

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Report of the Trade and Development Board
on its twenty-fourth executive session**

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 24 March and 12 May 2000



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Chapter I

FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

(Agenda item 2)

Opening statements

1. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that UNCTAD X had benefited from a rare combination of positive circumstances, both internal and external to the organization. First of all, it had been a matter of the right timing: in the aftermath of the WTO Ministerial Conference at Seattle, Governments had been determined not to repeat that failure. Secondly, the Conference had been held at the right place, as the host country, Thailand, under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi, had made an outstanding commitment to its success, approaching it with a sense of ownership that extended beyond the Government to the press, civil society and the population as a whole.

2. Thirdly, there was the contribution made by the preparatory process, led by the preparatory committee of the G-77 and China; the role of the regional meetings in building a conciliatory atmosphere; and the sizeable contribution made by the President of the Board. And fourthly, there were the secretariat's own innovations and input, in considering form and substance to be inseparable; in using the meeting room screen for drafting and negotiating texts; and in bringing together the heads of international organizations to address economic and social issues related to UNCTAD's mandate and their possible contribution to UNCTAD's work.

3. It was now, however, time to live up to the expectations that had been created at Bangkok and to keep up the momentum; concretely, the main challenge ahead would be to implement the Plan of Action (TD/386) and, on a regular basis, to maintain or improve on the factors that had contributed to the Conference's success. In so doing the organization should be guided by the innovative spirit of Bangkok and by the experience of Midrand. UNCTAD would be focusing even more on the problems of the least developed countries (LDCs), beginning with the Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs (LDC-III), to be held in Brussels in May 2001. The spirit of Bangkok meant encouraging convergent views in a mutually reinforcing manner; it required a process of constant consultation, guided by determination and caution, in order to improve synergies with the WTO, ITC, UNITAR, WIPO, ILO, UNIDO, FAO and other organizations in the UN system; and it meant making adjustments in the distribution of resources. Such adjustments would be needed in particular for the LDCs and for training and capacity-building in developing countries, which were among UNCTAD's priorities.

4. The resulting questions were threefold: how to coordinate those activities and make them fully integrated with one another; how to use existing resources to manage the process; and how to translate paragraph 166 of the Plan of Action, on capacity-building, into action. The first step would be to name a focal point within UNCTAD to unify the coordination of the task, in consultation with member States; in addition, an advisory body would be established by the Board, and UNCTAD would cooperate closely with the newly created International Institute for Trade and Development, to be based in Bangkok.

5. The representative of **Thailand** said the major elements in the success of UNCTAD X were its achieving consensus on a development strategy to make globalization of benefit to all; the broad range of participants and stakeholders; and the creation of the International Institute, which he called on all UNCTAD member States to support and to utilize. The Plan of Action contained specific guidelines for the future work and priorities of the organization, which included the interdependence of trade, finance and development, and current international trade issues of importance to developing countries, such as liberalization and the use of electronic commerce in financial services.

6. The spokesperson for the **Group of 77 and China** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said the Group was very satisfied with the outcome of the Conference and was committed to contributing to the implementation of its decisions; the Group's partners, especially the developed countries, should do the same. While UNCTAD X had revitalized the spirit of international cooperation needed for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy, the fate of the Plan of Action lay with the political will of all member States. The forthcoming South Summit in Havana would provide an ideal opportunity for a revitalization of South-South cooperation and solidarity and for a critical examination of the issues currently under discussion between developed and developing countries, in particular the challenges of globalization. Similarly, the Millennium Assembly should lead to further cooperation among development partners and should assess the United Nations contribution to uplifting humanity and society in the past half century and to improving prospects for the twenty-first century.

7. The representative of the **United States** said her country would work closely with all development partners and with the Secretary-General and staff of UNCTAD in implementing the Plan of Action and the Bangkok Declaration. It would do everything possible to ensure that UNCTAD addressed the critical needs of the LDCs, including current concerns. Regarding the new programme on Africa, if resources had to be reallocated, they should not be taken from the trade or investment divisions, which were the "core" of UNCTAD.

8. The representative of **Ethiopia** said a national workshop had been held in Addis Ababa on 8 March on the outcome of UNCTAD X and its implications for Ethiopia's economy and policies; on national, regional and international preparations for the Brussels Conference; and on contributions and inputs from national institutions to that Conference. Addis would also host a regional expert meeting for English-speaking African LDCs, in preparation for the Conference, on 27-29 March. He endorsed the draft medium-term plan and said that UNCTAD's improved intergovernmental machinery and research should take due account of the needs of LDCs. The relevant resolutions on LDCs from the Plan of Action and from the General Assembly should be implemented without further delay. In addition, an LDC monitoring body should meet twice a year, to review implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and to discuss substantive issues affecting the development prospects of the LDCs. Financing of experts from LDCs to attend meetings should be done more predictably.

9. The representative of **Cuba** said that the proposals of the Working Group on the medium-term plan added new elements to the programme of work. Any changes which might be made to the intergovernmental machinery should be realized in the spirit of Bangkok.

10. The representative of **Switzerland** said he trusted in the Secretary-General's wisdom with

regard to any restructuring of the UNCTAD secretariat. However, it was not just two divisions, but all of them, which were crucial to the organization's work.

11. The representative of **Portugal**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, thanked the Secretary-General and the secretariat of UNCTAD for their competent hard work both during the preparatory process and at the Conference itself and also thanked the Thai Government and people for their warm hospitality. He reiterated the EU's commitment to cooperating with all development partners in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

12. The spokesperson for the **Asian Group and China** (Malaysia) said the Plan of Action was very "implementable". The activities proposed in the medium-term plan should be implemented in a balanced way, taking account of the cross-cutting issues of interest to all developing countries, so as to ensure their effective and beneficial integration into the world economy. The secretariat should also take the necessary action to implement the section of the Plan of Action on UNCTAD's contribution to the reform of the international financial architecture as soon as possible.

13. The coordinator of the **LDCs** in Geneva (Bangladesh) said he agreed with the statements made by the G-77, the Asian Group and China, and Ethiopia regarding the LDCs. UNCTAD X had redirected global attention to urgent issues of development. The LDCs benefited greatly from UNCTAD's work and were pleased with the fact that the outcomes of the Conference reflected a consensus on issues of interest to the entire international community. However, the LDCs would demand more facilitating work from member States and the secretariat. The EU should lead the international community in launching a meaningful work programme for the LDCs' fight against poverty. The developed country partners should initiate actions to translate the Plan of Action into priority action on capacity-building for the LDCs; on enhanced market access for LDC products; and on technical assistance, infrastructure support and technology transfer. Coherence and coordination between international organizations were needed on market access and capacity-building for LDCs, and UNCTAD should continue to play a central role in that regard.

14. The representative of **Japan** said his country would cooperate with other developed country partners in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

(a) Outcome of the thirty-fifth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget

Deliberations of the Board at the first part of its session

15. For its consideration of this item at the first part of its session, the Board had before it the following documentation:

"Draft UNCTAD section of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: Programme 9. Trade and Development" (TD/B/EX(24)/L.2)

"Decision approved by the Working Party at the first part of its thirty-fifth session" (TD/B/EX(24)/L.3)

16. The spokesperson for the **African Group** (Egypt) said the Group supported the proposed

UNCTAD section of the medium-term plan, and in particular the subprogramme on Africa. Sufficient resources should be allocated to promote the continent's development strategies and to enable it to cope with globalization. The posts authorized by the General Assembly for the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the LDCs (OSCAL) should be filled as soon as possible. LDC-related activities should be part of UNCTAD's research programme and should be covered more fully in intergovernmental meetings.

17. The representative of **Japan** said the proposed evaluation exercise of UNCTAD activities should be based on the indicators of achievement, which had been introduced for the first time in the proposed medium-term plan. The exercise would help member States to ensure the high-quality implementation of the Plan of Action and to verify secretariat efforts to improve the quality of its work. It would also enhance the transparency and accountability of the organization to its member States.

18. The spokesman for the **Group of 77 and China** (Islamic Republic of Iran) speaking on behalf of Group of 77 and China said he welcomed the idea of an evaluation, which should be on the agenda of the monthly consultations of the President of the Board.

Action

19. At its 912th plenary meeting, on 24 March 2000, the Trade and Development Board endorsed the decision approved by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget (TD/B/EX(24)/L.3). It thereby *inter alia* adopted the text of the draft medium-term plan for transmission to the appropriate authorities at United Nations Headquarters and agreed to consider the proposal that the UNCTAD secretariat undertake an evaluation of its activities in accordance with the indicators of achievement set forth in the medium-term plan and present it to the member States for discussion. (For the full text of the Working Party's decision and the draft medium-term plan, see TD/B/47/4 - TD/B/WP/127. For the Board's consideration of the proposal on evaluation, see below.)

Deliberations of the Board at its resumed session

20. For its consideration of this item at its resumed session, the Board had before it the following documentation:

“Draft decision submitted by the President of the Trade and Development Board” (TD/B/EX(24)/L.5)

“Revised programme of work of UNCTAD” (TD/B/WP/L.95)

“Agreed conclusions of the Working Party” (TD/B/WP/L.96)

21. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD**, referring to the question of evaluation and the draft decision on the conduct in the second quarter of the year 2002 of a mid-term review based on the indicators of achievement agreed to in the medium-term plan (TD/B/EX(24)/L.5), said that two of the three indicators on which the mid-term review would be based depended on feedback from Governments: readership and other surveys, and member States' views. He hoped there would be more such feedback, and that it would be provided in a timely fashion.

22. The representative of **Portugal** said the developing countries should also participate in the provision of feedback.

23. The representative of **Japan** said the mid-term review must be an integral and indispensable element in the ongoing reform process of UNCTAD. It was thus regrettable that it had inadvertently been left out of the Bangkok Declaration. The need for conducting the review had increased. After UNCTAD IX, Japan had been pushing for the overall improvement of UNCTAD's performance, including that of its intergovernmental machinery, and the decision just taken by the Board was along those lines.

24. The spokesperson for the **G-77 and China** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said they embraced the idea of conducting a mid-term review. The work programme adopted at Bangkok generally reflected the priorities of the developing countries. The review was an integral part of the process of implementing that programme, as it allowed member States to assess the activities carried out, to identify areas of the programme still to be implemented, and to ensure that the resources available to the secretariat were commensurate with the mandate agreed to in Bangkok.

25. The representative of the **United States** asked what would be used for the review process other than questionnaires, and suggested focus groups and other ways of eliciting comments from delegates at meetings, given the limited time available to them for putting thoughts on paper.

Action

26. At its 913th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Trade and Development Board adopted the following decision:

“The Trade and Development Board will conduct in the second quarter of the year 2002 a mid-term review of the work of UNCTAD, based on the indicators of achievement agreed to in the medium-term plan (2002-2005). The Board will also review the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery.”

27. The Board also endorsed the revised work programme, as contained in document TD/B/WP/L.95, as well as the related agreed conclusions, as contained in document TD/B/WP/L.96. (For the revised work programme and the agreed conclusions, see TD/B/47/4 – TD/B/WP/127.)

(b) Agenda items of the three Commissions

28. The representative of **Portugal**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said the selection of the new agenda items would be a first step towards improving the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. It was an evolving process, however, and the EU wanted an opportunity to see how the recommendations corresponded to the goals for improvement.

Action

29. At its 912th plenary meeting, on 24 March 2000, the Trade and Development Board decided that the question of the agenda items for the first sessions of the three Commissions and the topics of related expert meetings should be referred to the consultations of the President of the Board to be held on 31 March 2000. The consultations would also review the note by the secretariat on improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD

(TD/B/EX(24)/L.1).1

(c) Other issues: Implementation of paragraph 166 of the Plan of Action

30. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD**, reporting on progress made in implementing paragraph 166 of the Plan of Action adopted by UNCTAD X, said that implementation of paragraph 166, on the strengthening of UNCTAD's capacity-building programme, had begun in earnest. Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo had been appointed focal point within the secretariat to oversee preparations for, and implementation of, training activities in consultation with the relevant Divisions. In that context UNCTAD was not starting from a vacuum; many activities were already under way and would serve as a starting point for the implementation process. These included seminars and ad hoc events on international trade, investment and services; two training networks (TRAINMAR and TrainForTrade); and project-related training activities (ACIS, ASYCUDA, EMPRETEC and DMFAS). Other training activities covered risk management, foreign investment, strategic planning for shipbuilding managers, port management, and trade points. These secretariat activities and technical cooperation projects were complemented by a variety of other meetings, panels and exchange of views among experts, technical specialists and delegations. The trend was to deal with these activities in an increasingly consolidated manner.

31. The role, composition and size of the advisory board to be established by the TDB under paragraph 166, in consultation with member States and the secretariat, were a central issue. Its first tasks would be to take stock of existing activities; identify specific activities within the secretariat to be strengthened and coordinated; assess additional resource requirements; and devise training curricula to be used both in Geneva and by other organizations, including through distance learning.

32. In establishing the new board, UNCTAD expected to draw on the relevant experience of other UN bodies, such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); it would then come up with proposals on the board's composition. Successful implementation would also depend on the shared responsibility of Governments and other organizations involved in training and capacity-building, and on UNCTAD's cooperation with such mechanisms as the newly established International Institute for Trade and Development. That institute had been created in order to train not just Thai nationals, but people from throughout the region, including from such least developed countries as Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. The institute would provide a way of reaching those people at much lower cost. Another mechanism would be the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to the LDCs, which would be reviewed this summer by the heads of the six participating agencies during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. Day by day, UNCTAD's cooperation with the Geneva-based trade organizations was increasing, and the result would be a better-integrated joint programme of work.

33. The representative of the **United States** asked if there was any timetable for implementation of the paragraph.

1 The consultations approved the agenda items for the first meetings of the Commissions and the related expert meetings, as well as the dates of the meetings (for the list of agenda items, expert meetings and dates of meetings, see annex III.) Concerning the note on improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, the Consultations decided to allow a one-cycle trial period for the implementation of the recommendations contained in document TD/B/EX(24)/L.1 and to review the experience in one year's time after the completion of the first cycle of meetings on 24 March 2001.

34. The representative of **Uruguay** welcomed the appointment of the focal point but said it had never been the intent of the Plan of Action to create new structures within the secretariat, but rather to reorganize. He asked that a specific proposal be made by September.
35. The representative of **Portugal**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said the proposed training curricula must be based on the specific knowledge and expertise acquired by the secretariat, and that it should not be necessary to create a new structure.
36. The representative of **Switzerland** said the contents of the training curricula should be more clearly defined and should contribute value added for the beneficiary countries. The members of the advisory body should be chosen transparently and its functions clearly defined.
37. The representative of **Pakistan** said the issue of implementation had produced confusion over the original intent of the paragraph. Open-ended consultations should therefore be encouraged to focus on what was required.
38. The representative of **Brazil** said the scope of expertise covered by the curricula, and the scope of the focal point's activities, should not be limited to UNCTAD.
39. The representative of **Bolivia** said that paragraph 166 expressed a strongly felt need and should not be put into a straitjacket. He was confident that concrete proposals would be presented in September.
40. The representative of **Morocco** said the Board should concentrate on discussions with the focal point, draw up a calendar so as to get started quickly and make a list of matters to be discussed.
41. The representative of **Cuba** said there was an urgent need for implementation of the paragraph, for a calendar, and for the implementation process to go beyond the expertise of UNCTAD.
42. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the goal was to complete the process by September and to submit proposals to the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget in time for the October meeting of the TDB. Some degree of initiative would have to be defined in the course of consultations. The perception that some aspects of paragraph 166 were unclear in fact reflected the reality: delegations had been under pressure in Bangkok, and there had been insufficient time to examine all the implications. The secretariat had no intention of interfering with its well-established and successful training projects; it was essential to respect the specificity of those projects and to see which of their innovative aspects could be used to fertilize other projects. The idea was not to meddle with what already existed and was in good shape, which should be supported, but rather to seek where the value added dimension could be found – and that was clearly the more difficult, but creative, aspect: to determine what UNCTAD should become in future.
43. An example was the preparation of developing countries for upcoming trade negotiations, which constituted a necessary, but not the only, element for their success in the world trading

system. There were also supply problems to be considered, requiring a multidisciplinary approach, both on the part of UNCTAD's partners and on the part of its own Divisions. The question was how to integrate their respective efforts and ensure they were complementary and not isolated; that was where the deliberations of the new Advisory Board should concentrate, and that was where the specificity of UNCTAD lay.

Chapter II

REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

(Agenda item 3)

44. For its consideration of this item at its resumed session, the Board had before it the following documentation:

“UNCTAD calendar of meetings” (TD/B/EX(24)/L.4)

45. The President of the Board said the calendar, which had been approved at the President’s consultations on 31 March 2000, reflected meetings for the remainder of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001. There had been one subsequent amendment: the thirty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget would take place from 11 to 15 September, and the Fourth UN Review on the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices would take place from 25 to 29 September.

Action

46. At its 913th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Board approved the calendar of meetings, as amended. (For the calendar of meetings as amended, see TD/B/INF.193.)

Chapter III

OTHER BUSINESS

(Agenda item 4)

47. At the first part of the session, the secretariat introduced its new report, and the related CD, on “Building Confidence”, which dealt with developmental issues pertaining to electronic commerce, as well as the CD-ROM version of UNCTAD’s Handbook on Statistics.

(a) Agenda of the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board

48. At the resumed session, the **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that consultations were to be held on the theme of the high-level segment the following week, and he would suggest that the theme be something of immediate interest; of great relevance to development; and on which the secretariat would be in a position to provide documentation in time. Three possibilities under consideration were mergers and acquisitions; finance for development; and policy coherence.

Action

49. At its 913th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Board approved the provisional agenda, with the exception of the theme of the high-level segment, on which the Secretary-General was asked to complete his consultations. (For the provisional agenda as approved, see annex IV.)

(b) Draft decision submitted by Bangladesh on behalf of the least developed countries

50. For its consideration of this item at its resumed session, the Board had before it the following documentation:

“Draft decision submitted by Bangladesh, coordinator of the least developed countries”
(TD/B/EX(24)/L.6)

51. The coordinator of the **least developed countries** in Geneva (Bangladesh), introducing the draft decision, said the draft proposed that the Board should establish a standing intergovernmental body to deal with the overall monitoring of progress in the implementation of policies and measures in favour of LDCs. Such a machinery did not currently exist, and its absence was felt most keenly. It would help integrate LDC-related issues into the work of the intergovernmental machinery and create greater synergy.

52. After the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, an intergovernmental monitoring mechanism would become absolutely essential. Ideally, it should be done on at least two levels: within UNCTAD, and within the intergovernmental system; otherwise, the results would go nowhere. Consultations with delegations revealed that, although there was an extremely positive response to the idea, more time might be necessary to reach a broad consensus on the matter. Accordingly, he proposed that consultations be held soon, under the auspices of the President.

53. The spokesperson for the **African Group** (Egypt) welcomed the draft decision, saying that it came at the appropriate stage in the preparations for LDC-III and would enable the LDCs to make headway. It was understood that the intergovernmental body proposed in the draft would meet twice: in fall 2000, during the regular session of the Board, and again in spring 2001, to discuss the Conference.

54. The representative of **Haiti** said the proposed mechanism would enhance the effective coordination of the LDCs, and it would need financial support. It was important to stress the need to strengthen the export capacity-building of LDCs and to reduce their marginality and increase their contribution to the world economy.

55. The spokesperson for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Ecuador) said his Group had no problem with the decision, but as no coordination meeting had been held to discuss it, no endorsement could yet be given. However, that would be done in the near future.

56. The spokesperson for the **Asian Group and China** (Malaysia) said that although the Group had not met to discuss the draft, it would have no difficulty in accepting it, as it merited the support of all UNCTAD member States. Consultations should be held.

57. The representative of **Cuba** said that, at the South Summit of the Group of 77 held in Havana in April 2000, almost all the Group's members had expressed concern with the increasing marginalization of the LDCs and had called on the international community to take action. The draft decision would provide a good opportunity to resolve the problems of financing and infrastructure, within the framework of UNCTAD, as had been called for at the South Summit. His country supported it.

58. The representative of **Burundi** said he supported the draft, which was extremely useful. It should be approved before the next Board meeting, or by year-end, so as to enable the LDCs to benefit from UNCTAD's continuing support.

59. The representative of **China** said that, as UNCTAD was responsible for LDC issues within the UN system, and as his country sympathized with the plight of those nations, China would support any effort undertaken by UNCTAD in relation to the proposed decision.

60. The representative of **Sudan** said the draft decision would strengthen the activities of UNCTAD on behalf of the LDCs and also strengthen national and international initiatives under way for the Conference.

61. The representative of **Portugal**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said the Union's activities for the Conference showed its support of LDCs in general. He supported the draft.

62. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said the forthcoming LDC Conference was one of the central challenges in giving expression to the results of UNCTAD X. He reported on his recent meetings in Washington with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and in Brussels with representatives of the European Commission, the EU and Belgium. This was the first time the EU was collectively hosting a major conference for developing countries.

63. The new agreement to be signed at Suva in June by the EU and the ACP countries, replacing the Lomé IV Convention, would constitute an important lead-up to the Conference, as 39 of the LDCs were also part of that grouping. Requirements for the Conference went beyond UNCTAD's capacity to ensure its success, and many of its elements would have to come from other organizations and member States.

64. He hoped that the ongoing discussions at the WTO on accession agreements would lead to results, and not to further promises. In that regard, UNCTAD could not do much to produce results, nor could it replicate the other organization's work; each must respect the other's jurisdiction.

65. The Bretton Woods institutions were actively engaged in discussing poverty reduction strategies and plans for specific developing countries, most of which also happened to be LDCs. Their objectives were different, but they should be complementary to those of UNCTAD and the Conference, and mutually reinforcing. While poverty reduction was also a central question for LDC-III, the Conference would have to cover other aspects as well, especially UNCTAD's specific contribution: enhancing the productive capacity of LDCs. UNCTAD had no specific social or poverty mandate; nonetheless, everything it did should help to further the goal of poverty elimination.

66. There were some procedural complexities to do with the Conference, such as the fact that it was a UN, not an UNCTAD, conference, and that the preparatory process was not based in Geneva. A lesson had been learned from the fact that neither of the previous two LDC conferences had created an appropriate monitoring or follow-up mechanism.

67. The representative of **Morocco** said that nothing in the draft decision would help LDCs. The fourth preambular and first operative paragraphs were contradictory: it was one thing to integrate LDC issues into the work of the intergovernmental machinery, and quite another to create a new body. Furthermore, UNCTAD X had been meant as a stepping stone to LDC-III; its programme on LDCs should be implemented. It was inadvisable to build up something that would not produce the expected outcome; rather, the commitment made at Bangkok should be fulfilled, as it already called for a substantial amount of work to be done on the LDCs.

Action

68. At its 913th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Board decided that consultations should be held on the draft decision under the authority of the President.

(c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

69. At its 913th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Board took note that there were no new applications for consideration at the current session and that the number of intergovernmental organizations in status remained 108 (as contained in TD/B/IGO/LIST/2 and adds.1, 2 and 3).

(d) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure

70. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

“Application by Jubilee 2000 Coalition” (TD/B/EX(24)/R.1)

71. At its 913th plenary meeting, the Board took note that at present, there were 189 NGOs in status, 105 in the general category and 84 in the special category (as contained in TD/B/NGO/LIST/3 and adds.1 and 2). It approved the application of Jubilee 2000 Coalition and decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and of the Bureau, to designate the organization for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure and to classify it in the special category in accordance with paragraph 12 (b) of decision 43 (VII) of the Board so that it may participate in the activities of the Commissions on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities and Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. It also asked to be notified earlier of such applications, and of suspensions from the list.

72. The Board asked the secretariat to take note of the statement made by the representative of **China** and endorsed by the representative of **Japan** that, in order to facilitate the relevant consultations, delegations should be given sufficient time to look into the issues and if necessary to seek instructions from the capitals.

73. At the same meeting, the Board agreed to suspend from status the following NGOs which had failed to be in communication with the secretariat during the past three years and to remove them from the list of NGOs in status until such time as they re-established communication with UNCTAD: Association of African Trading Enterprises (ASATRADE); Association of Insurance Supervisory Authorities of Developing Countries (AISADC); Latin American and Caribbean Free Zone Association (AZOLCA); and United States Trademark Association (USTA). It was noted that such action was called for in accordance with decision 43 (VII) of the Board, which stipulates in its paragraph 4 that organizations should undertake to support the work of UNCTAD and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities.

74. With regard to NGOs in status, the Board further took note that the World Export Processing Zones Association is now the World Economic Processing Zones Association, retaining the acronym WEPZA, and that the International Enterprise Foundation of Geneva had been deleted from the list of NGOs in status since it had informed the UNCTAD secretariat that it had discontinued its activities.

(e) Other matters

75. The representative of the **United States** said that the concrete measures being taken by the UN Secretary-General to ensure accountability should be embraced by all bodies, including UNCTAD. All missions should assist the secretariat in finding the best candidates for the vacant directorships in the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies and the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development. Her country was particularly concerned that highly qualified candidates from the under-represented regions of Africa and Asia should be solicited.

76. The representative of **Bolivia** asked that the Spanish translation of paragraph 2 of document

TD/B/WP/L.96 should be revised in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Bangkok Plan of Action.

77. The representative of **Portugal** asked for the list of memorandums of understanding signed by the secretariat with national organizations, noting that this was the third time he had made the request.

Chapter IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of session

78. The first part of the twenty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 24 March 2000, and the resumed session on 12 May 2000. The session was opened by Mr. Philippe Petit (France), President of the Board.

B. Bureau of the twenty-fourth executive session

79. There being no change in the elected officers of the Bureau since the forty-sixth session, the Bureau of the Board at its twenty-fourth executive session was as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Philippe Petit	(France)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Mrs. Fayza Abounaga	(Egypt)
	Mr. Munir Akram	(Pakistan)
	Mr. Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn	(Thailand)
	Mr. Koichi Haraguchi	(Japan)
	Mr. Walter Lewalter	(Germany)
	Mr. George Moose	(United States of America)
	Mr. Goce Petreski	(The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
	Mr. Camilo Reyes-Rodriguez	(Colombia)
	Mr. Ronald Saborío Soto	(Costa Rica)
	Mr. Vasily Sidorov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mr. Xolisa M. Mabhongo	(South Africa)

C. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 1)

80. The Board adopted the provisional agenda for its twenty-fourth executive session (contained in TD/B/EX(24)/1). (See annex I.)

D. Report of the Board on its twenty-fourth executive session

(Agenda item 5)

81. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report on its current session under the authority of the President.

ANNEXES

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH EXECUIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Follow-up to the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference
3. Review of the calendar of meetings
4. Other business
5. Report of the Board on its twenty-fourth executive session

Annex II**ATTENDANCE***

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session:

Albania	Guatemala
Algeria	Guinea
Argentina	Haiti
Australia	Honduras
Austria	Iceland
Azerbaijan	India
Bangladesh	Indonesia
Barbados	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belarus	Ireland
Belgium	Israel
Bolivia	Italy
Brazil	Jamaica
Bulgaria	Japan
Burundi	Jordan
China	Kenya
Columbia	Kuwait
Côte d'Ivoire	Lebanon
Croatia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Cuba	Luxembourg
Czech Republic	Madagascar
Dominican Republic	Malaysia
Ecuador	Malta
Egypt	Mauritius
Ethiopia	Mexico
Finland	Mongolia
France	Morocco
Gabon	Nepal
Georgia	Netherlands
Germany	New Zealand
Ghana	Norway

* For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(24)/INF.2.

Panama	Sudan
Paraguay	Switzerland
Peru	Thailand
Philippines	The Former Yugoslav
Poland	Republic of Macedonia
Portugal	Trinidad and Tobago
Republic of Korea	Tunisia
Republic of Moldova	Turkey
Romania	Ukraine
Russian Federation	United Kingdom of Great
Saudi Arabia	Britain and Northern Ireland
Senegal	United Republic of Tanzania
Singapore	United States of America
Slovakia	Uruguay
Slovenia	Venezuela
South Africa	Viet Nam
Spain	Yemen
Sri Lanka	Zambia
Sweden	

2. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Board, were represented as observers at the session:

Holy See
Lesotho
Rwanda

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

Arab Labour Organization
European Community
League of Arab States
South Centre

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Monetary Fund
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

5. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was represented at the session.
6. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO was also represented at the session.
7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

Engineers of the World
International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Women
International Organization for Standardization
World Federation of United Nations Associations
World Vision International

Annex III

AGENDA ITEMS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF EACH COMMISSION AND RELATED EXPERT MEETINGS

**A. Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
(26 February - 2 March 2001)**

- The sustainable use of biological resources
Systems and national experiences for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (30 October - 1 November 2000)
- Major agricultural concerns of developing countries
Impact of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food importing developing countries and ways to address their concerns in multilateral trade negotiations (24-26 July 2000)
- Analysis of ways to enhance the contribution of specific services sectors to the development perspectives of developing countries
National experiences with regulations and liberalization: examples in the construction services sector and its contribution to the development of developing countries (23-25 October 2000)
- Analysis of market access issues facing developing countries
Impact of anti-dumping and countervailing actions (4-6 December 2000)

**B. Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
(12-16 February 2001)**

- Impact of international investment flows on development
Mergers and acquisitions: Policies aimed at maximizing the positive and minimizing the possible negative impact of international investment (date to be determined)
- ISAR
Promoting transparency and financial disclosure: accounting by SMEs (3-5 July 2000)
- International policy issues
Home country measures (8-10 November 2000)

**C. Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
(22-26 January 2001)**

- Capacity-building in electronic commerce: impact of the new economy on traditional sectors of developing economies
Electronic commerce and tourism (18-20 September 2000)
- Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services: key to growth with special potential for LDCs (2-4 October 2000)
- Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the context of FDI in developing countries
Relationships between SMEs and TNCs to ensure the competitiveness of SMEs (27-29 November 2000)

D. Executive session of the Trade and Development Board

26 March 2001 - Commission A
28 March 2001 - Commission B
30 March 2001 - Commission C

Annex IV**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD**

1. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
 - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
 - (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Board
2. High-level segment: **(theme to be determined)**
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: crisis and recovery in emerging markets
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
 - (a) The challenge of financing development in least developed countries.
 - (b) Review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: financial flows and economic growth in Africa
6. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
 - (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
8. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
 - (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
 - (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report