

**Trade and Development Board, sixty-first executive session
Geneva, 24–26 June 2015**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

10 a.m. Plenary Room XXVI

Opening of the sixty-first executive session

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work
TD/B/EX(61)/1

Item 2 Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa
TD/B/EX(61)/2 and TD/B/EX(61)/3

Introductory remarks

- Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Presentation of the report

- Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

General statements

- Statements by regional groups, member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

3 p.m. Informal meeting Room XXVI

Panel session: Revisiting debt sustainability in Africa

Opening remarks

- Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

Panellists:

- Mr. Bernhard Gunter, Assistant Professor, American University, Washington, D.C., United States of America
- Mr. Raphael Otieno, Director, Debt Management, Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa
- Ms. Annalise Prizzon, Research Fellow, Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure, Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom for Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Followed by an interactive debate

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Wednesday, 24 June 2015 (*cont'd*)

3 p.m.

Informal meeting

Room XXVI

Panel session: Revisiting debt sustainability in Africa

Key issues slated for discussion by the panel

The theme of the executive session is particularly important, given that the sovereign debt of several African countries has increased in recent years and is becoming a source of concern to policymakers, analysts and multilateral financial institutions. While the continent's current debt ratios are manageable, the fact that debt levels are growing rapidly in several countries is worrisome and requires action to avoid a repeat of the African debt crisis of the 1980s. Against a backdrop of falling commodity prices, a resurgent dollar and forecasts of higher global interest rates, the dangers of a new debt trap in Africa should not be ignored. It is UNCTAD's contention that there are important lessons to be learned for African Governments in trying to balance the competing objectives of financing development spending and avoiding a new round of debt crises.

The main role of the panel will be to lay the ground for a broader discussion by participants on revisiting debt sustainability in Africa. The key questions to be addressed by the panel include the following:

- How should African countries balance the competing objectives of financing development spending and avoiding a new round of debt crises?
 - What lessons from Africa's past debt crises are of relevance to the current context?
 - What specific measures as part of the financing for development agenda to enhance debt sustainability should Africa and the international community adopt?
 - Given the changing composition of debt, what should African Governments, multilateral development banks and development partners do to avert the risk of another debt crisis?
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Thursday, 25 June 2015

10 a.m.	Information-sharing session	Room XXVI
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UNCTAD's support to implementation and ratification of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation

- Presentation by Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics

10.45 a.m.	Plenary
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Item 3 Matters requiring action by the Trade and Development Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:

- (a) Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventieth session (TD/B/WP/270)
 - (b) Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its seventh session (TD/B/C.II/31 and Corr.1)
 - (c) Report of the Trade and Development Commission on its seventh session (TD/B/C.I/38)
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3 p.m.	Item 4 Preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Conference	Room XXVI
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Friday, 26 June 2015

10 a.m.	Plenary	Room XXVI
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Item 5 Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

Item 6 Other business
Accreditation of civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations to UNCTAD XIV and participation of civil society in the Conference and its preparatory process

Item 7 Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-first executive session
