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Trade and Development Board

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations*

I. Provisional agenda

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* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date because the agenda for the fifty-third executive session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 28 April 2011 at the Consultations of the President of the Board.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

1. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced above.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 2. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

2. A report on UNCTAD's activities in support of Africa is prepared every year and presented to an executive session of the Trade and Development Board. The report provides an overview of research and analysis being undertaken by UNCTAD with regard to African development, as well as a summary of specific activities, including advisory services and technical cooperation, in each sector that falls under UNCTAD's mandate. This report complements and updates the information in document TD/B/EX(50)/2, which was submitted to the fiftieth executive session of the Board in July 2010. Under this agenda item, a panel will be convened on "Enhancing aid effectiveness: From Paris to Busan". An interactive discussion will follow.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/2 Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

TD/B/EX(53)/3 Enhancing aid effectiveness: From Paris to
Busan

Item 3. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:

(a) Report of the Trade and Development Commission on its third session, and agenda for its fourth session

3. In accordance with paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord, the Board will be invited to approve the report of the Trade and Development Commission on its third session. With regard to the agenda for its fourth session in 2011, the Board will be invited to decide on its substantive topics, as per paragraph 204 of the Accra Accord.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/21 Report of the Trade and Development Commission on its
third session

(b) Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its third session, and agenda for its fourth session

4. In accordance with paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord, the Board will be invited to approve the report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its third session. With regard to the agenda for its fourth session in 2011, the Board will be invited to decide on its substantive topics, as per paragraph 204 of the Accra Accord.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/15 Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development
Commission on its third session

(c) Topics for upcoming single-year expert meetings

5. In accordance with paragraph 209 of the Accra Accord, the Board will be invited to consider topics for two single-year expert meetings for the next cycle of meetings.

(d) Report of the Working Party

6. The reports of the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/227 Report of the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session

TD/B/WP/230 Report of the Working Party at its fifty-eighth session

(e) Draft terms of reference for the Working Party

7. At its fifty-second (resumed) session, held in June 2009, the Working Party recommended that the Board “undertake a process to strengthen the Working Party with a view to contribute more efficiently to the formulation of the UNCTAD sections of the Strategic Framework and Programme Budget, within the broader budgetary process of the United Nations”. At its fifty-sixth session, in September 2010, the Board requested the President of the Board to “organize informal consultations on the issue... with a view to reaching agreement on how to enhance the functioning of the Working Party”. These informal consultations, Chaired by Mr. Elmer Schialer (Peru), Vice-President of the Board, were completed on 9 March 2010, with the informal approval of draft terms of reference of the Working Party.

8. In accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, the draft terms of reference were transmitted to the Controller of the United Nations and the Office of Legal Affairs at Headquarters, who introduced a number of amendments and recommended that the Board bring the draft terms of reference to the attention of the General Assembly. The Board will therefore be invited to transmit the draft terms of reference to the General Assembly for approval.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/4 Draft terms of reference for the Working Party

Item 4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:**(a) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

9. At present, there are 200 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD: 111 in the general category and 89 in the special category. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/11. The Board will be invited to consider two applications for inclusion in the general category: one from LDC Watch, and the other from Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(52)/R.1 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board:
Application from LDC Watch

TD/B/EX(52)/R.2 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board:
Application from Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International

(b) Cooperation between UNCTAD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

10. In a letter dated 14 January 2011 addressed to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) recalled that, for nearly a decade, IPU has been participating in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of permanent observer with special rights and that, in its resolution 57/47, the General Assembly had recognized the unique inter-State character of the IPU and invited the specialized agencies to consider adopting similar modalities for cooperation with IPU. The Secretary-General of IPU pointed out that UNCTAD still considers the IPU to be a non-governmental organization and requested that this situation be remedied in conformity with the General Assembly resolution.

11. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to review the status of IPU in UNCTAD with a view to bringing that status into line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/47. A draft decision will be circulated to member States.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/5 Cooperation between UNCTAD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(c) Arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the activities of UNCTAD

12. National non-governmental organizations in the past have been placed on a Register in accordance with Section III of Board decision 43(VII) of 20 September 1968, but were not able to apply for observer status with UNCTAD.

13. On 25 July 1996, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted by consensus resolution 1996/31, which contains revised rules on consultative relations with non-governmental organizations. An important outcome of the Council's review is that national, regional and subregional non-governmental organizations, as well as the national affiliates of international non-governmental organizations, are now eligible for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The resolution provides that consultative relations may be established with international, regional, subregional and national organizations, and that the Council, in considering applications for consultative status, should ensure, to the extent possible, participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, and particularly from developing countries, in order to help achieve a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world (para. 5). The resolution also provides that regional, subregional and national organizations, including those affiliated with an international organization already in status, may be admitted provided that they can demonstrate that their programme of work is of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations and, in the case of national organizations, after consultation with the member State concerned (para. 8).

14. The Trade and Development Board at its fifty-sixth session approved the communications strategy (TD/B/56/9/Rev.1) and requested the secretariat to implement this strategy with immediate effect. The recommendation under paragraph 35(f) of the Strategy requested the Board to review its procedures on engaging civil society to reflect Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

15. To reflect the Economic and Social Council resolution and the recommendations of the adopted communications strategy, the Board will be invited to take a decision to enable competent and relevant national organizations to apply for observer status with UNCTAD. As per past practice, member States will be notified of these applications for consideration.

16. A note on the revised arrangements will be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat and will be submitted for review by member States.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/6 Arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the activities of UNCTAD

(d) Accreditation of civil society organizations for the purposes of UNCTAD–XIII

17. For UNCTAD–XI and UNCTAD–XII and the preparatory process, civil society organizations that did not enjoy observer status with UNCTAD were allowed to apply for accreditation to the conference and its preparatory process. All applications for accreditation were submitted to member States for consideration. A series of hearings with civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector were also held to allow for inputs and contributions by civil society organizations to the theme and sub-themes of the Conference.

18. Under this item, the Board will be invited to take a decision on adopting similar arrangements for the accreditation and participation of civil society in UNCTAD–XIII and its preparatory meetings; and holding of hearings with civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector. A note on the arrangements and approval process for UNCTAD–XIII and its preparatory process will be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat and circulated to member States.

19. For civil society organizations that were accredited for and participated in UNCTAD–XII, the Board will be invited to renew their accreditation for UNCTAD–XIII based on a list that will be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(53)/7 Accreditation of civil society organizations for the purposes of UNCTAD–XIII

Item 5. Report of the Sixth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

20. The Report of the Sixth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, which took place in Geneva from 8 to 12 November 2010, will be before the Trade and Development Board for its consideration and submission to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/RBP/CONF.7/11 Report of the Sixth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

Item 6. Other business

Item 7. Report of the Board on its fifty-third executive session