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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities  
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

## **MARKET ACCESS, MARKET ENTRY AND COMPETITIVENESS**

### **Agreed recommendations \***

1. The Commission underscores the significance of interrelationships among market access, market entry and competitiveness in shaping the pace and scope of gains accruing to developing countries from international trade and trade negotiations. It also emphasizes the importance of the work of UNCTAD in this regard.
2. UNCTAD should continue its development-oriented policy analysis, confidence and consensus building, exchange of experience and information, and capacity development activities focusing, *inter alia*, on market entry and market access conditions facing developing country exports, including commodities. In doing so, UNCTAD should take into account, whenever appropriate, work and expertise already available. It should examine tariff and non-tariff barriers, including technical barriers and other market entry conditions, such as behind-the-border measures, that are obstacles to international trade, with special attention to those affecting developing country exports. UNCTAD should also continue its work, whenever appropriate with other international agencies, on factors shaping competitiveness of developing countries, including international market structures and anti-competitive practices. It should deepen its work on preferences, South-South trade, including GSTP, and the interface between regional and global trade agreements and processes and their trade and development implications and impact.
3. UNCTAD should continue and enhance its work with regard to international commodity markets and policies and measures at the macro, meso, and micro levels to improve the contribution of the commodity sector to development, focusing, in particular, on (i) the relationship between poverty reduction and commodity production and trade, (ii) enhancing the competitiveness of the commodity sector in developing countries, (iii) the strategic positioning of developing country

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\* As agreed by the Commission at its closing plenary on Friday, 13 February 2004.

producers in value chains, (iv) achieving diversification of the commodity sector in developing countries towards activities generating higher development gains, (v) financing and risk management mechanisms for commodity sector development, and (vi) further work on concentration of commodity distribution chains and their impact on developing countries' commodity sectors.

4. UNCTAD should continue to play an important role in building effective partnerships among relevant stakeholders aiming at viable solutions to commodity problems.

5. UNCTAD's work should contribute to a greater coherence between policies in the areas of poverty reduction, trade, commodities and financial flows, support a development-oriented follow-up to the Doha Work Programme, and promote implementation of the Millennium Declaration. It will also continue its technical assistance to developing countries on their accession to the World Trade Organization.

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