

Working Party
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 23–25 July 2012

General statements by regional groups
Speaker: Iran on behalf of the Asian Group

Monday, 23 July 2012

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**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran
On behalf of the Asian Group
At Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the
Programme Budget
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 23 July 2012**

**Madame Chair,
Deputy Secretary General,
Dear Colleagues,**

1. At the outset allow me to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of the working party. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Asian Group for the success of this meeting.
2. I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary General for his opening remarks and the secretariat for the preparation they have made for this meeting including presenting the relevant documents. I also associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of G77 and China.

Madame Chair,

3. This meeting of the working party is quite timely since it is held after UNCTAD XIII Conference and plays a very important role in translating the Doha mandate into the UNCTAD's strategic Framework and programme Budget which is going to plan the work of UNCTAD for the next four years. The main agenda items of this working party is the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014–2015, as well as the review of the UNCTAD programme narrative for the biennium 2012–2013, which overall cover the activities of UNCTAD for the next four years.

Madam Chair,

4. As stipulated by the UNCTAD XIII outcome, the Doha Mandate reaffirms Accra Accord and builds upon it and underlines that the Accra Accord remains valid and relevant. By this clear guidance, we can conclude that the outcome of UNCTAD XIII and UNCTAD XII are complementary and in fact Doha Mandate is the continuation and an addition to Accra Accord. This makes our work easier, since we are already in the final stages of approving UNCTAD's Programme for biennium 2012-2013 and in the initial stage of planning for the 2014-2015 programme. Now allow me to say a few words about the UNCTAD's programme for the next 4 years.
5. With regard to the review of the UNCTAD programme narrative for the biennium 2012–2013, the Asian Group is of the view that while we have almost finalized the programme for 2012-2013, the Doha mandate could guide the secretariat in adjusting the outputs, taking into account the latest developments as have been outlined in the Doha Mandate.
6. Concerning the strategic framework for the period 2014–2015, since we are going to address each sub-programme separately, I limit myself to a few important remarks;
7. The first point is the importance of translation of Doha mandate into this programme. The new developments especially after UNCTAD XII have been reflected in Doha Mandate. In particular in the light of the economic and financial crisis and its adverse affect on global economy, the strategic programme should be adjusted in order to pay more attention to this crisis and its consequences for developing countries. The Strategic programme should

also reflect the persistent and other emerging challenges towards inclusive and sustainable development as well.

8. The other important issue is that the programme should be planned in a way to strengthen the three pillars of UNCTAD and these three pillars should synergize and enhance each other. The analytical work of the UNCTAD and its technical cooperation activities should complement one another and the intergovernmental machinery should serve and support the two other pillars in reaching their main objective, which is assisting developing countries towards inclusive and sustainable development, in particular through the commitment for building timely consensus.
9. The other main point is that UNCTAD's programme should be backed by enough resources. While UNCTAD has little influence on its regular budget, the importance of UNCTAD's activities for the inclusive and sustainable development of developing countries should be highlighted. We ask for this message to be conveyed to New York by the secretariat and we call upon the Secretary General to enhance his efforts to absorb further extra-budgetary resources for the full and effective implementation of UNCTAD's mandate.
10. As for the agenda item relating to communications and publications policies, allow me first to commend UNCTAD for its efforts in implementing the communication strategy. The new website also represents considerable progress which will enhance its outreach and communications. We hope that this new website will improve document search and provide better access to UNCTAD's background information. We are looking forward to feedback from member states and the secretariat on the workings of this updated tool which will

be used and improve the communication strategy of the UNCTAD.

11. However in order to enhance the visibility and effective dissemination of UNCTAD publications, we believe that there is a need for further communication between the secretariat and the Geneva-based Missions. In this context, we propose that the electronic version of any new publication be disseminated immediately to the Missions and their relevant contact persons. This will facilitate the timely information and distribution of publications to the member states and their respective capitals while improving the interaction between member states and the substantive divisions. Although at the moment this practice is applied by a few divisions, we need to have a coherent strategy to be applied by all divisions and for the whole documentations, which at the end would lead to the further enrichment of UNCTAD's substantive work.
12. With respect to the publications policy, while we take note of the reduction in the overall number of UNCTAD publications, we underline that this reduction should not affect the delivery of services, in particular on topics of special interest to developing countries. We also reiterate the importance of documentation, in particular parliamentary documentation, being ready on time for intergovernmental meetings.
13. At the end, allow me also to highlight that UNCTAD's analytical work should reflect the persistent and emerging challenges that we face in our way towards inclusive and sustainable development. In this regard, the Doha Mandate should be considered as the main guideline for UNCTAD's analytical work. In the light of new developments We look forward to analytical work which

will serve as meaningful and relevant inputs for our broader intergovernmental deliberations in particular.

Thank you Madame Chair.