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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan

and the Programme Budget
Thirty-seventh resumed session
Geneva, 11 – 12 June 2001

Agenda item 3

**REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME: DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET
FOR THE BIENNIIUM 2002-2003**

Agreed conclusions¹

The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget,

Having considered Section 11A “Trade and development” of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 11A)),

1. *Concurs* with the programmatic content of Section 11A, which has taken into account many of the comments made by the Working Party at its January 2001 session during the preparatory process for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

2. *Recalls* the assurances provided by the secretariat that the indicators of achievement contained in the Medium-term Plan for the period 2002-2005, including those referring to timeliness of documentation and assessment of technical cooperation projects, will be fully taken into account for the Mid-term Review scheduled for the second quarter of 2002;

¹ As adopted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget at the final plenary meeting of its resumed thirty-seventh session, on 12 June 2001

3. *Expresses* appreciation for the information provided by the secretariat to the members of the Working Party, in particular for the presentations made on the mainstreaming of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/11);

4. *Emphasizes* the important role of UNCTAD, within its mandate, in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and *welcomes* the assurances of the secretariat that it will proceed immediately with the full implementation of the Programme of Action, as relevant, and that the Office of the Special Coordinator will make full use in this regard of the substantive work on LDCs that is currently performed by various divisions in UNCTAD in contributing to the LDCs' progressive and beneficial integration and participation in the global economy and international trading system;

5. *Recommends* the insertion at the end of paragraph 11A.2 of the "Overview" of the following text: "In line with paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, it is foreseen that the Trade and Development Board will mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action within the work programme of UNCTAD, as well as in the UNCTAD intergovernmental process";

6. *Attaches* importance to assistance to LDCs in the areas of trade and investment, in particular capacity-building for trade negotiations, and *requests* that this aspect be fully taken into consideration within the implementation of subprogramme 9.3;

7. *Decides* to review at a resumed thirty-eighth session, to be convened as soon as possible, the impact on the system-wide coordination aspects contained in subprogramme 9.5 of the decisions of the General Assembly based on the recommendations to be made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly for an efficient and highly visible follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in line with paragraph 116 of the Programme of Action;

8. *Takes note* of the statement made by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, reaffirming the secretariat's commitment to the effective functioning of the unit for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States within the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and *reiterates* the importance of the work undertaken by UNCTAD in this area;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to explore further possibilities for predictable and stable financing of participation of experts from developing countries and economies in transition in UNCTAD expert meetings and to provide proposals at the next session of the Working Party;

10. *Noting* the vacancy rate in UNCTAD, in particular at the senior level, *recommends* that the process of filling these vacancies be accelerated, while taking into account the need to improve geographical and gender representation;

11. *Recalls* its earlier request that the secretariat should enhance its coordinated approach in the launching of UNCTAD flagship reports;

12. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to horizontal coordination within the secretariat, as well as to enhanced inter-divisional collaboration, in particular on cross-sectoral issues, *welcomes* the information provided by the secretariat on steps taken in meeting these objectives, and *encourages* the secretariat to continue with these coordination efforts;

13. *Notes* the detailed information provided by the secretariat in connection with the proposed Division of Management.