



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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### Trade and Development Board

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

Sixtieth session

Geneva, 21–23 and 29 November 2011

## Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixtieth session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 21 to 23 and 29 November 2011

### I. Proceedings

1. The sixtieth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 23 and 29 November 2011, to consider the Draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014–2015.

#### A. Statements

2. The following speakers made opening statements: Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD; the representative of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Ghana on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC); the representative of Poland on behalf of the European Union; the representative of Hungary on behalf of Group D; the representative of Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group; the representative of Honduras; and the representative of the United States of America.

#### B. Informal meetings

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

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

### **1. Review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014–2015**

(Agenda item 3)

4. The Chair wished to put on record that, given the special circumstances – which were that UNCTAD was entering into a phase of negotiations for UNCTAD XIII and that it would need to review the proposed plan after UNCTAD XIII – members of the Working Party were of the view that agreed conclusions would be prepared and discussed when the Working Party reviewed the programme plan after UNCTAD XIII, to take into account the outcome of the Conference. He noted that it was understood by all that the practice and principle of agreed conclusions in the Working Party would continue after UNCTAD XIII.

5. The Working Party, having considered the Draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014–2015, took note of the plan as contained in document TD/B/WP(60)/CRP.1/Rev.1 and recommended to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he take full account of that document for the purposes of his submission of UNCTAD's 2014–2015 proposed programme plan to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### **2. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Working Party**

(Agenda item 4)

6. Under Item 4, the Working Party would normally have to approve the provisional agenda of the next session of the Working Group, but members were of the view that the Trade and Development Board should consider the draft agenda for the next session, as well as the date of the next session. The suggestion was to postpone the sixty-first session until after UNCTAD XIII. This would also mean that the agenda to be considered by the Board would not only include the item on the review of the implementation of the communications strategy, but also an item on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2014–2015 and an item to review of the programme narrative for the biennium 2012–2013 in order to take into account the outcome of UNCTAD XIII.

7. The Working Party requested the Board to consider changing the date of the sixty-first session so that it would take place after the conclusion of UNCTAD XIII. It also requested the Board to approve the draft agenda of the sixty-first session of the Working Party.

## **II. Organizational matters**

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

(Agenda item 1)

8. At the opening plenary meeting, on 21 November 2011, the Working Party elected Mr. Andrei Popov (Belarus) as its Chair and Mr. Leulseged Tadese Abebe (Ethiopia) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

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

(Agenda item 2)

9. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/237). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014–2015
4. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. 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 6)

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

## Annex

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

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

Belarus	Nigeria
China	Russian Federation
El Salvador	Switzerland
France	Thailand
Honduras	United States of America
Iran, Islamic Republic of	

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

Angola	Italy
Austria	Iraq
Botswana	Kazakhstan
Cameroon	Kenya
Chile	Kuwait
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania
Cuba	Mexico
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Nepal
Dominican Republic	Poland
Ethiopia	Spain
Ghana	Uganda
	Zimbabwe

3. The following observer was represented at the session:

Palestine

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<sup>1</sup> For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(60)/Inf.1.