

**Working Party**  
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**General statements by regional groups**  
**Speaker: European Union**

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*Not checked against delivery \**

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UNCTAD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Program Budget

Communications Strategy and Publications Policy

Trade and Development

61<sup>st</sup> Session

Geneva, 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Final Statement

Statement by Cyprus

on behalf of the European Union and its Member States



Mme. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First of all, we wish to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this Working Party. We are convinced that having you as a chair will help us get through our work in an efficient and timely manner.

At the outset, we wish to emphasize the great importance that EU and its Member States attach to the international cooperation and trade for development.

We would like to thank UNCTAD's Secretariat for its efforts to deliver detailed and relevant documents on the reports on the implementation of its **communications strategy and publications policy**, as well as its proposed **Programme Budget- narrative for the Biennium 2012 -2013** and the **Draft proposed Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014 -2015**, both in the light of the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference.

We welcome UNCTAD's on-going valuable work aiming to mainstream the **communications strategy and publications policy** into its work.

With regard to the **external communications policy**, a good online presence, with a website based on an analysis of users' needs and of the outreach objectives of the Conference, is very important. Further improvements should be done especially concerning its content. We would suggest that more information be provided on each Division, in a more balanced way, with organigrams and contact details for Heads of Divisions and the staff in charge of the different programs. The Work Plan of each Division, where and as adequate, should clearly reflect consistency with the Doha Mandate.

Furthermore, we have a number of specific proposals on the **external communication** to which we will refer under the concerned agenda item.

The EU and its Member States believe that it is also crucial that UNCTAD, in its efforts of enhancing its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and Results Based Management, as per the Doha Mandate, also develops a strong **internal communications' policy**. This would contribute to strengthening its cross-divisional coordination, in particular for training and capacity-building programmes.

Mme. Chair,

Turning to the **publications policy**, we welcome the efforts done to enhance the relevance, coherence, innovative character and quality of UNCTAD's publications.

In this regard, we take note of the positive results of the **readership survey** of the main publications of UNCTAD in 2011 through an online questionnaire. Given that these

publications have multiple uses, including, among others, policy formulation and research and analysis, as well as they offer different perspectives on important matters for developing countries and for the global community at large, we consider that the in-depth survey on the use of the publications is crucial and it should be continued.

We welcome UNCTAD's on-going efforts to further ensuring effective dissemination and mainstreaming good communication practices fulfilling the needs of developing countries and intergovernmental processes. Innovative ways should be sought for an increased response rate from the private sector, the academic and research institutions and the governments, which are the primary target groups for publications.

The **quantity of printed publications** is another important matter. We would encourage UNCTAD to focus more on the added value of its publication and to continue efforts to reduce the number of publications, considering also environmental concerns and concentrate on those ones with a wider impact. In this regard, an option could be to make some flagship publications biennial. Reports should be published mainly online rather than in printed format whenever possible.

We wish to remind also that a solution should be found as concerning the **delay of publications** which has a negative impact on the work of the organization and on the proper implementation of UNCTAD's Work Programme and intergovernmental processes.

Mme. Chair,

I regret having to – once again – point to the fact that the Secretariat has circulated important documents at the very last minute on Friday. This is a systemic problem and an unacceptable practice that needs to be addressed. The Secretariat must provide documents in due time to enable Member States to participate actively and in a constructive manner in the activities and meetings of UNCTAD.

Mme. Chair,

Let me now turn to the **proposed Programme Budget - narrative for the Biennium 2012 - 2013**. We express our acknowledgements for the UNCTAD's Secretariat comprehensive work by proposing a reformulated text in the light of the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference, for the remaining period of 2012 and 2013 of its Work Programme.

Related to the **ad hoc expert group meetings** foreseen under point a) of each one of the subprogrammes, we would like to have an explanation on how this significant number of ad hoc expert group meetings relates to the maximum number of total of eight expert meetings annually that has been an established practice for a number of years.

Turning now to **the Draft Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014 -2015**, we wish to underscore that the Plan for the period 2014-2015 should clearly integrate UNCTAD'S mandate as established by the Doha Mandate.

In this regard, we are missing some important elements of the Doha Mandate in the Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2015, which we will raise under the appropriate agenda item.

Following recent discussions among Members, Mme. Chair, let us take the opportunity to propose that UNCTAD establishes a "Corporate Logframe" and presents its Work Programmes Budgeted. For effective outcomes of our working process, our Member States need to have a clear idea, through a Logframe presentation, of the Objectives, strategic steps and activities, resources (estimated costs indicated on a yearly basis, detailed by component) and with matching indicators of achievements of the expected results per programme, per Division, as well as per Aggregated results of the entire organization.

Mme. Chair

The European Union and its Member States wish to take this opportunity to recall that UNCTAD's Programme of Work shall be implemented within its existing resources and in accordance with the Doha Mandate.

Concluding, the European Union and its Member States would like to reiterate here, that we will continue supporting policies aiming to assist developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries, in implementing strategies with the view of meeting their development goals. In practical terms, we believe that International cooperation for development shall be translated into economic growth and social inclusion.

Thank you very much for your attention