

**Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme
Budget**

Sixty-First Session, Geneva, 23-25 July 2012

Agenda items 4 & 5

Intervention by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

There were a number of questions during the morning session that I will try to clarify before we move on to consider the specific subprogrammes:

Some delegations have expressed their concern about the "late" submission of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination -the CPC-. I would like to clarify that this document was made available to the Secretariat last week, as during the first two weeks of July it was being finalized. As I mentioned this morning, the report of the CPC is based on the biennial programme plan that you have reviewed in November. This report is therefore not necessarily to be considered by Member States during this session. Nevertheless, it has been made available to inform the discussion of Member States in the spirit of transparency and keeping in mind that the revised version -approved during this session- will eventually also be reviewed by the CPC.

On a related issue, another delegation has mentioned the need to have enough resources to back UNCTAD programme budget. As you know, the United Nations Secretariat budgeting process is based on results-based management. In a nutshell, this means that it is the results to be

generated through our programme of work that defines the resources, and not the other way around. This makes your discussion during this session all the more important, as you are called upon to ensure that that we have meaningful work programme.

One delegation has also expressed concern about the gap or lapse in the process of discussion of programme documents between the TDB and the relevant entities in New York. As you would recall, we have modified the schedule of meetings of the Working Party precisely to address this gap. Nevertheless, this week's session is exceptional in the sense that we are looking through these issues again due to the new mandates arising from Doha. As I have noted this morning, we have an understanding with the CPC that they will review the revised UNCTAD biennial programme plan in June 2013. Please rest assured that, as your Secretariat, we have and will continue to ensure that your views are brought to the attention of the relevant entities in New York.

There was also a question about the number of expert group meetings. It should be noted that ad hoc expert meetings are not the same as the multi-year expert meetings, which are limited to eight, as the delegation asking this question rightly noted. Ad hoc expert group meetings are convened to cover more specific topics that are not considered in conjunction with other topics, and sometimes serve, for example, as support, review and feedback mechanisms in the preparation of our publications.

There was also a request by one delegation to have a logframe presentation of UNCTAD programmes. Allow me to clarify that the biennial programme plan before you is based on logical framework

methodology. You will see that under each Subprogramme there is an objective, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The further elements that constitute the logframe are approved in the second part of the budget process, which are performance measures and corresponding outputs. As per relevant General Assembly resolutions, the prerogative to discuss the resources and administrative questions related to the programme budget rests with the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee and its subsidiary organs, e.g. the CPC and the ACABQ. After discussion with you on the role of the Working Party, the agreement reached has been that the Secretariat would hold a briefing on the programme budget proposal published by the Secretary-General of the United Nations so that delegations are kept appropriately informed. You might recall that we held such a briefing in June 2011 and, as indicated in the -informally agreed- terms of reference of the Working Party, we will hold that briefing again in May or June 2013.

Some delegations also asked about the topics of non-recurrent publications. I would like to note that the list of publications to be included in our programme budget proposal is presented for your review in the November session -in even years- of the Working Party. During the current session, and exceptionally so because of the Doha mandate, you have the opportunity to review the outputs planned for the biennium 2012-2013, including by changing the focus of planned publications. For the biennium 2014-2015, we will present the list of outputs during the November session of the Working Party, so you will have the opportunity then to change the focus of publications as you see fit.

Some delegations have also mentioned a proposal to hold special events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD and to prepare for

upcoming new mandates, e.g. coming from the post-2015 development agenda. We have taken note of these comments and I can assure you that we are working on these issues already.

Thank you very much.