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Trade and Development Board

Sixty-fourth executive session

Geneva, 6–8 February 2017

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

1. The provisional agenda for the session was approved by the Trade and Development Board at the closing plenary of its sixty-third session on 9 December 2016 and is reproduced on page 1.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(64)/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 2

The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process

2. Graduation is the process through which a country ceases to be a least developed country, having in principle overcome the structural handicaps that warrant special support from the international community, beyond that generally granted to other developing countries. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Path to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process* argues that graduation should be regarded, not as a winning post, but rather as a milestone in a country's long-term economic and social development. Thus, the focus should not be on graduation itself, but rather on “graduation with momentum”, which will lay the foundations for long-term development and allow potential pitfalls to be avoided far beyond the country's exit from the least developed country category. Projections conducted for the Report suggest that only 10 of the 48 current least developed countries are likely to fulfil the graduation criteria by 2020, well short of the international target of half the number of those countries (24). The Report highlights the need for least developed countries to move from graduation strategies focused on qualification for graduation to “graduation-plus” strategies that take a long-term perspective and foster structural transformation. Elements of such strategies include industrial policies, agricultural upgrading, scaling up of public investment and steps to address gender inequality.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/2016 and
Overview*The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to
Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*

Item 3

Other items requiring action by the Board

3. The reports of the eighth sessions of the Trade and Development Commission and of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be before the Board for its consideration.

4. In accordance with a decision of the extended Bureau of the Board of 11 November 2016, the Board will also be invited to review and adopt agreed conclusions relating to the fifth progress report on the contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. The draft agreed conclusions were circulated to member States at the closing plenary of the sixty-third session of the Board as a non-paper dated 9 December 2016.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/40

Report of the Trade and Development Commission on its eighth session

TD/B/C.II/33

Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its eighth session

Item 4**Other business****Item 5****Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session**
