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General statements by member States
Speaker: India

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Statement by Shri Dilip Sinha, PR Geneva, at the 26th Special Session of The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to discuss the Joint Inspection Unit Report (JIU) Report “Review of Management and Administration in UNCTAD” and the Management Response to the JIU Report

I would like to align myself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the G77 and China, and by Iran on behalf of Asian Group.

2. I would also like to express my appreciation to Inspector Even Fontaine Ortiz for his report on Review of the Management and Administration in UNCTAD, and thank the UNCTAD Secretariat for providing the management response to the JIU report.

3. It is important to remember that we are discussing here an important Inspection Report on the working of the UNCTAD Secretariat. We are not here to discuss the *raison d’etre* of UNCTAD or its mandate.

4. India supports the institutional strengthening of UNCTAD and overall improvement in the working of the Secretariat, with greater effectiveness. The three pillars of policy analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation of UNCTAD should continue to be strengthened in particular after the fresh mandate given by UNCTAD XIII Conference. We appreciate the recommendations in the JIU Report for the improvement of the management and functioning of UNCTAD. The positive response of the secretariat to the report and readiness to implement them is a welcome step.

5. While discussing the JIU recommendations, we have to keep in mind which ones are the responsibilities of the Secretariat and which ones are of the Member States. We should not expect the Secretariat to find solutions to problems that arise from lack of consensus among Member States. That is our responsibility and we have to address it ourselves.

6. The report points out that, in consensus building, UNCTAD Secretariat is given too much room. This means the Member States do not take adequate interest. In Policy analysis Secretariat is losing its autonomy. We would like to emphasize

that, Member States should use UNCTAD forum more for consensus building and interfere less into policy analysis work.

7. We agree with the Recommendation No. 1 (Rec.1) – ‘The legislative bodies of UNCTAD should take the responsibilities in reaching their agreed conclusions without any interference from the supporting services of the Secretariat.’

8. With respect to (Rec.2) – ‘The Secretary General of UNCTAD should coordinate with the Director General of UNOG for preparation and signature of an MoU covering all working arrangements in the area of administration and conferences services.’ We would like to know whether there are similar MoUs signed between other UN organizations and UNOG and how they work. Secretariat may be requested to provide inputs in this regard.

9. India has some concerns over the implementation of (Rec.3) and (Rec. 7) for ‘The SG of UNCTAD to launch a pro-active fund-raising strategy.’ The use of corporate funds should be ‘demand driven from the countries’ and not ‘Secretariat driven’ or ‘donor-drive’. This is particularly in case of private donors. The Secretariat has informed in its response that the first draft of the strategies would be ready for consideration before the end of the year. We would be interested to see the draft of the strategies and would like to have a proper discussion among the Member States, before accepting it.

10. On (Rec.4) - ‘The SG of UNCTAD should define a clear RBM integrated framework and implementing strategy.’ This is for the Secretariat to take action.

11. Regarding (Rec. 5) – ‘To reinstate the Division of Management to be headed by a Director at D-2 level to supervise...’, and (Rec. 8)- ‘upgrade and strengthen the Technical Cooperation Service (TCS), transforming it into a fully-fledged division...’, the Secretariat in its response, has expressed its inability in implementing it without the approval of General Assembly or provision of additional resources. The Indian delegation agrees to the Secretariat’s views. However, we are open to the discussions during the TDB on these issues, before arriving at any decision on their implementation.

12. As has been supported by several delegations, we would also support the (Rec. 6) - ‘Ensure that recruitment processes are fair and transparent...’. We support an equitable geographical distribution and regional balance in the recruitment process should be followed and reported to the Member States.

13. We support (Rec.9) – ‘The Secretariat to seek authorization from the General Assembly to establish a non-earmarked general trust fund to support UNCTAD substantive operations, in particular research and analysis work’. The secretariat is agreeable to this recommendation, provided that there is an interest expressed by member States to contribute to such a trust fund.

14. Regarding (Rec.10) - ‘To establish a permanent interdivisional steering committee involving all Directors.....’, the Secretariat has informed in its response that the Secretary General has already established the ‘Doha Mandate Coordinating Committee’ on 9 May 2012, which will convene all Directors at least once a month, and more frequently under the chairmanship of the to set a strategy for and monitor the implementation of the Doha Mandate.

15. We would like to see the ‘Plan of Action’ prepared by the Secretariat and report it to the Member States for discussion.

Thank you Mr. President
