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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 4

EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Agreed conclusions *

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

(a) Evaluation of capacity building

1. Expresses its appreciation to the evaluation team for its report (TD/B/WP/155) which provides valuable insight on the capacity building activities of UNCTAD and useful advice for all partners involved, including the secretariat as well as donor and beneficiary Governments, as well as for the findings and recommendations contained therein;
2. Expresses its appreciation for the quality of the evaluation process in UNCTAD, for the openness of the secretariat in conducting independent and participatory evaluations as well as for applying the lessons learned therefrom; and invites the UNCTAD secretariat to share its experience in evaluation with other organizations, in particular WTO and ITC;

* As adopted by the Working Party at its 151st closing plenary on Friday, 20 September 2002.

3. Invites the secretariat to deepen, based on comments made by members of the Working Party, the examination of a number of concepts contained in the evaluation report, in particular their implementation within UNCTAD, and to share its reflections with the members of the Working Party;

4. Requests the secretariat to initiate a process of consultation with member States with a view to integrating into its technical cooperation strategy the appropriate elements arising from the thematic evaluation on capacity building and present the outcome of such consultations, including proposals to the Working Party in May 2003;

5. Reiterates the importance of a logical framework approach, supported by indicators of achievement in the planning and management of technical cooperation activities.

6. Notes the secretariat's efforts in exploring ways to foresee financing for future in-depth evaluations, and invites potential donors to contribute to the trust fund set up for financing future in-depth evaluations, in line with the Working Party's decision at its 38th session.

7. Decides to consider an in-depth evaluation of the technical assistance programme on Trade, Environment and Development at its session in 2003 dealing with technical cooperation.

(b) Follow-up to previous evaluations

8. Welcomes the implementation of the recommendations arising from the in-depth evaluations of the EMPRETEC and TRAINMAR Programmes and concurrs with the follow-up action contained in TD/B/WP/156 and TD/B/WP/153, and encourages the secretariat to complete the implementation of the recommendations as endorsed by the Working Party.

9. Commends the secretariat on the implementation of the Trade Point Programme Strategy and concurs with the follow-up action contained in TD/B/WP/154.