



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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### Trade and Development Board

#### Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

Sixty-sixth session

Geneva, 2–4 December 2013

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 2 to 4 December 2013

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

#### A. Review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017

(Agenda item 3)

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

1. *Concurs* with the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017, as contained in document TD/B/WP(66)/CRP.1/Rev.1;

2. *Recommends* to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that he take full account of document TD/B/WP(66)/CRP.1/Rev.1 as the basis for his submission of the revised draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for subsequent review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and by the United Nations General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that the relevant views expressed by member States during intergovernmental deliberations in Geneva, Switzerland, are transmitted in a timely manner to the entities dealing with programmatic and budgetary issues; in particular, member States wished to bring to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Coordination issues related to the balance of UNCTAD activities for different country groupings, in line with the decisions of the Doha Mandate;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of UNCTAD to consider, in consultation with member States, exploring ways of improving the current indicators and/or possibilities of identifying new indicators concurrently with the 2016–2017 budget process.

**B. Follow-up on recommendations from the external evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development**

(Agenda item 4(a))

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

*Having further discussed* the external evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development, 2008–2012, as contained in document TD/B/WP/252, the supporting materials for the evaluation, as contained in document TD/B/WP(65)/CRP.2, and the management response to the evaluation, as contained in document TD/B/WP(65)/CRP.1,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the work of subprogramme 1 and highlights its relevance in promoting economic policies and strategies for the sustainable and beneficial integration of developing countries into the interdependent global economy;
2. *Takes note* of the evaluation report and management response, endorses the findings of the evaluation team and requests the secretariat to implement the recommendations of the evaluation within UNCTAD's mandate as appropriate;
3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to enhance research coordination and synergy within the secretariat on the preparation of flagship publications;
4. *Requests* the secretariat of UNCTAD to report back on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations at the next session of the Working Party on technical cooperation.

**C. Follow-up on recommendations from the evaluation of the UNCTAD programme on science and technology for development**

(Agenda item 4(b))

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

*Having further discussed* the recommendations contained in the evaluation report on the UNCTAD programme on science and technology for development (TD/B/WP/234, TD/B/WP(59)/CRP.1),

1. *Endorses* the workplan presented by the secretariat for the implementation of recommendations contained in document TD/B/WP/234 and requests the secretariat to proceed with its implementation;
2. *Requests* the secretariat of UNCTAD to report back on the progress made in the implementation of the workplan at the next session of the Working Party on technical cooperation.

**D. Other business**

(Agenda item 6)

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

*Takes note* of the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy, recognizes its importance and looks forward to its further consideration at the next session of the Working Party.

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

### **A. Proceedings**

1. The sixty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 4 December 2013, to consider the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 and to follow up on evaluations.

### **B. Statements**

2. The following speakers made opening statements: the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Ethiopia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Iraq on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Benin on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group; the representative of Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group; and the representative of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

### **C. Informal meetings**

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

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

#### **1. Review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 (Agenda item 3)**

4. The Working Party, having considered the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017, took note of the plan as contained in document TD/B/WP(66)/CRP.1/Rev.1.

5. Several delegations expressed support for the work of UNCTAD and highlighted the importance of the involvement of member States in the programme planning process, while calling on the secretariat to further improve the results-based management orientation of its work and the quality of the indicators of achievement. Member States and officials of the UNCTAD secretariat responsible for the various subprogrammes exchanged views on the document under deliberation. Member States agreed on several proposals for changes to document TD/B/WP(66)/CRP.1/Rev.1, mainly in the introduction and in the strategy sections of the different subprogrammes.

6. The representative of one regional group expressed strong reservation regarding paragraph 17(e) of component 2 of subprogramme 3 of document TD/B/WP(66)/CRP.1/Rev.1 and had suggested shortening it to read “continue its work in the area of non-food commodities”, in line with the mandate agreed in Doha. As there had not been agreement among regional coordinators on this point, he requested that the Chair's summary of the present Working Party session reflect this reservation. He further requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to reconsider this part of the text when making his submission of the draft proposed Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 to the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

7. The representative also requested that the Secretary-General propose in the future, for consideration by member States, indicators of achievement reflecting the number of requests from member States that the UNCTAD secretariat was able to fulfil as compared to the total number of requests received, in order to be able to reflect the resource gap of the UNCTAD secretariat.

8. The representative of another regional group noted the consensus among member States on the need to improve the indicators of achievement. She expressed strong regret however that, despite this, the indicators of achievement proposed by the secretariat had been left mostly unchanged as a result of the lack of agreement on how to change them. The situation thereby reduced the opportunities of member States to influence the definition of the programme of work of UNCTAD for the 2016–2017 biennium. She requested that this regret be reflected in the Chair's summary.

9. The representative of another regional group noted his expectation that partners understood the concerns expressed regarding the points discussed towards the end of the meeting. The representative of another regional group stated that the debate had opened the door to further discussion of the indicators in the future.

10. Several delegations expressed concern about the lack of availability of the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 in all official languages of the United Nations. The secretariat clarified that consideration of the document was part of the process foreseen in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation for intergovernmental bodies to provide inputs to the secretariat. The secretariat further clarified that the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017 would be officially published in New York in 2014 as part of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 of the United Nations. At that point, translations in all official languages would be made available.

## **2. Other business** (Agenda item 6)

11. The Working Party agreed that regional coordinators would further consider the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy informally and that they would report back at the sixty-seventh session of the Working Party session in March 2014. This decision was reflected in the provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Working Party adopted at the present session.

12. The representative of one intergovernmental organization noted that the focus of the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy for technical cooperation activities should be on improving UNCTAD's ability to mobilize funds, rather than redefining the broader technical cooperation strategy of the organization. The strategy should be balanced in addressing the role of all stakeholders, including the central proactive role of the secretariat, and avoid putting most of the burden on donors. The strategy should also contain actionable items rather than only statements of principle. Given these general comments and following informal exchanges with other groups, she suggested therefore that regional coordinators continue to discuss the strategy informally with a view to developing a set of goals for the strategy on the basis of the recommendations proposed by the secretariat. The secretariat could then prepare a new version of the fundraising strategy with specific actionable items under each goal.

13. The representative of one regional group noted that he considered the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy to be a good document and that his group would continue to work on it with other groups.

## **II. Organizational matters**

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

(Agenda item 1)

14. At the opening plenary meeting, on 2 December 2013, the Working Party elected Mrs. Carmen Elena Castillo-Gallandat (El Salvador) as its Chair and Ms. Vera Fuchs (Austria) as its Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

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

(Agenda item 2)

15. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP/256). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2016–2017
4. Follow-up on evaluations:
  - (a) Follow-up on recommendations from the external evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development
  - (b) Follow-up on recommendations from the evaluation of the UNCTAD programme on science and technology for development
5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh 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 sixty-seventh session of the Working Party**

(Agenda item 5)

16. At its closing plenary meeting on 4 December 2013, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh session (see annex I).

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

(Agenda item 7)

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

## **Annex I**

### **Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Working Party**

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the implementation of UNCTAD's communications strategy and publications policy
4. Consideration of the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy
5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Working Party
6. Other business
7. 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
Barbados	Kazakhstan
Belarus	Switzerland
China	United States of America
Germany	
Guatemala	

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

Bahamas	Jordan
Benin	Lithuania
Côte d'Ivoire	Maldives
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mauritius
Dominican Republic	Mexico
Egypt	Morocco
El Salvador	Nepal
Estonia	Peru
Ethiopia	Philippines
Finland	Poland
France	Saudi Arabia
Greece	South Africa
Indonesia	Spain
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Togo
Jamaica	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
	Zimbabwe

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

European Union  
Organization of Islamic Cooperation

4. The following specialized agency was represented at the session:

International Telecommunication Union

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\* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/WP(66)/INF.1.