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Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 4–5 March 2013

Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-fourth session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 5 March 2013

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I. Agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party at its sixty-fourth session

Review of the implementation of UNCTAD's communications strategy and publications policy

(Agenda item 3)

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

1. *Takes note* of the secretariat's report on the implementation of the communications strategy and publications policy, the report on the readership survey and other information supplied by the secretariat;

2. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of the communications strategy and the publications policy, and encourages closer cooperation between the secretariat and member States, through their permanent missions in Geneva, in their implementation;

3. *Encourages* the secretariat to assess and report on the impact of its publications and to continue the promotion and outreach of all its programme publications via the appropriate means, in order to accommodate the different needs of users;

4. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the secretariat in maintaining the website and Delegates Portal, and calls upon the UNCTAD secretariat to ensure that priority is given to keeping content up to date, and to enhancing the site's functionality, accessibility and usability;

5. *Encourages* the secretariat to further coordinate with the United Nations Office at Geneva in order to ensure the timely translations of UNCTAD publications.

II. Chair's summary

A. Proceedings

1. The sixty-fourth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 4–5 March 2013, to review the implementation of the communications strategy and publications policy of UNCTAD.

B. Opening statements

2. Opening statements were made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Lesotho on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Benin on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries; the representative of China; and the representative of Peru.

3. The representatives of many regional groups, one intergovernmental organization and two delegations acknowledged ongoing efforts and progress made by the secretariat in implementing the communications strategy and publications policy, and the progress made

by the secretariat since 2009. They expressed satisfaction with UNCTAD's ongoing commitment to mainstream these strategies across all areas of work.

4. All speakers acknowledged the progress that had been made in improving organization's website. They welcomed the launch of the Delegates Portal, and several expressed interest in receiving a comprehensive briefing on its features and use. Most speakers noted that the tool could provide delegates with prompt access to relevant information and publications, particularly benefiting those who were unable to attend all meetings due to financial constraints. Most speakers also applauded the expansion of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute's digital library.

5. The representatives of many regional groups stated that further efforts were needed to improve communication between UNCTAD and Geneva-based permanent missions. The representatives acknowledged efforts made by the secretariat to strengthen this relationship but stated that additional efforts were needed. The representatives of these regional groups and two delegations encouraged the secretariat to continue taking advantage of new communications technologies, such as Twitter, to disseminate the organization's work to policymakers and the general public and gain better visibility for it.

6. With regard to the publications policy, the representatives of many regional groups indicated that efforts to streamline the publications programme should not compromise quality and relevance or decrease the analysis UNCTAD conducted on topics critical to developing countries. The representatives called on the UNCTAD secretariat not to allow budget cuts to affect its capacity to implement the Accra Accord and the Doha Mandate or compromise its independence. Many regional groups and delegations continued to highlight the importance of the timely translation of UNCTAD publications into all United Nations official languages and their dissemination. Many regional groups and one intergovernmental group suggested that one way to alleviate the lack of funding of some publications should be to extend co-publishing initiatives.

7. The representative of one regional group noted that activities to reach out to the public through media could be continued, and acknowledged in particular the work during UNCTAD XIII, as well as that major UNCTAD publications were covered by prestigious newspapers and media outlets.

8. The representatives of one regional group and one delegation stated that a communications strategy and timely planning of publications were needed to prepare for future key events and challenges, including the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD and ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

C. Informal meetings

9. The Working Party pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

D. Review of the implementation of UNCTAD's communications strategy and publications policy

(Agenda item 3)

10. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD introduced the main item on the agenda, namely the Report on the implementation of the communications strategy and publications policy of UNCTAD (TD/B/WP/249) and the Report on the readership survey of main publications of UNCTAD in 2012 (TD/B/WP(64)/CRP.1).

11. Key findings of the first report showed continuous progress in implementing the UNCTAD communications strategy, including notable improvements in communications

with member States, the media response to major events and civil society engagement in the work of UNCTAD. The launch of a dedicated Delegates Portal and enhancement of the Virtual Institute's web search engine represented key developments in the overhaul of the organization's website. UNCTAD was also in the process of reworking the employment web page to make it more functional and user-friendly. Work was also under way in collaboration with other United Nations organizations to learn from best practices and to enhance the use of social media tools.

12. The latest readership survey carried out by UNCTAD showed once again that readers valued the organization's publications highly. The results of the survey would be carefully examined and taken into account in the preparation of future publications. The secretariat would also continue to examine ways of achieving a broader range of responses, especially from Governments, to obtain a more representative assessment of its work.

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

13. The Working Party elected Mr. Thanh T. Nguyen (Viet Nam) as its Chair and Ms. Erika Koszegi (Hungary) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

14. The Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/248). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the implementation of the communications strategy and publications policy of UNCTAD
4. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

C. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

15. At its closing plenary meeting on 5 March 2013, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session (see annex I).

D. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 6)

16. The Working Party authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its sixty-fourth session.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
4. Evaluation of UNCTAD activities
 - (a) Evaluation of UNCTAD activities: Overview
 - (b) External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development
 - (c) Follow-up on evaluations:
 - (i) Follow-up on recommendations from the evaluation of UNCTAD's programme on science and technology for development
 - (ii) Third progress report on the implementation of recommendations from the evaluation of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities dedicated to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies
5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Working Party
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance*

1. Representatives from the following States members of the Working Party attended the session:

Algeria	Lesotho
Belarus	Mexico
China	Peru
Côte d'Ivoire	United States of America
El Salvador	Viet Nam
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	

2. Representatives from the following States members of UNCTAD but not members of the Working Party attended the session:

Barbados	Indonesia
Benin	Ireland
Brazil	Jamaica
Bulgaria	Japan
Burundi	Madagascar
Cuba	Mali
Dominican Republic	Poland
Egypt	Portugal
Estonia	Saudi Arabia
Haiti	Thailand
Hungary	Turkey

3. The following intergovernmental organization was represented at the session:

European Union

* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(64)/INF.1.