

**Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
Sixty-ninth Session**

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Sub-programme 2 - Investment and Enterprise

Introductory remarks

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to briefly introduce Sub-programme II of the UNCTAD budget submission for the next biennium 2016-2017. It presents the overall framework for future activities of the Division on Investment and Enterprise. This submission, contained in document (D/B/WP(69)/CRP.1) "Draft proposed programme narrative for the biennium 2016-2017", has been prepared according to the budget instructions issued by the Controller. Its substantive content also reflects guidance received from you at the occasion of the Thirteen Ministerial Conference in Doha, as well as subsequent recommendations made by the Trade and Development Board (TDB), the Commission on Investment and Development and also recent recommendations made by evaluators, endorsed by you, in the framework of this Working Party.

The programme budget reflects congruence with the biennial programme plan for Sub-programme II for 2016-2017, as defined by this working party at its sixty-sixth session. The logical framework has since been completed by the addition of performance measures. These measures are directly derived from the indicators of achievements. They are part of the indicators already used by the Division, which are also presented to you with our Divisions Performance Appraisal Framework, which remains a central feature of the Division Result Based Management ++, i.e. RBM focusing on outcome and impact.

Each output has been carefully reviewed to ensure that it will contribute to the attainment of at least one of the expected accomplishments. To this end, the Sub-programme carefully reviewed the relevance of the proposed output in the context of the measurable value-chains designed for each of the core activities in the area of investment and enterprise, thereby ensuring that all actions will contribute to the desired outcomes and impact on sustainable development. In the overall context of decreasing budget, the total number of outputs scheduled to be delivered in 2016-2017 remains stable, totalling almost 500 items. The Division remains committed to maintain its delivery rate, thanks to enhanced efficiency and synergies achieved through the strategic reorientation adopted in early 2010. As you are aware, the adopted strategy consisted of a core-product oriented approach, an enhanced IT approach and a networking/partnership approach. To quote the independent evaluation of subprogramme II carried out in 2014, this strategy led to the "strong relevance, significant impact, broad sustainability, and effective and efficient delivery of the work undertaken".

The breakdown of outputs for 2016-2017 reflects an even distribution among the three pillars of UNCTAD's work, which illustrates our constant efforts to increase the synergies among research and policy analysis, consensus-building and capacity-building.

The 2016-2017 programme budget shows a significant reduction in the number of publications and other "substantive activities". This decrease is the result of DIAE's commitment to pursue its IT-enhanced strategy. An initial step consisted in the successful launching of online publications such as the Global Investment Trends monitors, the Global Investment Policy monitors, and the IPA Observers. A second successful attempt has consisted in the launching of e-publications, such as the i-guide, which has been widely acknowledged for its value-added as a capacity-building instrument. More DIAE e-publication will follow, which will aim at providing our audience with more user-friendly and interactive research material. The development of the UNCTAD investment policy hub and the global registration portal is also an integral part of this strategy that will allow the sub-programme to implement one of the recommendations of its independent in-depth evaluation, which requested "DIAE to continue updating and revamping SP2's website to improve the effectiveness of outreach and communications".

The reduction in the number of “other substantive activities” is offset by an increase in the number of planned outputs under the technical assistance category. In this context, the Division endeavored to address three primary considerations. Firstly, and responding to the recommendation made by the independent evaluation of Sub-programme II, additional emphasis has been placed on the provision of assistance in cross-cutting areas, including gender equality and women empowerment. Secondly, several groups have recently called on UNCTAD to provide their members with further assistance on how to implement the conclusions and recommendations contained in our World Investment Reports, and in particular, how to best use the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and benefit from further exchanges of best practices in investment policy-making. Thirdly, last October, this Working Party reconfirmed the lead role of UNCTAD as the focal point in the United Nations system for all matters related to investment for development, and requested the subprogramme to continue building on key and emerging opportunities for mobilizing investment for achieving sustainable development. As a result, we included in the 2016-2017 draft programme budget specific outputs related to the work of the Division in support of the poor and most vulnerable, as well as in mobilizing financing for the SDGs.

The number of outputs listed under the consensus-building pillar also increased slightly, as a result of 2016 being a Conference year. As you are aware, the Government of Peru officially announced during the closing ceremony of the 2014 World Investment Forum their decision to host the next World Investment Forum. I look forward to building on the success of the 2014 Forum and to ensuring that the event in Lima will be even more beneficial for the entire investment-development community.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

To end this presentation, I would like to briefly recall that the implementation record of subprogramme II remained high during the past biennium, with 97% of the budgeted outputs delivered. Beyond the delivery of over 500 outputs, what mattered most for the subprogramme is the long-term impact of its activities for beneficiary countries. Indeed, all indicators of achievements were above the target set for the biennium and the subprogramme will, building on the strategic management mechanisms put in place, endeavour to sustain its significant impact in the coming biennium.

Thank you for your attention.