



**United Nations Conference  
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General  
24 July 2012

Original: English

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**Trade and Development Board**

Fifty-ninth session

Geneva, 17–28 September 2012

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

*Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

The provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
3. High-level segment: Growth with jobs for poverty reduction: What can Africa learn from other regions?
4. Interdependence: Coordinating stimulus for global growth
5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs: First progress report
6. Economic Development in Africa: Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa
7. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
8. Development strategies in a globalized world: Reducing inequalities for balanced and sustainable development
9. Investment for development: Towards a new generation of investment policies for inclusive growth and sustainable development
10. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
11. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
12. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the thirteenth session of the Conference
  - Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012
13. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - (a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2011–2012 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2013
  - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board

- (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board
  - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
  - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2013
  - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
  - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
16. Adoption of the report on credentials
  17. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Board
  18. Other business
  19. Adoption of the report

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the fifty-fifth executive session on 4 July 2012.

### **Item 1 Election of officers**

2. The Rules of Procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.
3. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 vice-presidents and the Rapporteur, i.e. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.
4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since UNCTAD IX, the President of the Board for the fifty-ninth session will be a representative of one of the States in list D and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Asia). The 10 vice-presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); four from list B; two from list C; and one from list D.

### **Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**

#### *Agenda*

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

#### *Organization of work*

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

*Establishment of sessional committees*

7. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 5 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 6 to Sessional Committee II.

**Item 3**

**High-level segment: Growth with jobs for poverty reduction: What can Africa learn from other regions?**

8. Under this agenda item, panellists will examine why Africa's poverty levels remain excessively high despite a relatively strong economic performance over the last decade. One of the characteristics of the recent growth experience in Africa is that it has not created a large number of jobs that could have helped the poor to earn a living through wage income. This contrasts with the experience of other developing regions, where employment generation and poverty reduction have accompanied broader structural transformation. Factors usually cited to explain why Africa is the region where economic growth has had the weakest effect on poverty reduction generally include high population growth; inadequate job creation in sectors accessible to the poor; weak infrastructural investment; and, the failure of growth in natural-resource rich and capital-intensive "enclave sectors" to create spread and spillover effects in the broader economy.

9. Panellists from different regions will reflect on their countries' experiences in making growth more inclusive and broadening the productive capacities on which growth is based. In particular, they will comment on the internal and external macroeconomic conditions for inclusive growth and on government policies, including redistributive policies, to foster the generation of new productive capacities. The Trade and Development Report 2012 – Overview and the Economic Development in Africa Report 2012 will serve as background documentation for this item.

**Item 4**

**Interdependence: Coordinating stimulus for global growth**

10. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review how the performance of the world economy has evolved since 2011. Special attention will be given to the factors which are slowing down growth in different regions and which present a risk for the global economy. The Board will also consider the policy responses that developed, developing and transition economies should adopt to avert a global recession and set the basis for sustained and inclusive economic recovery.

11. As a background document for its deliberations, the Board has Chapter I of the Trade and Development Report, 2012, which reviews current trends in the world economy, the impact of current macroeconomic policies in several major economies, the implications of global economic interdependence for developing countries and the need for a more concerted response to global economic challenges.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2012 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2012*

## **Item 5**

### **UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs: First progress report**

12. Under this item, the Board will deliberate on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Decade 2011–2020 and UNCTAD's contribution. To facilitate the Board's discussions on the item, the secretariat has produced two background documents: (i) a study titled "Enabling the Graduation of LDCs: Harnessing the Role of Commodities and Improving Agricultural Productivity", and (ii) a first progress report on UNCTAD-wide implementation of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action. The study, which is intended to advance deliberations on issues of graduation by the Board, is the outcome of an ongoing work of the UNCTAD secretariat on LDCs. It assesses the challenges, opportunities and prospects for meeting the criteria for graduation, particularly by harnessing the role of commodities and improving agricultural productivity. The second background document provides comprehensive information on UNCTAD-wide activities in implementing the relevant priority areas contained in the IPoA. It also includes a brief assessment of progress towards some of the key agreed goals, lessons learned and the way forward.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/59/3

UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: First progress report

## **Item 6**

### **Economic development in Africa: Structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa**

13. This agenda item will consider the report "Economic Development in Africa: Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa", on the dilemma facing African economies. On the one hand, structural transformation is necessary for achieving substantial and broad-based improvements in human well-being. On the other hand, structural transformation, together with rising affluence and a growing population, will necessarily intensify environmental pressures because of the increasing demand for natural resources, including both material and energy inputs used in production, the expanding magnitude of waste and pollution, and the growing relative reliance on non-renewable resources. The report suggests that this dilemma can be resolved by employing a sustainable structural transformation development strategy. This involves the adoption of deliberate, concerted and proactive measures to promote structural transformation and the relative decoupling of natural resource use and environmental impacts from the growth process.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/59/4

Economic development in Africa: Structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa (overview)

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2012

*Economic Development in Africa Report 2012: Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa*

## **Item 7**

### **Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective**

14. Paragraph 18(d) of the Doha Mandate of UNCTAD XIII mandates UNCTAD to “Continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective”. In response to the mandate under this agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will monitor recent trends in international trade flows from a development perspective and assess the implications of topical trade policy issues in the context of promoting more inclusive and sustainable growth and development. It will in particular examine recent trade performance, the integration of developing countries into international trade, and the implications of the stalled WTO Doha Round, non-tariff measures, competition policy issues and trade and sustainable development issues.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/59/5                      Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

## **Item 8**

### **Development strategies in a globalized world: Reducing inequalities for balanced and sustainable development**

15. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will focus on the linkages between income distribution, growth and development. Income inequality has increased significantly in recent decades in different regions and groups of countries. This has revived the tension between advocates of theories that rising inequality is a necessary condition for successful development, and the alternative contention that high or rising inequality is not only an obstacle to development but also one of the root causes of the current global crisis. The background to the deliberations of the Board under this item is contained in Chapters II–VI of the Trade and Development Report, 2012, which address the evolution of income inequality over the past decades, the reasons underpinning increasing inequality and the ways it is affecting economic growth, as well as proposals for inclusive development policies that would create the conditions for sustainable and rapid growth.

#### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2012 and Overview      *Trade and Development Report, 2012*

## **Item 9**

### **Investment for development: Towards a new generation of investment policies for inclusive growth and sustainable development**

16. At a time of persistent global imbalances and pressing social and environmental challenges, harnessing sustained economic growth for sustainable and inclusive development is more important than ever. Proactive investment development policies at the national and international level can help promote such growth and generate much-needed development benefits. Policymakers around the globe are striving to identify the best possible options in line with their countries’ specific levels of development, locational and entrepreneurial potential and, above all, in line with their overarching development strategies. To assist governments in this task, UNCTAD has developed a comprehensive Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD). It consists of (1) a set

of Core Principles for Investment Policymaking, (2) guidelines for national investment policies, and (3) options for designing international investment agreements (IIAs), accompanied by annotations to the IPFSD.

17. The Board session will also provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest developments on FDI trends and policies. The meeting will therefore discuss the IPFSD developed by UNCTAD. The Overview of the World Investment Report 2012 will serve as the document for this agenda item, and the full Report will be the background document that will inform the debate.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2012 and Overview      *World Investment Report 2012*

**Item 10**

**UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

18. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, it invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

19. Paragraph 11 of the Accra Accord states that: "UNCTAD, within its mandate, should make a contribution to the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences. It should continue to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. With all aspects of its work it will help to implement the global development agenda and pave the way to 2015. It should also contribute to the implementation of specific actions requested in the 2005 World Summit, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society. It should also contribute to furthering the implementation of the internationally agreed goals in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and other relevant decisions."

20. The Board is expected to respond to the request addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27(a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

*Documentation*

TD/B/59/6      Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD's contributions

## **Item 11**

### **Technical cooperation activities:**

#### **(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD**

21. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2011, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation – in particular, matters of trade- and investment-related capacity-building, and issues related to progress in the implementation of decision 478 (L) of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the sixty-second session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, due to be held from 3 to 5 September 2012 and including a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2011.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/WP/243	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
TD/B/WP/243/Add.1	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2011 (English only)
TD/B/WP/243/Add.2	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/245	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its sixty-second session

#### **(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people**

22. As in previous years, UNCTAD's report on assistance to the Palestinian people will provide an update on recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territory. Under the ongoing mobility restrictions, declining aid, chronic fiscal crisis and weakness of the private sector, the report questions the sustainability of the growth observed in the last two years. The expected growth slowdown will have serious consequences on the already high unemployment and poverty rates. The report sheds lights on the impact of occupation on the Palestinian productive base, especially the agriculture sector. The secretariat also reports on the scope and rationale of its technical cooperation activities to the Palestinian people, and the limitation of resources to implement such activities in the last year.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/59/2	Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory
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## **Item 12**

### **Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the thirteenth session of the Conference**

#### **Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012**

23. The secretariat will report back on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference at its thirteenth session in Doha (UNCTAD XIII), in particular on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Joint Inspection Unit report

contained in document JIU/REP/2012/1 and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012, as contained in document TD/B(S-XXVI)/L.1.

### **Item 13**

#### **Other matters in the field of trade and development:**

(a) **Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

24. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law will be before the Board.

*Documentation*

A/67/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-fourth session

(b) **Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO**

25. At its forty-sixth session held from 21 to 22 May 2012, the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed the Centre's technical cooperation activities.

### **Item 14**

#### **Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

26. The reports of the Working Party on its sixty-first and its sixty-second sessions will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/241 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-first session

TD/B/WP/245 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-second session

### **Item 15**

#### **Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:**

(a) **Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2011–2012 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2013**

27. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the President of the Advisory Body will inform the Board about the activities of the Advisory Body and about the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2013, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

**(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board**

28. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session. The current list of IGOs is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/9.

**(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board**

29. At present, there are 205 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 117 in the general category and 88 in the special category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/13. The UNCTAD secretariat has received two applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board. One application is from Coordination SUD (Solidarité Urgence Développement), and the other is from Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC).

*Documentation*

TD/B/59/R.1 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board: Application from Coordination SUD (Solidarité Urgence Développement)

TD/B/59/R.2 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board: Application from Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC)

**(d) Review of the calendar of meetings**

30. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2012, and for 2013.

*In-session documentation*

**(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2013**

31. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2013, on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

*In-session documentation*

**(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)**

32. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

*Documentation*

TD/B/Inf.222 Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

**(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

33. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

*In-session documentation, if required*

**Item 16**  
**Adoption of the report on credentials**

34. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 17**  
**Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Board**

35. The draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and coordinators.

**Item 18**  
**Other business**

**Item 19**  
**Adoption of the report**

36. The report of the Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes on Africa, LDCs, and technical cooperation, Chair's summaries and negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat.

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