

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Sixty-ninth executive session
Geneva, 20 – 22 January 2020

NOTES FOR THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING PARTY

Report on the 79th session of the WP

Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour (Iran)

Thursday, 6 February, 10 a.m.- Room XVII

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to the Trade and Development Board on the work of the Working Party at its seventy-ninth session that was held last week from 20 to 22 January 2020.

Under item 3 the Working Party reviewed the draft UNCTAD programme plan and performance information for the year 2021 (part II of the proposed programme budget).

For its consideration of the item, the Working Party had before it the proposed draft UNCTAD programme plan and performance information for the year 2021 provided by the secretariat. To assist the Working Party, the secretariat made presentations on each of the subprogrammes as well as responded to the many queries from member States. It was also understood that the programme budget for 2021 would need to be revisited to consider and take into account the outcome of the upcoming quadrennial conference, UNCTAD15, which will take place in Barbados in October of this year.

In its agreed conclusions, the Working Party, it urged the UNCTAD Secretary-General to issue instructions to Divisions to ensure coherence and a broader representation of the programme plan and performance as well as make available to member States the instructions received from the entities in New York for the preparation of the programme plan.

It also requested the secretariat to seek guidance from the United Nations Secretariat in New York on measuring the impact of the activities under the research and analysis pillar and to communicate potential improvements to the programme plan and performance information template. It stressed the importance that UNCTAD have adequate resources to fully implement the mandate entrusted to it, following UNTAD 15.

It requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the future programme plan and performance information includes a clear indication of lessons learned with the resulting considerations for the programme plan;

It also expressed concern about the delays in formally adopting the agreed terms of reference for future sessions of the Working Party, and called upon the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to actively support bridging the requests of the member States with the procedural requirements of the United Nations budgetary process.

The Working Party invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make available to the member States of UNCTAD the documentation on the submissions he has made to the United Nations entities dealing with programmatic and budgetary issues on the draft UNCTAD programme plan and performance information for the year 2021.

At its closing plenary, the Working Party adopted agreed conclusions in which it also took note of the revised draft programme plan which is contained in document TD/B/WP(79)/Inf.1. It requested the secretariat to take full account of the comments and inputs provided by member States during the session.

It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the views expressed by member States be transmitted in a timely manner to the relevant United Nations entities, invited him to make available to the member States of UNCTAD documentation on the submissions on the draft UNCTAD programme plan he has made to the United Nations entities dealing with programmatic and budgetary issues.

The Working Party also approved the agenda of its 80th session, scheduled to take place from 30 to 31 March 2020.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to submit the report of the Working Party, which will be contained in document TD/B/WP/302, for the consideration of the Board and the agreed conclusions that will be contained therein for endorsement by the Board.

Finally, I wish to extend my deep appreciation and gratitude to all regional Coordinators and member States who took an active part in our deliberations and contributed to the consensus reached as well as to the Vice-Chair-cum Rapporteur, Ms. Una Kepite of Latvia for her support.

This concludes my report on the work of the seventy-ninth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget.

I thank you, Mr. President.