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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Fifty-fourth session  
Geneva, 1–11 October 2007  
Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK  
OF THE SESSION**

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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

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

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. 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 fifty-fifth session of the Board
2. High-level Segment: Globalization and inclusive development
3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Regional Cooperation for Development
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010:
  - (a) The Least Developed Countries Report 2007: Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development
  - (b) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs: Sixth progress report
5. Economic development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States
6. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries
7. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:
  - UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items
8. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (Report of the Working Party on its forty-ninth session)
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
9. Preparatory process for the twelfth session of the Conference:
  - (a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee
  - (b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference
10. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies
  - (a) Report on UNCTAD XI multi-stakeholder partnerships
  - (b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus
  - (c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its resumed forty-eighth session

11. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: fortieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 9–12 July 2007)
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its fortieth session (Geneva, 25–27 April 2007)
12. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - (a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2006–2007 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2008
  - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
  - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
  - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
  - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2008
  - (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
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1. Procedural matters

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

#### (a) Election of officers

2. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended).

3. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since UNCTAD IX, the President of the Board for the fifty-fourth session will be a representative of one of the States in List D and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List A (Asia). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 2 from List C; and 1 from List D.

#### (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

##### *Agenda*

4. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in section I above.

##### *Organization of work*

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

##### *Establishment of sessional committees*

6. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 4 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 5 to Sessional Committee II.

##### *Schedule of meetings*

7. The overall timetable for the two-week period of the Board will be circulated at a later date to take into account developments before the opening of the session.

#### (c) Adoption of the report on credentials

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

##### *In-session documentation*

#### (d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Board

9. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

##### *In-session documentation*

**Item 2. High-level Segment: Globalization and inclusive development**

10. Despite the impressive performance of developing countries as a whole in recent years, many countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and other low-income economies, have not been lifted by the recovery. There is strong evidence that high rates of economic growth have not been translating effectively into poverty reduction in many cases. There is also increasing differentiation amongst developing countries within each region of the world, including the LDCs. Countries may not succeed in benefiting from the global economy for such reasons as lack of resources and productive capacities, lack of access to technology and knowledge, lack of appropriate infrastructure, and inadequate access to transportation and communications services to connect with the world economy. The challenge for policymakers is how to promote inclusive development and preserve the main features of the current favourable scenario beyond a cyclical backlash. This requires a new approach to global economic governance as well as a new focus for national policies. A concrete vision of the global partnership for development has to emerge based on the new realities. The High-level Segment will address this issue in the context of the preparations for UNCTAD XII.

*In-session documentation***Item 3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Regional Cooperation for Development**

11. The Board has as a background document for its deliberations the Trade and Development Report 2007 and its Overview. The Report reviews recent trends in the world economy from the point of view of developing countries, and examines the implications of the persistent imbalances in the world economy and net capital flows from developing to developed countries. Under its main topic, "Regional cooperation for development", it examines, based on a review of experiences, options for developing countries and economies in transition to strengthen their national development strategies through closer regional cooperation. The Report discusses the relationship between globalization, regionalism and development strategies, and the implications of North-South free trade agreements or regional trade agreements for the policy options of developing countries and economies in transition. It also reviews the trade patterns of geographical regions and regional blocs defined by formal cooperation agreements, to show that, under certain conditions, a regional orientation of trade and production has a potential to enhance the development of industrialization and diversification. With reference to experiences made in some regions, on the one hand, and to the needs of developing countries in an increasingly integrated world economy, on the other, the Report goes on to derive recommendations for regional cooperation beyond trade liberalization. Particular attention being given to monetary and financial cooperation, which could also help fill gaps in the system of global economic governance, but regional approaches to trade logistics, and energy and industrial policies are also explored.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2007 and Overview *Trade and Development Report, 2007*

**Item 4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010**

12. Pursuant to paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010, UNCTAD has continued its efforts to undertake concrete steps to mainstream actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its activities and into

the work of the intergovernmental machinery. Its activities focus on research and policy analysis, consensus building, technical cooperation and capacity building.

**(a) The Least Developed Countries Report 2007: Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development**

13. The Least Developed Countries Report 2007 “Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development” extends the analysis of previous Least Developed Countries (LDC) Reports. Previous Reports have argued that the key to sustained economic growth and substantial poverty reduction in the LDCs is the development of their productive capacities and the associated creation of productive employment. This Report extends the argument by focusing on knowledge accumulation, technological learning and innovation as basic processes through which productive capacities develop.

14. Knowledge is becoming more and more important in global production and competition, and there is a danger that LDCs will be increasingly marginalized if they do not increase the knowledge content of their economies and diversify them through learning and innovation. The Report shows that the current patterns of technology flows to LDCs through international trade, FDI and licensing are not contributing to narrowing the global knowledge divide. Sustained economic growth and substantial poverty reduction cannot occur in the present context of liberalization without learning, and of global integration without innovation. The Report sets out what national Governments and their development partners might do to help to rectify this situation. It focuses on four key policy issues:

- How science, technology and innovation policies geared towards technological catch-up can be integrated into the development and poverty reduction strategies of the LDCs;
- How stringent intellectual property rights regimes affect technological development processes in LDCs, and policy options for improving the latter’s learning environment;
- How the loss of skilled human resources through emigration can be addressed;
- How knowledge aid (as part of official development assistance) can be used by LDCs and their development partners to support learning and innovation in the LDCs.

15. The Report is the first systematic study of technological learning and innovation in LDCs. It is intended to promote increased awareness and policy dialogue on that issue and to contribute to the emerging paradigm shift in development policies which is occurring globally after 25 years of adjustment policies.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/LDC/2007 and Overview	The Least Developed Countries Report 2007: Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development
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**(b) UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of LDCs: Sixth progress report**

16. At its regular session, the Trade and Development Board will review progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010 (PoA). The review of the Board will exclusively focus on actions and commitments of the PoA that are within the mandates and competence of UNCTAD. The Board will have before it the Sixth Progress report on UNCTAD-Wide implementation activities in support of LDCs. The

report provides detailed account of the UNCTAD-wide activities in LDCs in 2006, focusing on research and policy analysis, technical cooperation and capacity building. It also includes conclusions and recommendations for improved implementation of the PoA during the remaining years. LDCs and their development partners are encouraged to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the report, especially in the context of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), due to take place in Accra (Ghana) in April 2008.

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/2 UNCTAD-wide implementation activities in favour of  
least developed countries: sixth progress report

**Item 5. Economic development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States**

17. The Board will have before it an overview of a report on aid to Africa to be read in conjunction with the full study, contained in document UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2007, which will be available in English and French. The objective of this year's report is to examine the potential of African countries to increase their total domestic resource envelope in order to reduce dependence on ODA, and diversify their development resources. A complementary objective is how to channel these resources to productive investments in order to increase their efficiency. Most of the challenges to development in general and to domestic resource mobilization and investment in particular, are manifestations of market failures plaguing African economies. Addressing these challenges requires an appropriate "policy mix" or "diversity of policies" tailored to the specific situation of each country, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. The report highlights the need for "developmental States" in Africa with the required policy space to design and implement policies that address their priorities and make optimal use of available resources in a way that leads to a virtuous circle of accumulation, investment, growth and poverty reduction. The Report argues that it is only by reclaiming its developmental role that the African State could give true meaning to the rhetoric of "ownership" in macroeconomic and resource management.

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/4	Economic Development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States (Overview)
UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2007	Economic Development in Africa: Reclaiming Policy Space: Domestic Resource Mobilization and Developmental States

**Item 6. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries**

18. Since 2002, the Board has undertaken a regular review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. The ongoing multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha work programme represent major opportunities and challenges for assuring development gains for developing countries from the international trading system and trade negotiations. The secretariat will circulate a note to assist the Board in carrying out this mandate.

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/5     Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

**Item 7. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:**

- UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation of, and to the review of progress made in the implementation of, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items**

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

20. Paragraph 2 of the São Paulo Consensus states that UNCTAD is expected to make substantial contributions to the implementation of the outcomes of recent global conferences. Paragraph 10 of the same document states that UNCTAD has a special responsibility to contribute to the achievement of the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

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

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/6     Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD's contributions: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

**Item 8. Technical cooperation activities**

- (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (Report of the Working Party on its forty-ninth session)**

22. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2006, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular issues related to trade- and investment-related capacity building and progress in the implementation of decision 478L of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the forty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 10 to 14 September 2007, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2006.



*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/195	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/WP/195/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 2006 (English only)
TD/B/WP/195/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/198	Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its forty-ninth session

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

23. In line with UNCTAD's 2006-2007 work programme, paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action and paragraph 35 of São Paulo Consensus, the secretariat continues to intensify its activities to assist the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management in the areas of development strategies and trade policy; trade facilitation and logistics; public finance modernization and reform; and enterprise, investment and competition policy. The secretariat reports annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. The reports also include updates of Palestinian economic and trade performance and the findings of related policy analysis and research by the secretariat.

24. This year, the secretariat's annual report will be presented to the Trade and Development Board for its consideration. In its first Chapter, the report reviews recent developments in the policy environment with direct bearing on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Chapter Two assesses the impact of the intensified crisis since October 2000 and its impact on poverty, production capacity and economic performance. It also examines the economic impact of the Palestinian Authority's financial dilemma in light of the dwindling donor support, and suggests measures for expanded Palestinian fiscal policy space and relevant approaches to reforming public institutions. Chapter Three examines options for reducing the oPt's isolation by re-routing Palestinian merchandise trade, which transits Israeli ports, through alternative regional maritime routes within the context of regional transit transport agreements. Chapter Four reviews UNCTAD technical assistance activities underway or completed since 2006, as well as resource shortfalls that have forced suspension of strategic technical cooperation projects scheduled for implementation in 2007.

25. In taking note of the report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people, and as in previous years, the Board may wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item in its report on its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445. The Board may also wish to consider the implications of the new extrabudgetary resource constraints affecting the implementation of technical cooperation projects extended by the secretariat to the Palestinian people.

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/3 and Corr.1	Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian People
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**Item 9. Preparatory process for the twelfth session of the Conference**

**(a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee**

26. In accordance with past practice, the Board will establish a Preparatory Committee under the chairmanship of the President of the Board in order to prepare, *inter alia*, the pre-Conference text.

*In-session documentation*

**(b) Approval of the provisional agenda for the Conference**

27. The substantive theme and sub-themes for the Conference were approved by the Board at its forty-first executive (18-20 April 2007). The Board will have before it a draft provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, comprising the substantive theme and sub-themes already approved by member States and other standard items.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 10. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies**

**(a) Report on UNCTAD XI multi-stakeholder partnerships**

28. In accordance with paragraph 114 of the São Paulo consensus, the Board reviews annually the implementation of the partnerships launched at UNCTAD XI in the areas of ICT for development, commodities, investment and capacity building and training, including training, academic and research institutions. An oral progress report will be provided, with information on the progress achieved in building and implementing each of the partnerships.

**(b) Hearing with civil society, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus**

29. In accordance with paragraph 117 of the São Paulo Consensus, the Trade and Development Board will hold a half-day informal hearing with non-state actors to allow them to express their views on the issues before the Board. The outcome of the informal hearings will be summarized by the secretariat for submission as an input into the discussions of the Board. Participation will be based on the procedure used for the participation of civil society and private-sector organizations during the preparatory process of the Conference. The report on the hearing will be before the Board

*In-session documentation*

**(c) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its resumed forty-eighth session**

30. The report of the Working Party on its resumed forty-eighth session will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/197

Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme budget on its resumed forty-eighth session

**Item 11. Other matters in the field of trade and development****(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: fortieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, 9–12 July 2007)**

31. The thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 9 to 12 July 2007. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

*Documentation*

A/62/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its thirty-ninth session

**(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its fortieth session (Geneva, 25-27 April 2007)**

32. At its fortieth session (25–27 April 2007), the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed ITC's technical cooperation activities in 2006 and took note of the report of the Consultative Committee on the ITC Global Trust Fund.

**Item 12. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters****(a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2006–2007 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2008**

33. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the President of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2008 on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

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

34. At present there are 112 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/7. There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

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

35. At present there are 196 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 108 in the General Category and 88 in the Special Category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/8. The Board will be invited to consider four applications. The first application is from the Arab Federation for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (AFPIPR). The background information on this organization is contained in document TD/B/EX(41)/R.1. The second application is from the Arab Network for Development (ANND). The background information on this organization is contained in document TD/B/54/R.1. The third is from The Civil Society Coalition (CSC). The background information on this organization is contained in document TD/B/54/R.2. The fourth and last one is from Village Suisse ONG (VSONG). The background information on this organization is contained in document TD/B/54/R.3.

*Documentation*

TD/B/EX(41)/R.1	Arab Federation for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (AFPIPR)
TD/B/54/R.1	Arab Network for Development (ANND)
TD/B/54/R.2	Civil Society Coalition (CSC)
TD/B/54/R.3	Village Suisse ONG (VSONG)

*Inclusion of national NGOs in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43 (VII)*

36. The Board will be informed that, following consultations with the member State concerned (India), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has included Palakkad District Consumers' Association in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43 (VII). The background information on these organizations is contained in document TD/B/54/L.1.

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

37. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2007 and an indicative calendar for 2008.

*Documentation*

TD/B/54/L.2	UNCTAD Calendar of Meetings
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**(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2008**

38. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2008 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

*In-session documentation*

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

39. The Board will have before it the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

*Documentation*

TD/B/ INF.206	Membership of UNCTAD Membership of the Trade and Development Board
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**(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

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

*In-session documentation, if required*

**Item 13. Other business**

**Item 14. Adoption of the report**

41. In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.