

**TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Sixty-seventh executive session**  
**Geneva, 4 – 6 February 2019**

**NOTES FOR THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING PARTY**

**Report on the 76th session of the WP**

Ms. Charline van der Beek (Austria)

Tuesday, 5 February 2019, 10 a.m.- Room XVII

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to the Trade and Development Board on the work of the Working Party at its seventy-sixth session that was held from 3 to 5 September 2018.

Under item 3 the Working Party reviewed the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing.

For its consideration of the item, the Working Party had before it the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD entitled “Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing” (TD/B/WP/290) and its addendum 1 & 2. They contained analytical and statistical information on different sources of financing for UNCTAD’s technical cooperation activities. These included voluntary contributions and their allocation by thematic areas and by regions or countries, as well as an updated overview of the structure and main features of UNCTAD’s technical cooperation programmes and projects.

The Working Party reviewed technical cooperation activities undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat in 2017 and voluntary contributions financing these activities. With regard to the funding of UNCTAD technical cooperation, several delegates expressed concerns about the decrease in voluntary funding to UNCTAD trust funds in 2017, which would adversely impact the delivery of technical cooperation. The Working Party considered developing, in consultation with member States, a funding strategy or using a new funding mechanism to help UNCTAD bridge the funding gap. In my capacity as the chair of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party, I would like to encourage the Membership, as well as the Secretariat, to continue considering the proposed funding strategy and/or mechanism to ensure stable and predictable voluntary funding for UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the future.

Unfortunately, the Working Party could not reach an agreement upon a draft decision on the review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing. The lack of decision should not be seen as setting a precedent and should in no way prevent future sessions of the Working Party from reaching agreement on a draft decision on the review of the technical cooperation activities.

During its seventy-sixth session under item 4, the Working Party considered reports on the evaluation of UNCTAD activities, which consisted of an overview of the activities, the evaluation report on subprogramme 5 - Africa, least developed countries and special programmes as well as the management response to the external evaluation.

Under this item, the Working Party adopted agreed conclusions commending the work of the independent evaluation team. It also requested the

secretariat to present at the 78th session of the Working Party a review of the evaluation findings from the five subprogramme evaluations conducted to date and an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations from the five evaluations. It also requested the secretariat to continue its subprogramme evaluation approach after UNCTAD 15 and to focus on streamlining costs and fundraising extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

The text of the agreed conclusions under item 4 is contained in Chapter I of the Report of the Working Party. I have the honour to submit the report of the Working Party as contained in document TD/B/WP/293 for the consideration of the Board and the agreed conclusions contained therein for endorsement by the Board.

Finally, I wish to extend my deep appreciation and gratitude to all delegations that took an active part in our deliberations and contributed to the consensus reached.

This concludes my report on the work of the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget.

I thank you, Mr. President.