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English only

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Trade and Development Board

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 11–22 September 2017

Agenda item 17

Other business

Proposal by the European Union to add a standing item on management to the agenda of the Trade and Development Board

1. This has been received from the European Union in relation to item 17 of the agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

Proposal by the European Union to add a standing item on management to the agenda of the TDB

“The TDB decides, in accordance with para. 14(d) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, to include a standing item on management to the agenda of the 65th regular session of the TDB and the following sessions, and requests the Secretary-General to report on management and accountability issues of the organization during this item.”

Background

As mentioned in previous sessions of this Board, we feel that there is need to establish a standing item on the agenda of the Trade and Development Board on issues pertaining to the work, management, and accountability of the organization. This could be included in an overall “State of the Organization” statement by the Secretary-General, or located in a reinvigorated item on institutional and organizational matters (During the Special Session of this body on 5 April the issue was raised formally and referred to the Extended Bureau which failed to come up with a solution.)

It is a central pillar of accountability of any organization to report to its stakeholders the results and challenges of its line of work on an annual basis. This can be partially addressed by a broadened “State of the Union” address of the Secretary-General at the very beginning of the annual TDB meeting. It should however be complemented with a more detailed analysis of institutional and organizational matters; of which only some very specific ones are discussed under item 16. The reporting of the Secretariat needs to entail several areas which have in fact been addressed in the past. Informal management briefings on an irregular basis have been held in the past upon request, but the following broad issues deserve a discussion by Board:

- (a) Updates on the implementation of results-based management as required by the UN system regulations;
- (b) the organization’s monitoring and evaluation capacity, including the status of and follow-up to evaluations;
- (c) issues of enhancing outreach and communications, including with the Geneva-based missions;
- (d) enhanced coordination of activities internally and externally, including through improved processes and procedures;
- (e) transparent and effective human resources management;
- (f) effective fundraising.
