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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-seventh session
Geneva, 15-19 January 2001
Agenda items 3, 4 and 5

Agreed conclusions *

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

**A. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME: DRAFT PROGRAMME
BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002 – 2003**

Having reviewed the proposals for the draft work programme for the biennium 2002-2003,

1. Concurs with the amended text as contained in document UNCTAD/EDM/Misc.148/Rev.1;

2. Expresses satisfaction with the presentations made by the secretariat on the various areas of work, as well as with the detailed information provided in response to questions posed by the Working Party;

3. Welcomes the integration of the logical framework approach in the preparation and presentation of the work programme for the biennium 2002-2003 and stresses its importance, in the new format, as a management tool in the hands of the Secretary-General;

* As agreed by the Working Party at its 141st (closing) plenary on Friday, 19 January 2001.

4. Invites the secretariat to continue its efforts in the future aimed at a better definition of expected accomplishments and at a refinement of indicators of achievement, taking into account the comments made by the Working Party;

5. Recommends that subprogramme 9.5 (Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) be reviewed, within the appropriate United Nations bodies, in the light of the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. Decides to reconvene to review the UNCTAD section of the Proposed Programme Budget of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003, with emphasis on subprogramme 9.5 in the light of the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

7. Reiterates the need for subprogramme 9.1 B (Development of Africa) to develop its analytical capacity in line with the provisions of the Plan of Action of UNCTAD X, and recommends that appropriate resources be devoted to this area, in particular in the context of the biennium 2002-2003;

8. Invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure coordination within the secretariat with respect to the preparation of press releases and participation at press conferences and lectures so as to avoid duplication and unnecessary expenditure;

9. 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;

10. Supports the efforts of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to fill the current vacant posts rapidly, taking into account in particular the requirements relating to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution;

11. Considers the surveys of UNCTAD publications to be important in determining the publications' usefulness and quality and looks forward to the continuation of discussions within UNCTAD on its publication policy;

**B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 166
OF THE UNCTAD X PLAN OF ACTION**

12. Welcomes the presentations of the detailed costed proposals mandated by paragraph 166 of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action (TD/B/WP/137) and takes note of their content;

13. Recommends that UNCTAD implement a pilot phase of the training programme in a timely manner and keep the Working Party informed about the evaluation of the pilot project as it relates to the extension of future training courses at the regional level;

14. Urges the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to take appropriate steps to maximize the synergies existing in the secretariat for the effective implementation of paragraph 166 of the Plan of Action of UNCTAD X;

C. DMFAS TRUST FUND

15. Welcomes the decision to establish the DMFAS Trust Fund and takes note of the report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/WP/136);

16. Urges the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare a detailed project document by the end of March 2001 concerning the funding of the Trust Fund, including options for financial sustainability, namely programme budget resources, programme support resources, extrabudgetary resources from donors and cost-sharing mechanisms, as well as reporting procedures;

17. Recommends to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he organize the second DMFAS Advisory Group meeting in June 2001 and report thereon to the Working Party.