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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
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Agenda item 7

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003
Part IV: International cooperation for development
Section 11A: Trade and development

I. Proposed revisions to the work programme for
subprogramme 5: Least developed countries, landlocked
developing countries and small island developing States

1. At its resumed thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11-12 June 2001), the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget decided, in paragraph 7 of its agreed conclusions, 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 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.
2. In his report to the General Assembly (A/56/645 and Add.1) prepared in response to paragraph 116 of the Brussels Programme of Action (A/CONF.191/13), the Secretary-General of the United Nations recommended *inter alia* to establish an Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The High Representative would be at the Under-Secretary-

General level and would report directly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition to the position of High Representative, the Office would comprise a Director at the D-2 level, 10 other Professional posts and 8 General Service posts (a total of 20 posts). The key functions of the Office of the High Representative would relate to coordination, advocacy, mobilization of resources and inputs, and follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and other programmes and initiatives for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (A/56/645, para.17). The Office was to be located at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The resource requirements were to be met through the transfer to the new Office of the High Representative of seven Professional posts and three General Service posts from the UNCTAD Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries and two Professional posts and one General Service post from the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries in New York. The balance of posts would need to be filled through secondments from other United Nations system organizations or from extrabudgetary resources, or would need to be proposed as new established posts.

3. On the basis of the Secretary-General's report, the Second Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution (A/C.2/56/L.78) in which it would *inter alia* decide to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, with its functions as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report.

4. Following the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in both the Second and the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly, having considered the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/29, A/56/645 and Add.1) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/716), endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee; in this regard, it was informed that net appropriations up to \$1,220,700 for the biennium 2002-2003 would be required, subject to the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

5. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended in its report *inter alia*: the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and of a post at the Under-Secretary-General level to carry out the functions indicated in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General; that the Fifth Committee take note of the proposal to provide up to 12 other posts for the Office, but that it defer a decision on the permanent establishment of these posts under the new section 9A until submission of a report by the Secretary-General on the programmatic implications and impact on the activities of the affected sections of the programme budget, namely 10 and 11A; the report should also contain a carefully articulated indication of resources required, including total availability of posts, either seconded from other agencies in the system or to be funded from available voluntary contributions. In addition, the report should address how the operational capacity of the organizations and bodies of the system, in particular UNCTAD, will be enhanced in their activities aimed at supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as the Secretary-General is called upon to do in paragraph 3 of the resolution contained in document A/C.2/56/L.78, and how system-wide coordination is to be achieved. Upon inquiry, the

Advisory Committee was informed that two posts (one full-time and one part-time) currently deal with this issue within UNCTAD.

6. The proposed revisions to the work programme of subprogramme 5 are indicated below with reference to the activities and outputs as they were reflected in the proposed programme budget 2002-2003 submitted for consideration to the just concluded session of the General assembly. Paragraphs 8 to 9 below provide a summary of the activities/outputs, grouped by substantive areas of work pertaining to subprogramme 5, that will be reduced or discontinued following the release of posts to the new Office of High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The annex provides for ease of reference, the text of the programmatic content of the proposed programme budget for subprogramme 5 with the relevant modifications.

7. As the text is based on the provisions of the proposed programme budget 2002-2003, it does not take into account the additional work generated by both the outcome of the 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Doha in November 2001 and the recent decision taken by the General Assembly on the landlocked developing countries, including the holding of a ministerial meeting in 2003 (A/C.2/56/L.66). Likewise, the text does not include the substantive backstopping of a standing committee of the Trade and Development Board on least developed countries if established.

II. Proposed reduction/discontinuation of activities under subprogramme 5

A. Work associated with system-wide coordination/monitoring of the Programme of Action for LDCs.

8. These functions are now part of the terms of reference of the Office of the High Representative. As a consequence, relevant activities currently included in the work programme of UNCTAD would be discontinued. They relate to: (a) preparation of reports to the General Assembly and henceforth ECOSOC on the implementation of the programme of action for LDCs; (b) substantive servicing of the General Assembly on issues related to LDCs; (c) animation/organization of inter-agency coordination and liaison, including inter-agency meetings under the auspices of ACC; and (d) substantive servicing of annual meetings of Ministers of LDCs.

B. Substantive/technical work on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs.

9. UNCTAD was allocating the equivalent of about 36 work months per biennium for "system-wide coordination" activities for LDCs. The release of the other posts, devoted essentially to substantive, technical and analytical work, would lead to the following adjustments in the programme of work:

(i) LDCs: (a) UNCTAD's "annual" report on LDCs would be "biennialized"; (b) the following activities would be discontinued: (i) UNCTAD's report on the least developed countries to the General Assembly that addresses system-wide issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action; (ii) the preparation/publication of the annual statistical profile on LDCs; (iii) the Internet

home page on overall LDC issues; and (c) there would be a reduction in LDC advisory services, especially those relating to the Programme of Action as a whole. The equivalent of about 60 work months in the biennium is allocated to the above-mentioned activities.

(ii) Work on LLDCs and SIDS: The following outputs and activities would be discontinued: (a) biennial report on LLDCs to the General Assembly; (b) substantive servicing of General Assembly on matters related to LLDCs; (c) parliamentary support for the ministerial meetings of LLDCs; and (d) contribution to the Small States Forum. In addition, UNCTAD would prepare one less report (out of two for the biennium) on measures to improve the transit transport systems of landlocked countries and on transit transport system in Africa, Asian and Latin American landlocked developing countries and four instead of eight non-recurrent publications/studies on specific regions/issues related to transit transport. No ad hoc expert groups on opportunities for joint ventures on transit transport between landlocked and transit developing countries would be convened, and there would be a reduction in advisory services in favour of LLDC and SIDS. The equivalent of about 48 work months in the biennium are allocated to the above-mentioned activities.

Annex

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003, SECTION 11A, WITH PROPOSED PROGRAMMATIC MODIFICATIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002- 2003*

Part IV International cooperation for development

Section 11A Trade and development

(Programme 9 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005)

Subprogramme 5 Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

- 11A.41 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 5 of programme 9 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 11A.16 Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

Objective: To contribute to the progressive and beneficial integration and participation in the global economy and international trading system of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including through the implementation of the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and contribution to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, and to contribute to the graduation of least developed countries.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) A deepened understanding by and consensus among least developed countries and their development partners on policy requirements to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, as well as enhanced commitments and actions by the international community in official development assistance, external debt, trade concessions, gender dimension of their development prospect, and other related areas.	(a) Consensus by member States in the General Assembly and relevant UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies on policy requirements for the development of least developed countries, and enhanced commitments by the international community towards this end.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(b) Further progress in the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community.	(b) Progress in the removal of physical infrastructure bottlenecks and non-physical barriers.
(c) Progress in preventing the marginalization of small island developing States from the global economy through successful implementation of the economic aspects of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.	(c) Understanding and acceptance by the small island developing States community and individual small island developing States of measures to maximize the benefits for island economies of trade liberalization and globalization.

External factors

- 11A.42 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that (a) there is effective collaboration from multilateral organizations in the follow-up and review of implementation of outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; (b) sufficient resources are available to implement the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; (c) member States adopt the policies recommended and endorsed; and (d) up-to-date and accurate data on landlocked and small island developing countries is available.

Outputs

- 11A.43 During the biennium 2002-2003, the following outputs will be delivered:

- (a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies
 - (i) General Assembly:
 - ~~a. Substantive servicing. Servicing of meetings of the General Assembly (8);~~
 - b. Parliamentary documentation. Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2); ~~report of the Secretary General on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked countries (1); report of the Secretary General on the progress in the implementation of the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (1); report of the Secretary-General on Transit Environment in the Landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit neighbours (1);~~
 - (ii) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
 - Substantive servicing. Preparatory meetings for the eleventh session of UNCTAD, including regional meetings (as required);
 - (iii) Trade and Development Board:
 - a. Substantive servicing. Annual and executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board (12);
 - b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports on least developed countries (2); reports on the implementation by UNCTAD to follow up the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development (4);
 - (iv) Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions:

- a. Substantive servicing. Sixth Meeting of Experts ~~(8)~~ (4);
- b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports on further measures to improve the transit transport systems of landlocked, developing countries and the transit transport system in African, Asian and Latin American landlocked countries ~~(2)~~ (1);
- (v) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget. Substantive servicing. Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget (3);
- (vi) Commission on Sustainable Development. Parliamentary documentation. Inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2);
- (vii) Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. Parliamentary documentation. Inputs as may be required on issues related to least developed countries (1);
- (viii) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. Parliamentary documentation. Inputs as may be required on issues related to least developed countries (1);
- (ix) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities. Parliamentary documentation. Inputs as may be required on issues related to least developed countries (1);
- (x) Ad hoc expert groups: ad hoc expert group meetings on issues related to the theme of the annual *Least Developed Countries Report* (2); ~~and expert meeting on opportunities for joint ventures on transit transport between landlocked and transit developing countries (1);~~
- (b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB)
 - (i) Recurrent publications: *The Least Developed Countries Report* ~~(2)~~ (1); *The Least Developed Countries Report: Overview* ~~(2)~~ (1); ~~*The Least Developed Countries: A Statistical Profile* (2);~~
 - (ii) Non-recurrent publications: background studies on specific regions or issues relating to landlocked and transit developing countries ~~(8)~~ (4);
 - (iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: brochures on road traffic information systems (1);
 - (iv) Press releases, press conferences: press briefings, interviews, press conferences in relation to the work on issues of landlocked and small island developing countries, such as on the signing of bilateral and regional transit transport agreement or publications of outputs of the programme;
 - (v) Technical material: development of bilateral and regional agreements designed to facilitate transit trade (1); methodological and statistical work on vulnerability indicators of small island developing States (1); ~~and statistical and country profiles for least developed countries as part of the least developed countries home page on the Internet (1);~~
- (c) International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison. Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other relevant bodies with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, ~~and contribution to the work of the Committee for Development Policy; collaboration and/or consultations with relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly regional commissions, and intergovernmental bodies and organizations in relation to the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, including participation in their meetings; contribution to and participation in inter-agency meetings to follow up, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as participation in sectoral and~~

~~thematic meetings or country round tables as part of monitoring process; contribution to and participation in the meetings of Small States Forum within the framework of the annual meetings of the World Bank.~~ Contribution to and participation in the work of the WTO subcommittee on least developed countries; liaison and coordination with relevant intergovernmental bodies, entities of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations on specific problems of landlocked developing countries, including contribution and participation in their meetings; ~~liaison with civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the academic/research community, and the private sector on the work related to least developed countries, landlocked and small island developing countries;~~ participation in and provision of substantive support to relevant intergovernmental, regional and interregional meetings of small island developing countries; ~~substantive support to annual meetings of ministers of least developed countries and landlocked developing countries on a variety of issues; and provision of substantive support and~~ participation in the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on issues relating to least developed countries, ~~including providing briefs and issue notes;~~

(d) Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

- (i) Advisory services: provision of advisory services: to landlocked developing countries for evaluation of their transit transport system and as assistance in developing technical cooperation projects to improve their transit transport systems; to least developed countries and regional bodies ~~for launching the process~~ to implement the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, ~~including in preparing UNDP country programmes in the light of the outcome of that Conference;~~ and to small island developing States to prepare and implement technical cooperation projects and programmes; provision of assistance to least developed countries in preparing country presentations and multi-year technical cooperation programmes and monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation projects and programmes in the context of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to least developed countries; and to least developed countries in preparing analyses and information requested nationally on issues of concern to them, such as the development implication of multilateral trading systems;
- (ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: workshops in selected least developed countries for the implementation of the activities in the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting and UNCTAD-wide integrated country programmes; and workshops related to transit transport for government officials and private sector operators of landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours;
- (iii) Field projects: substantive inputs to, and coordination of, field projects designed to strengthen transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit countries, including the development of software tools for transit transport monitoring.