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Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 22–24 November and 2 December 2010

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 22–24 November and 2 December 2010

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session	2
II. Chair's summary	3
III. Organizational matters	4
Annexes	
I. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party.....	5
II. Attendance	6

I. Agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session

Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

(Agenda item 3)

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the draft proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2012–2013,

1. *Concurs* with the proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2012–2013 as contained in document TD/B/WP(57)/CRP.1/Rev.1;
2. *Recommends* to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he take full account of document TD/B/WP(57)/CRP.1/Rev.1 for the purposes of his submission of UNCTAD's 2012–2013 proposed programme narrative to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
3. *Recalls* the global economic situation, and emphasizes that particular attention should be given to using resources efficiently and effectively;
4. *Underscores* the importance of the full implementation by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD of the outcomes of the Accra Accord implementation review;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of rapidly improving the operation of the Special Unit on Commodities;
6. Recalling the Accra Accord and the relevant agreed conclusions of the Working Party, in which UNCTAD has been requested to intensify assistance to the Palestinian people, *reaffirms* that adequate resources should be provided to UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate their adverse economic and social situation and assist in the State-building process;
7. *Recalls* previous Trade and Development Board decisions and Working Party agreed conclusions to enhance resources for the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes; expresses deep concern that despite these decisions and conclusions, the resources within the Division remain seriously inadequate, which has been seriously impeding the work of the Division, therefore reiterates its request to consider this issue on a priority basis to ensure that the Division concerned is provided with adequate resources to carry out its mandated activities;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that adequate provisions are made to carry out the mandated activities of UNCTAD to follow up on the UNLDC-IV outcomes;
9. *Expresses concern* at the delays in filling vacant posts, particularly at the senior level, and strongly reiterates its request that these posts be filled at the earliest possible opportunity;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to keep member States regularly informed on the geographical distribution, names, positions, nationality, grade and gender balance of staff;
11. *Recalls* UNCTAD's mandate on promoting full and productive employment as contained in paragraph 37 of the Accra Accord, considers that UNCTAD's mandate

should be scrupulously respected at all levels, and requests that these views be communicated to the appropriate body of the General Assembly;

12. *Takes note* of the streamlining of UNCTAD's publications programme for the biennium 2012–2013, stresses that UNCTAD's research and analysis should continue to cover the full scope of issues of concern for developing countries within the Accra Accord, and emphasizes that the impact and dissemination of UNCTAD's research and analysis should be further enhanced;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to further intensify UNCTAD's technical cooperation and to develop a well-defined fund-raising policy in order to obtain sufficient funding and to enhance transparency in and coherence between fund-raising and the needs and priorities of the various divisions of UNCTAD as decided by the member States.

II. Chair's summary

A. Proceedings

1. The fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22–24 November and 2 December 2010, to consider the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013.

B. Opening statements

2. The following speakers made opening statements: Mr. Heiner Flassbeck, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, on behalf of the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Egypt on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC); the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union; and the representative of Nepal on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries.

C. Informal meetings

3. The Working Party pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

D. Action by the Working Party

(Agenda item 3)

4. The Working Party considered document TD/B/WP(57)/CRP.1 entitled "Programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013".

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

1. At the opening plenary meeting, on 22 November 2010, the Working Party elected Mr. Bakary Junior Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) as its Chair and Mr. Elmer Schialer (Peru) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

2. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/226). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013
4. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

C. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

3. At its closing plenary meeting, on 2 December 2010, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its fifty-eighth session (see annex I).

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

(Agenda item 6)

4. At the same meeting, the Working Party authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its fifty-seventh session.

Annex I

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

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the implementation of UNCTAD's communications strategy and publications policy
4. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance¹

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

Algeria	Indonesia
Belarus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belgium	Japan
Benin	Peru
China	Russian Federation
Côte d'Ivoire	Switzerland
El Salvador	

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

Angola	Kazakhstan
Bangladesh	Madagascar
Canada	Malaysia
Chile	Mexico
Cuba	Morocco
Cyprus	Nepal
Dominican Republic	Nigeria
Egypt	Philippines
Ethiopia	Poland
France	Portugal
Germany	Serbia
Haiti	Spain
Honduras	Turkey
Iraq	Viet Nam
Italy	Zambia
Jordan	Zimbabwe

3. The following observer was represented at the session:

Palestine

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

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
African Union
European Union

5. The following United Nations agency was represented at the session:

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

¹ For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(57)/Inf.1.