



**United Nations Conference  
on Trade and Development**

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**Trade and Development Board**

Sixty-seventh executive session  
Geneva, 4–6 February 2019

**Report of the Trade and Development Board  
on its sixty-seventh executive session**


Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 6 February 2019

**Report to the United Nations General Assembly**

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## Introduction

The sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 6 February 2019. In the course of the session, the Board held five plenary meetings.

### I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

#### A. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual*

##### Agreed conclusions 543 (EX-LXVII)

###### *The Trade and Development Board*

1. *Welcomes* the UNCTAD *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation: Beyond Business as Usual*, and commends it for the quality of its analysis, the pertinence of its policy recommendations and the timeliness of the choice of its topic;

2. *Welcomes* UNCTAD analysis on structural transformation and entrepreneurship as a valuable guideline for policymakers;

3. *Acknowledges* transformational entrepreneurship as a vital link to wealth creation, decent work and innovation, and highlights its important role in achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions;

4. *Remains* deeply concerned that continued high rates of adult and youth unemployment, combined with low productive capabilities in least developed countries, whose international share of trade in the global economy remains marginal, act to dampen entrepreneurial vigour and favour sectors having low entry barriers and limited skill requirements, but less transformational potential for structural transformation and sustainable development;

5. *Concurs* that creating new momentum for economic growth and achieving decisive progress towards job creation and the expansion of opportunities for all, including women and youth, in least developed country economies will require supporting high-level skills and transformational entrepreneurship that is essential for harnessing the economic potential and benefits of globalization and technological progress;

6. *Stresses* that the extended use of information and communications technologies, including electronic commerce, should boost entrepreneurship among women, youth and young people in order to be an important enabler for growing entrepreneurial and development opportunities in the least developed countries, and calls for government policies to support and mainstream use, in cooperation with all the relevant local and international stakeholders, in order to implement these policies systematically to benefit the whole of society;

7. *Acknowledges* the importance of promoting development-oriented policies that enhance the role of medium-sized and large enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization through balanced and robust local enterprise ecosystems, encompassing all types and sizes of firms, to generate mutually reinforcing production linkages;

8. *Appreciates* the analysis of gender aspects of entrepreneurship and structural transformation, highlighting the role of national policies and strategies in the least developed countries to support, as appropriate, women's access to transformational entrepreneurial opportunities;

9. *Encourages* least developed country Governments to continue to pursue the creation of a conducive environment for enterprise development in both rural and urban areas by giving particular attention to policies that promote transformational entrepreneurship, including by giving importance to sustaining and scaling up of businesses as a priority objective of national entrepreneurship policies, and by aligning support to the stages of growth in a firm's life cycle;

10. *Encourages* development partners for increased support to the least developed countries, as reflected in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), in enhancing productive capacity with concrete actions through development of infrastructure, energy, and science, technology and innovation and the private sector;

11. *Invites* donor countries and countries in a position to do so to replenish the UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries, which serves as an important tool for UNCTAD to quickly and effectively respond to increasing demands from the least developed countries for its work;

12. *Calls* on the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to strengthen efforts in the dissemination of research findings and undertake policy dialogue with policymakers of the least developed countries and their development partners.

*Closing plenary meeting  
6 February 2019*

## **B. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development**

### **Decision 544 (EX-LXVII)**

The Trade and Development Board takes note with appreciation of the deliberations of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development; acknowledges the report of the expert discussions as contained in TD/B/EFD/2/3, and the agreed policy recommendations contained therein; and agrees with the submission of these outcomes as the intergovernmental experts' input to the Economic and Social Council forum on Financing for Development follow-up, as called for in paragraph 27 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/204.

*Closing plenary meeting  
6 February 2019*

## **C. Other business**

### **Decision 545 (EX-LXVII)**

The Trade and Development Board, mindful of the importance of the appropriate functioning of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, on programme review, requests the President of the Trade and Development Board to urge the Comptroller in New York to promptly, as appropriate, provide the comments on the draft terms of reference, which were shared through the UNCTAD secretariat, of this subsidiary organ of the Trade and Development Board, so that they can be adopted by the Trade and Development Board.

*Closing plenary meeting  
6 February 2019*

### **Decision 544 (EX-LXVII)**

The Trade and Development Board decides that the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should take place after June 2020.

*Closing plenary meeting  
6 February 2019*

## D. Other action taken by the Board

### *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual*

1. At its closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board approved the agreed conclusions distributed in the room as a non-paper (see chapter I, section A, above).

### **Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme**

2. At its third plenary meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party on its seventy-sixth session, as contained in document TD/B/WP/293, and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

3. Also at its third plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party on its seventy-seventh session, as contained in document TD/B/WP/295, and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

### **Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**

4. At its third plenary meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its tenth session (TD/B/C.II/40), and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

5. The representatives of some regional groups recalled the essential role of investment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the importance of UNCTAD policy tools, in particular the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the investment policy review process and the international investment agreement programme, in supporting member States. In the current context of decreasing foreign direct investment flows, several delegations underscored the relevance of UNCTAD research work on investment and noted the quality of data work on foreign direct investment and the activities of multinational enterprises, as well as the relevance for policymaking. Several delegations acknowledged the value of capacity-building in attracting and benefiting from foreign direct investment, including through the support provided to national institutions, and called on UNCTAD to further expand its work in the area. Some delegations emphasized the synergetic contribution of the three pillars of work of UNCTAD in the area of investment and enterprise and stressed the scope of opportunities for advancing development issues offered by the World Investment Forum.

6. The representative of one regional group stressed the fundamental role of access to technology and knowledge-sharing for development. She stressed the importance of policy space in bridging the digital divide and underlined that innovation and knowledge played a key role in the Sustainable Development Goals. The regional group recognized the value of the secretariat's flagship *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development* and concurred with its recommendations. Another regional group noted satisfaction with UNCTAD technical assistance in the area of science, technology and innovation, including science, technology and innovation policy reviews and electronic trade readiness assessments, and encouraged the secretariat to pursue work in the area. One delegate praised the support received from UNCTAD in reviewing his country's science technology and innovation policy, while another delegate thanked the secretariat for organizing a very successful electronic commerce (e-commerce) week in Africa and recommended that the event should be annual.

### **Report of the Trade and Development Commission**

7. Also at its third plenary meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Trade and Development Commission on its tenth session, as contained in document TD/B/C.I/46, and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

8. The representative of one regional group noted the importance of trade facilitation, its contribution to improving the trade performance of developing countries and the

secretariat's contributions in the area, invited UNCTAD to continue contributing to the debate among international institutions on maritime transport and highlighted the significant contributions of UNCTAD to trade for development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the least developed countries, Africa and small island developing States (vulnerable countries). She also invited UNCTAD to continue to monitor and analyse trade trends and the impact of trade tensions on developing countries.

9. One delegate recognized the role of UNCTAD in operational topics such as maritime transport, monitoring and analysing the impacts on cooperation agreements and statistics, which were crucial for developing countries that sometimes lacked capacity in those areas. Another delegate said the report inadequately reflected the adverse impact of unilateral sanctions and how they damaged competition; despite generally objective analysis, there were no concrete recommendations on moving out of stagnation. The secretariat should make comprehensive proposals in relation to the multilateral trading system towards greater fairness and equal opportunities.

### **Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development**

10. At its closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, the Trade and Development Board adopted a decision on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development on its second session (TD/B/EFD/2/39) (see chapter I, section B, above).

### **Other business**

#### *Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre*

11. At its third plenary meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report on the fifty-second session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

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

12. At its closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, the Board adopted a decision on the terms of reference of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget (see chapter 1, section C).

13. Also, the President of the Board proposed that, once the UNCTAD secretariat received feedback on the terms of reference from New York, comments should be addressed by the extended Bureau.

## **II. President's summary**

### **A. Opening plenary meeting**

#### **Opening statement**

14. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD noted the sobering international environment. The world economy was slowing, ongoing trade tensions were stripping terms such as industrial policy and technology transfer of their development meaning and instead, weaponizing them, ahead of what could become a longer-term technological cold war. Trust in multilateral solutions was at an all-time low and negotiators, and the Geneva trade community, were accused of not being in touch with the common people, but instead, of listening to the concerns of the rich. Getting through those challenges required concerted efforts, as well as measurable progress.

15. The least developed countries, the weakest members of the international community, were the most concerned with the negative consequences of that scenario. They were the most dependent on a healthy global economy, international solidarity and fidelity to international commitments. A forthcoming UNCTAD report, to be presented during the

session and entitled “Selected Sustainable Development Trends in the Least Developed Countries – 2019”, shows that, in 2018, 40 per cent of the least developed countries registered lower growth than in 2017 and eight least developed countries grew by less than 2.5 per cent a year. Those figures situated them well below the internationally agreed target of 7 per cent annual growth and, by far, the furthest behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The least developed countries were being marginalized from global attention. The importance placed on private sector solutions to development solutions, in the United Nations system, Davos and elsewhere, largely overlooked the realities faced by most least developed countries. Blended finance, public–private partnerships and impact investment were commonly mentioned, yet those solutions were barely on the radar of the least developed countries and their Governments.

16. That was the context of the analysis behind *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual*. The report looked at the role of least developed country entrepreneurs to embark on a path of sustainable growth and structural transformation, addressing the particularities of entrepreneurship in those countries. It questioned the conventional wisdom about entrepreneurship in poor countries that targets small and medium-sized enterprise development, thereby offering small solutions to big problems. The report instead focused on the need for dynamic entrepreneurship to enable structural change in the least developed countries, adding new value to the discussion of private sector solutions, by highlighting the need for coherence between entrepreneurship strategies and policies geared towards developing productive capacity. It looked at how entrepreneurship promotion must work with industrial policy, rural development and science, technology and innovation policies. Solidarity with the least developed countries had reached a low point, while they were still striving to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted in 2011. At the same time, preparations would soon begin for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to take place in 2021.

17. Finally, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD also looked forward to continuing informal consultations on a host country for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## **B. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual***

(Agenda item 2)

18. The UNCTAD secretariat presented *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018*.

19. The representatives of the following regional groups and delegations made statements: Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Malawi, on behalf of the least developed countries; the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; Togo, on behalf of the African Group; Pakistan, on behalf of the Asia–Pacific Group; Canada, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; Algeria, on behalf of the Arab Group; China; Nepal; Estonia, on behalf of Group D; Tunisia; Nigeria; Uganda; the Russian Federation; the Islamic Republic of Iran; the State of Palestine; Djibouti; and Morocco.

20. The representatives of many regional groupings and delegates commended the insightful and evidence-based analysis of the report and the work of the UNCTAD secretariat over the years on least developed country issues. Several regional groups noted the coherence and synergy across successive reports, while one delegate also highlighted the relevance of the body of work for other developing countries.

21. Many regional groups and delegates welcomed the policy recommendations of the current report, highlighting the valuable and useful guidance for policy formulation on transformational entrepreneurship, rural development, building of export productive capacity, addressing gender-based constraints, investment policy, energy, innovation and leveraging of digital and creative economies. Some regional groups also expressed appreciation for the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and the Empretec programme.

22. Several regional groups and delegates stated that much work on various fronts was required to help the least developed countries to overcome challenges in nurturing transformational entrepreneurship, including addressing related soft and hard infrastructure that prevented substantial progress in graduating from least developed country status. National policy environments, informality, rising global tensions and unilateralism were challenges to growth in entrepreneurship. Some regional groups and several delegates emphasized the key role of trade in integrating the least developed countries into the global economy, expressing concern that the least developed countries remained marginalized in global trade and disadvantaged in the area of integration into global production chains. Some delegates emphasized the role of the public sector and long-term strategic finance as vital elements in fostering transformational entrepreneurship.

23. Several delegations urged the international community to safeguard multilateralism and advocated for increased development financing to support the efforts of the least developed countries in nurturing transformational entrepreneurship, including by inviting development partners to honour their commitments on development finance and least developed country Governments, to continue to prioritize putting in place enabling business environments. One regional group urged the least developed countries to assess the impact of existing bilateral investment treaties, in line with the recommendations emanating from UNCTAD analysis.

24. Several delegations stressed the need for UNCTAD to follow up its research analysis by extending practical assistance programmes to advance the implementation of the recommendations of its reports. In that regard, one regional group considered whether UNCTAD research gave rise to effective programmes or remained in the academic realm. One delegate encouraged UNCTAD to pursue increased collaboration with other organizations working to advance the aims of the Istanbul Plan of Action. Several delegations called upon UNCTAD and development partners to improve the impact of their support to the least developed countries. Another regional group highlighted the need for technical assistance to leverage synergies between industrial and entrepreneurship policy and structural transformation in African least developed countries and, in that respect, called upon UNCTAD and other development partners to support the African Union's efforts in relation to the Continental Free Trade Area.

25. Several delegations provided information on their initiatives in providing development assistance to the least developed countries, including efforts to mobilize finance and collaborate with United Nations bodies.

#### **Presentation of a forthcoming UNCTAD publication**

26. The UNCTAD secretariat presented a forthcoming publication, entitled "Selected sustainable development trends in the least developed countries – 2019".

27. One delegate requested for clarification on the methodology used for the productive capacity index discussed in the report. In response, the secretariat explained that work on refining and further developing the methodology of the composite productive capacity index was ongoing. An initial assessment of countries using the productive capacity index had been undertaken only for the least developed countries. The secretariat said that, once finalized, the productive capacity index and its related databases would be made available for countries to use in undertaking their own national evaluations.

### **C. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development**

(Agenda item 6)

28. Under the agenda item, the report on the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development was presented by a representative of the Chair. The representative stressed the importance and urgency of avoiding a new developing country debt trap in the context of a difficult global economic environment and thus commended the timely deliberations at the session. Summarizing core contributions and outcomes, he welcomed the high quality of expert deliberations and their relevance for



national, regional and international solutions to current debt vulnerabilities in developing countries. He further underlined the continued important role of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in strengthening synergies between UNCTAD and New York in the area of financing for development, and recommended endorsement of the report by the Trade and Development Board.

29. A representative of the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development echoed those points and emphasized that the wide range of issues considered had resulted in an impressive set of in policy recommendations.

30. The representatives of several regional groups stated that they found the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development to be highly valuable, and recommended endorsement of its report by the Board. They stressed the high quality of the work and underlined the relevance of the support that the work provided for developing countries. They further encouraged continued analytical policy work, as well as technical assistance on debt issues, and highlighted the important contribution of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to broader discussions on financing for development within the United Nations system, in particular through reporting to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in New York. The representative of another regional group expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, as well as for its agreed policy recommendations, and underlined that the regional group remained open to discussions on the endorsement of the report on the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts by the Board.

31. The representative of one regional group argued that, at its second session, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts had worked outside the UNCTAD mandate and not respected the Intergovernmental Group of Experts' terms of references. Another regional group, disagreeing with the suggestion that the UNCTAD mandate and terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts had been disregarded, noted that high-level participation by experts from around the world who had responded to agreed guiding questions was an enriching experience and entirely in accordance with the terms of reference.

32. Many delegates expressed their strong support for the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development during its second session and the related report. They emphasized their concerns about growing debt vulnerabilities in their countries and regions and the timeliness and high quality of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts' deliberations on the topic. Along with one regional group, they welcomed the specific contributions in relation to middle-income countries, difficulties experienced by environmentally vulnerable small island developing States, sovereign debt restructuring issues and the systemic causes of developing country debt distress.

## **D. Other business**

(Agenda item 7)

### **Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world**

33. As agreed at the sixty-fifth session, part II, of the Trade and Development Board (TD/B/65(2)/4, paragraph 3), discussions on the *Trade and Development Report 2018: Power, Platforms and the Free Trade Delusion* would continue at its sixty-seventh executive session for member States that had not been in a position to participate when the report was initially presented and considered.

34. The representative of one regional group noted the critical tone and language of the report and called on UNCTAD to strengthen its internal review of publications to ensure objectivity, accuracy and the highest standards of peer-reviewed policy research on trade- and development-related issues. He expressed concern that the tone of the report differed from that of the overview, which had been made available a few weeks prior, and recommended a coherent approach in the future. On the findings related to the digitalization of the economy, the report contained many references critical of work on digital issues that

was undertaken in other forums, such as the World Trade Organization. The report also placed much greater emphasis on the threats related to digitalization. The question thus arose as to how developing countries could successfully engage in cross-border e-commerce if, in parallel, UNCTAD called for data sovereignty as, in its view, such a policy recommendation would prevent data from leaving a country.

35. The representative of another regional group stated that flagship publications were expected to demonstrate the highest standard in terms of rigorous analysis, sound policy recommendations and useful food for thought for member States. While not expecting to agree with everything in those publications, flagship and key reports should primarily be analytical or neutral in nature. He requested that peer review should be systematic in the development of flagship reports. The *Trade and Development Report 2018* had raised some concerns in his group in terms of some of its content, overall tone and characterization of the digital economy. It was important to work together in a positive and productive manner, and the regional group looked forward to contributing to further discussions on the challenges and opportunities ahead on international trade.

36. The Director of the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies stated that preparation of the *Trade and Development Report* series was a serious exercise involving in-depth economic analysis. The report series had always favoured development, in line with the 1964 mandate of UNCTAD. In that context, the various editions of the report had often provided a different narrative from those of the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and other institutions dominated by more advanced countries.

37. On the *Trade and Development Report 2018*, he noted that the report had received good media coverage. He also noted that concerns similar to those contained in the report had been recurrent in mainstream media, such as the *Financial Times*, which had sometimes used more forceful language. The issue of data sovereignty as addressed in the report should not be interpreted as a call for autarky, but rather, to underscore that developing countries needed to ensure they could build capacity in the digital economy to participate in it on a more or less equal footing with other countries, as they looked to benefit from new technologies and from further integration into the world economy which that implied. In that context, he reminded delegations of the significant asymmetries that remained among players within the world economy.

38. Responding to concerns regarding the report's tone in relation to digitalization, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD reaffirmed that there was a need to describe the threats that evolution in the area could pose for developing countries. She stated that, without such cautionary advice, it was unlikely that developing countries could grasp the positive aspects of the process. In that context, she saw no contradiction between the UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report 2018* and other UNCTAD activities, such as the undertaking of e-commerce weeks. On UNCTAD providing in-depth analyses even though findings might not always depict a positive scenario, she stressed the complementarity of those analyses with other UNCTAD tools that offered solutions to current challenges.

39. A number of regional groups and delegates expressed appreciation for the *Trade and Development Report 2018* and highlighted the need for UNCTAD work on the crucial topics developed in the report as their countries relied on UNCTAD to be aware of the challenges of digitalization.

40. In closing, the President of the Trade and Development Board welcomed the debate. A lack of consensus on the findings of the present report or of other flagship reports was normal and healthy. As development was the linchpin of UNCTAD, it was necessary to examine any new technological advance or new development in the economy, as well as to track the risks and opportunities for the future and for development. Thus, he trusted that the conversation had helped to dispel the impression on the part of some delegates that the methodology of UNCTAD was flawed.

### III. Organizational matters

#### A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 1)

41. At its opening plenary meeting, on 4 February 2019, the Trade and Development Board adopted the provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh executive session as contained in document TD/B/EX(67)/1. Accordingly, the agenda for the executive session was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual.*
3. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions.
4. Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.
5. Report of the Trade and Development Commission.
6. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.
7. Other business.
8. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-seventh executive session.

#### B. Other business

(Agenda item 7)

##### **Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board**

42. At the closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, the President of the Trade and Development Board informed the Board that the main topic and subtopics for the high-level segment of the sixty-sixth session had not yet been identified and proposed that:

- (a) The Board should request the President of the Board to be seized of the issue;
- (b) The extended Bureau should identify the topic for the high-level segment;
- (c) The Board should agree that the topic and subtopics would be reflected in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board, which would be published as document TD/B/66/1.

43. Taking account of the information and the proposal presented by the President, the Trade and Development Board approved the provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session, as contained in a non-paper dated 6 February 2019 (see annex I).

##### **Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

44. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the provisional agenda for its sixty-eighth executive session (see annex II), scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 October 2019.

##### **Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board**

45. At its fourth plenary meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Board approved two new applications from Gram Bharati Samiti (TD/B/EX(67)/R.1 and Corr.1) and the International

Trademark Association (TD/B/EX(67)/R.2) to be granted observer status with UNCTAD under the general category.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Review of the calendar of meetings**

46. At its closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, the UNCTAD secretariat confirmed the date agreed for the pending expert meeting as 14–16 October 2019. The Board approved the calendar of meetings for 2019, as contained in a non-paper dated 6 February 2019, as amended.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference**

47. Also at its closing plenary meeting, on 6 February 2019, the Board, taking into account the fact that the Twelfth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization was scheduled for June 2020, decided that the scheduling of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be set for afterwards (see chapter I, section C).

### **C. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-seventh executive session**

(Agenda item 8)

48. Also at the closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board authorized the completion of the report after the conclusion of the meeting under the authority of the President. The report would include the agreed conclusions and decisions that had been adopted, the actions and other decisions taken by the Board, including the issues discussed under agenda item 7 (Other business), the President's summary and annexes.

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<sup>1</sup> The updated list will be issued as document TD/B/NGO/LIST/24.

<sup>2</sup> The official calendar will be issued as document TD/B/INF.242.

## Annex I

### Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development 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 sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board.
2. High-level segment: main topic\*
  - (a) Subtopic 1;\*
  - (b) Subtopic 2;\*
  - (c) Subtopic 3;\*
  - (d) Subtopic 4.\*
3. General debate.
4. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
5. Economic development in Africa: Made in Africa – Rules of origin for enhanced intra-African trade.
6. Capturing value in the digital economy.\*\*
7. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
8. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.
9. Fifteenth session of the Conference.
10. UNCTAD contributions 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. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - (a) Report by the Chair 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 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2019;
  - (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;

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\* To be considered by the extended Bureau of the Trade and Development Board.

\*\* Following the conclusion of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board and subsequent to information from the UNCTAD secretariat, in accordance with decision 542 (LXV) of the Board, it may be recommended that item 6 should be postponed to the sixty-eighth executive session of the Board to allow for the availability of the corresponding flagship report at least four weeks before its consideration.

- (e) Membership of the Working Party;
  - (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.
12. Provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
  13. Other business.
  14. Adoption of the report.

## **Annex II**

### **Provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world.
3. Investment for development.
4. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people.
5. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
6. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget.
7. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.
8. Preparatory process for the fifteenth session of the Conference.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

## Annex III

### Attendance\*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania	Lebanon
Algeria	Lesotho
Argentina	Mauritius
Austria	Mexico
Bahrain	Morocco
Bangladesh	Namibia
Barbados	Nepal
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Nigeria
Brazil	Pakistan
Brunei Darussalam	Panama
Burundi	Portugal
Canada	Republic of Korea
China	Republic of Moldova
Congo	Russian Federation
Czechia	Saudi Arabia
Djibouti	Serbia
Egypt	Spain
El Salvador	Sudan
Estonia	Switzerland
Ethiopia	Syrian Arab Republic
Finland	Togo
Gabon	Trinidad and Tobago
Germany	Tunisia
Guatemala	Uganda
India	Ukraine
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Jamaica	United States of America
Japan	Vanuatu
Kenya	Zambia
Kuwait	

2. The following members of the Conference attended the session:

Holy See  
State of Palestine

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

African, Caribbean and Pacific States  
European Union

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\* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(67)/INF.1.