



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board

Sixty-third executive session

Geneva, 27–29 September 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session

1. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter one above.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(63)/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 2

Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

2. A report on UNCTAD activities in support of Africa is prepared every year and presented to an executive session of the Trade and Development Board. The report provides an overview of research and analysis being undertaken by UNCTAD with regard to African development, as well as a summary of specific activities, including advisory services and technical cooperation, in each sector that falls under the mandate of UNCTAD. This report complements and updates the information in document TD/B/EX(61)/2, which was submitted to the sixty-first executive session of the Board in June 2015. After the presentation of the report, an interactive discussion will follow.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(63)/2 Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa Report
by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 3

Economic Development in Africa Report 2016: Debt Dynamics and Development Finance in Africa

3. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2016: Debt Dynamics and Development Finance in Africa*. The report examines some of the key policy issues that underlie Africa's domestic and external debt, and provides policy guidance on the delicate balance required between financing development alternatives and overall debt sustainability. It argues that Africa requires immense financial resources to finance its development aspirations. The report analyses Africa's international debt exposure and how domestic debt is increasingly playing a role in some African countries as a development finance option. It also examines complementary financing options and how they relate to debt. The report makes relevant and actionable policy recommendations which address the roles that African Governments, external partners and the international community can play in ensuring that Africa's public debt remains sustainable. Under the agenda item, a panel will be convened on the topic of debt dynamics and development finance in Africa.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(63)/3 Economic development in Africa: Debt dynamics
and development finance in Africa (overview)

Documentation

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2016 *Economic Development in Africa Report 2016: Debt Dynamics and Development Finance in Africa*

Item 4***Trade and Development Report, 2016: Structural Transformation for Inclusive and Sustained Growth***

4. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review the evolution of the world economy in 2015 and 2016. Special attention will be given to the factors explaining weak output and trade growth, sluggish investment and financial vulnerability affecting the global economy. The Board will discuss to what extent recovering strong, sustained and more inclusive growth would require a reorientation of macroeconomic and income policies, together with stronger regulation of finance and a targeted industrial strategy. As background documentation for the Board's deliberations, the *Trade and Development Report, 2016: Structural Transformation for Inclusive and Sustained Growth* reviews the trends in the world economy and the main challenges faced by developed, developing and transition economies, and places them into the long-term perspective of the development process.

5. The report considers development as a transformational process, in which enhanced resource mobilization, rising incomes, expanding markets and higher investment lead to more and better jobs, establishing a virtuous circle. Such a structural transformation requires selective government policies to shift a country's productive structure towards activities and sectors with higher productivity, better paid jobs and greater technological potential – what is commonly called “industrial policies”. The *Trade and Development Report, 2016* highlights the central role of industrialization, given the higher productivity of manufactures in relation to other sectors, and their potentiality to generate strong cross-sectoral linkages (e.g. backward, forward, income and knowledge linkages) and complementarities that enhance productivity and employment growth in the primary and tertiary sectors. Successful structural transformation requires a comprehensive policy approach. This includes strategic policies for international trade, pro-growth macroeconomic policies to ensure high levels of aggregate demand and investment and a stable and competitive exchange rate, policies in support of the profits–investment nexus to provide finance for structural transformation, and closing tax loopholes through fiscal and regulatory measures that would bring greater transparency to corporate decision-making and finance public expenditure that provide an enabling context for production upgrading and economic diversification.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2016 and *Trade and Development Report, 2016: Structural Overview Transformation for Inclusive and Sustained Growth*

Item 5**Other business****Item 6****Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third executive session**