, Switzerland and India – and invites donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to make contributions to the trust fund as an important step towards finding a sustainable solution to this issue;

14. Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Working Party contained in document TD/B/WP/L.125, and paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord, in which UNCTAD has been requested to intensify the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, and that adequate resources be provided to UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, *requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in view of recent developments, to ensure that the new regular budget resources provided by the General Assembly for the development pillar are also used to strengthen the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, including by examining how South–South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, can better support the development of the Palestinian economy, in accordance with paragraph 44 of the Accra Accord;

15. *Stresses the importance* of UNCTAD publications to developing countries in formulating and reviewing their developmental policies; notes with appreciation the secretariat's efforts in preparing the "Report on the readership survey of main publications of UNCTAD" in 2008 and the results contained therein; and requests the secretariat to continue to improve the usefulness and quality of the readership survey by, inter alia, improving the survey's questions, expanding the survey to cover more UNCTAD publications, and adding to the survey results the number of each publication printed, whether or not the survey results are statistically significant, as well as the range of responses and the mode;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that member States continue to be fully consulted on UNCTAD's publications programme and the number of publications contained therein, and encourages member States to respond to UNCTAD's publications surveys;

17. Recalling paragraph 15 of agreed conclusions 493 (LV) which the Trade and Development Board adopted in its fifty-fifth session (TD/B/55/10), *reiterates* the request for allocation from regular resources to fund the *Least Developed Countries Report*;

18. *Emphasizes* that the final programme budget should not constrain member States from proposing new areas of work, within UNCTAD's mandate and existing resources, to respond to emerging challenges in the global economy and follow-up programmes, where required.

II. Proceedings

A. Chair's summary

1. Opening statements

1. The following speakers made opening statements: Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD; Mr. Khalilur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge, Division of Management; the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Sri Lanka on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union; and the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries.

2. 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 the biennium 2010–2011, all delegations expressed their disappointment with the late availability of the relevant documents for the meeting. Delegations also stressed the importance of respecting previous agreed outcomes and reflecting them faithfully in the draft programme budget. The secretariat was requested to strengthen its subprogramme on Africa, the Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes. Delegations welcomed the report on the readership survey of UNCTAD's main publications, and reiterated that research and analysis remained an integral pillar of UNCTAD's work. A few delegations stressed the importance of ensuring sustainable and predictable funding for the financing of the participation of experts from developing countries and economies in transition in UNCTAD's expert meetings.

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 12 June 2009, the Working Party adopted the agreed conclusions contained in chapter I above.

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. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 5)

7. At the closing plenary meeting of its resumed session, on 12 June 2009, the Working Party approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-third session (see annex I).

D. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 7)

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

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Working Party

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
4. Evaluation of technical cooperation activities: in-depth external evaluation of UNCTAD's commodities programme
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance*

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

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

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

Algeria	Kyrgyzstan
Angola	Lebanon
Bangladesh	Malaysia
Belgium	Nepal
Benin	Nigeria
Brazil	Oman
Burkina Faso	Poland
Burundi	Portugal
Cameroon	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Serbia
Côte d'Ivoire	South Africa
Cyprus	Spain
Czech Republic	Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic	Sudan
Germany	Thailand
Greece	Ukraine
Haiti	United Arab Emirates
Hungary	Uzbekistan
India	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Israel	Yemen
Italy	Zimbabwe
Kazakhstan	

3. The following observer was represented at the session:

Palestine

* For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(52)/Inf.2.

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

African Union
European Community

5. The following non-governmental organization was represented at the session:

General Category
Engineers of the Word
