

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

Plenary on Item 12 a:
Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to
the thirteenth session of the Conference

Speaker: European Union

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

* This statement is made available in the language and form in which it was received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



European Union

UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

60th SESSION TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
16-27 September 2013

EU Statement

Geneva, 24 September 2012

Check against delivery

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

60th Session

(Geneva, 17-28 September 2012)

Item 12

Mr. President,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

As we stated in our opening statement to this Trade and Development Board, the EU and its MS continue to support a timely and effective follow-up of the Review of Management and Administration by the Joint Inspection Unit. We thank the Secretariat for its report on the implementation of the workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD.

In line with the Doha Mandate, the EU and its MS believe that, in order to strengthen UNCTAD, *"efforts should be made to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, including through effective results-based management"* (para 19 of the Doha Mandate). To that effect, a close and regular follow-up of the implementation of the workplan prepared by the Secretariat should continue with updates in regular TDB sessions in the lead up to the 2016 Ministerial Conference.

The operationalization and integration of RBM into UNCTAD's working culture should be our priority. It conditions the sound functioning, effectiveness and relevance of the organization, in particular its technical assistance activities, and the attraction of extra-funds. We should be grateful if the Secretariat would now set clear time-bound targets for the full implementation of the integrated results-based management framework.

As regards the evaluation and monitoring, the EU and its MS note the progress made and support the new approach of ensuring the systematic evaluation of UNCTAD sub-programmes in 2013-15. We look forward to reviewing the set of guidelines to operationalize the UNCTAD evaluation

policy that will be produced by the Secretariat, as well as the concept paper examining existing practices for effective dissemination.

Appropriate steps have been taken on Outreach and communication such as the Delegates' Portal and the Guide for Incoming Delegates. As noted by the Secretary-General in his opening speech on September 16th, more needs to be done to ensure broad dissemination of UNCTAD's work at national and regional levels.

As noted in the progress report, improving activity coordination doesn't necessarily require additional structures: it takes a change in working methods and culture to build more synergies and linkages. One important example is the flagship reports. The EU and its MS strongly encourage UNCTAD to ensure in the future more synergy among its reports. As far as the inter-agency cooperation is concerned, it should aim at avoiding duplication of work in particular for technical assistance activities.

Efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to improve equitable geographic and gender representation should be continued and enhanced, while keeping the professional expertise as the main criteria. The potential of the website in this regard should be exploited further. We look forward to the regular update of the Secretariat on human resources-related indicators. Moreover, overall efforts to improve UNCTAD's human resources management should be pursued in a more encompassing manner: as we have underlined on previous occasions, beyond geographical and gender balance, recruitment, selection, promotion, appointments and even retirement should also be addressed in a more systematic, efficient and transparent manner.

The work on a fundraising strategy is central to improving UNCTAD's effectiveness and independence. The EU and its MS are ready to engage in consultations with other groups, based on the document circulated by the Secretariat, to make quick progress on this front. We reiterate that such a fundraising strategy is closely linked to an effective integrated RBM framework and enhanced monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Regarding the establishment of a non-earmarked trust fund, the EU and its MS continue to believe that it has been a premature decision. The possibility of establishing such a fund should have been considered only once the integrated RBM framework and enhanced monitoring and evaluation capacity are fully operational. Now, the feasibility of such a fund depends of course on donors'

ability to provide voluntary contributions to it. Further consolidation of thematic trust funds should be pursued as an intermediate step.

To conclude M. President, the EU and its MS feel encouraged by the words of the new SG, Dr Kituyi, on management and administration issues and his intention to initiate his "own review and propose further measures as needed". We subscribe to the general goal of increasing and widening UNCTAD's impact, through better management and an increased quality of its work making it "more relevant and more focused". In these times of economic challenge and constraint on public finances, it is more important than ever that UNCTAD's work can be shown to deliver results for people living in the least developed and developing countries.

Thank you for your kind attention.