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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Working Party on the Strategic Framework and**  
**the Programme Budget**  
Sixty-ninth session  
Geneva, 1–5 December 2014

## **Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-ninth session**

**Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 1 to 5 December 2014**

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## **I. Agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party at its sixty-ninth session**

### **Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017**

(Agenda item 3)

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

Having considered the draft proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2016–2017,

1. Concurs with the proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2016–2017 as contained in document TD/B/WP(69)/CRP.1/Rev.1;

2. Recommends to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he take full account of document TD/B/WP(69)/CRP.1/Rev.1 for the purposes of his submission of the 2016–2017 proposed programme narrative of UNCTAD to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## **II. Chair's summary**

### **A. Proceedings**

1. The sixty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 5 December 2014, to review the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 and the draft fundraising strategy for technical cooperation activities.

### **B. Opening statements**

2. The following speakers made opening statements: the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Italy, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of JUSSCANNZ; the representative of Uruguay, on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States; the representative of Barbados, the representative of China, the representative of Ecuador and the representative of Morocco.

### **C. Informal meetings**

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

## **D. Action by the Working Party**

### **1. Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017**

(Agenda item 3)

4. The Working Party considered document TD/B/WP(69)/CRP.1 entitled "Programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017".

5. One regional group stressed that all projects and activities mentioned in the programme narrative, no matter how well designed, would be ineffective without adequate funding to fully implement them.

6. Several delegations called on all parties concerned to enhance and strengthen the work of UNCTAD and to make relevant efforts in the preparatory process for UNCTAD XIV. A number of delegations said there was a need to further enhance its partnerships with other international organizations, particularly the International Trade Centre, as a means of maximizing the impact for the beneficiaries. Some groups, while appreciating the progress made in this area, recalled the need to further strengthen efforts towards a full and uniform implementation of the results-based-management framework.

7. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the preparation of the programme narrative for 2016–2017 and recognized the advances that had been made in the results orientation of the various expected accomplishments and indicators contained in the document. Other delegations said that it would be desirable to focus further on outcomes rather than outputs.

8. Several delegations requested clarifications on the realignment of the gender and development work by the Executive Direction and Management into the subprogramme on international trade. In particular, they requested that the expected accomplishment on mainstreaming of gender and its corresponding indicator of achievement from previous bienniums be reinserted in the programme narrative. In this manner, the gender dimension would not only be captured at the subprogramme level but also as a responsibility of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD across all subprogrammes.

9. With regard to subprogramme 4, paragraph 34(b)(ii) of the programme narrative, one regional group said that it was important to insert a reference to technology transfer in accordance with resolution 2014/27 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 16 July 2014.

10. One regional group noted with appreciation that the balance when referring to various groups of member States had been maintained in the programme narrative by the Committee for Programme and Coordination as proposed by the Working Party. One delegation expressed concern about the coherence of how such balance was reflected throughout the document and the lack of a commonly agreed definition for some country groups.

11. One regional group recalled the role of the Trade and Development Board to carry out the work of the UNCTAD Conference when not in session and thus reaffirmed that mandates arising from the Board should be considered valid for all purposes, including for the production of publications. The regional group called on the UNCTAD secretariat to coordinate with relevant actors within the United Nations Secretariat to ensure the availability of translations of UNCTAD publications and other documents in a timely manner. It also requested that a sufficient number of hard copies of such publications be printed to allow access by countries with limited Internet access.

12. Some delegations requested clarifications on the availability of the programme narrative in official languages other than English. The secretariat said that the programme narrative was only a working document at the time of the session and that language versions would be made available once the final version of the budget fascicles were published at United Nations Headquarters, approximately in April 2015. The secretariat announced that, in line with the established practice, a briefing would be held in Geneva in May or June 2015 to inform delegations of the final budget proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning UNCTAD.

13. Some delegations requested clarifications on the absence of a logical framework with objectives and expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for some sections of the programme narrative. The secretariat said that in line with the standard format and instructions of the United Nations Controller, logical frameworks were included only for the Executive Direction and Management section and for the subprogrammes under the section entitled “Programme of work”.

14. Referring to the challenges faced by small island developing States, one delegation expressed the wish that UNCTAD engage in further cooperation with those States on the implementation of relevant global conferences, in particular the Samoa Pathway.<sup>1</sup> Member States should consider how to make UNCTAD XIV a global event and reinforce the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

15. One delegation requested clarifications on the removal by the United Nations Secretariat of activities related to the preparatory process for the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the enterprise resources planning system Umoja. The secretariat explained that for the period 2016–2017 the preparatory process for International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja would have concluded and mainstreamed as the accounting standard and enterprise resources planning system used for all relevant transactions.

16. The Chair agreed to reflect in the report the widespread consensus of delegations that the programme narrative for 2016–2017 would need to be reviewed after the fourteenth quadrennial United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) with a view to incorporating any relevant mandates and priorities arising from the Conference, as well as from the post-2015 development agenda. The secretariat confirmed that in line with the established practice, a Working Party session for this purpose would be held approximately in June 2016.

## **2. UNCTAD fundraising strategy for technical cooperation activities** (Agenda item 4)

17. Despite the best efforts of the regional coordinators to finalize the UNCTAD fundraising strategy for technical cooperation activities, member States were unable to reach an agreement. In this regard, the Chair of the Working Party, after consulting informally with regional groups, called on regional coordinators and interested member States to continue informal open-ended consultations on the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy and to present the results, if possible, at the seventieth session of the Working Party in March 2015 or, if not, at its seventy-first session in September 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action.

### **III. Organizational matters**

#### **A. Election of officers**

(Agenda item 1)

18. At the opening plenary meeting, on 1 December 2014, the Working Party elected Ms. Wafa Ameuri (Algeria) as its Chair and Mr. Alexander Zagryadskiy (Russian Federation) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

#### **B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

(Agenda item 2)

19. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/266), as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017
4. UNCTAD fundraising strategy for technical cooperation activities
5. Provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Working Party
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

#### **C. Provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Working Party**

(Agenda item 5)

20. At its closing plenary meeting on 5 December 2014, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its seventieth session (see annex I).

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

(Agenda item 7)

21. At the same meeting, the Working Party authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report of the Working Party on its sixty-ninth session.

## **Annex I**

### **Provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Working Party**

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 seventy-first session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

## Annex II

### Attendance\*

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

Austria	Japan
Bangladesh	Nigeria
Barbados	Pakistan
Belarus	Russian Federation
China	Senegal
Ecuador	Switzerland
Germany	United States of America
Guatemala	

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

Algeria	Spain
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Tunisia
Chile	Uruguay
Côte d'Ivoire	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Dominican Republic	
Estonia	
Ethiopia	
Finland	
Indonesia	
Iraq	
Jamaica	
Jordan	
Kenya	
Latvia	
Madagascar	
Malaysia	
Mali	
Mauritius	
Mexico	
Morocco	
Myanmar	
Nepal	
Paraguay	
Philippines	
Poland	
Republic of Moldova	
Saudi Arabia	

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\* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(69)/INF.1.

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

European Union  
Organization of Islamic Cooperation

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

*General category*

International Network for standardization of Higher Education Degrees

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