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Third United Nations Conference on the
Least Developed Countries
Brussels, Belgium, 14-20 May 2001

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE
THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

Held in Brussels, Belgium, from 14 to 20 May 2001

Rapporteur: The Hon. Iddi Simba (MP), Minister of Industries and
Trade, United Republic of Tanzania

ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the Conference

(Agenda item 1)

1. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries opened on Monday, 14 May 2001, with an inaugural ceremony attended by His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium. The Conference was addressed by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden and President of the Council of the European Union; Mrs. Nicole Fontaine, President of the European Parliament; Mr. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission; Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Coordinator of the Global LDC Community; Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium; Mr. Harri Holkeri, President of the Millennium Assembly; and Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of France, host of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 2)

2. At the inaugural ceremony, the Conference elected by acclamation as its President Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden and President of the Council of the European Union.

3. The Conference was informed that, during the President's absence on government business in the course of the week, the responsibilities of the Presidency would be assumed by Mr. Leif Pagrotsky, Minister of Trade of Sweden.

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure

(Agenda item 3)

4. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure approved by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee at its first session (A/CONF.191/4).

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

5. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Conference adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document A/CONF.191/1. The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
5. Establishment of subsidiary bodies
6. Election of officers other than the President
7. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference
 - (a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
8. Assessment of the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level
9. Review of the implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade
10. Programme of Action: formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

6. The Conference also approved the organization of work as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document A/CONF.191/1.

E. Establishment of subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 5)

7. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Conference established a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 8, 9 and 10 and in so doing to elaborate a Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010 on the basis of a draft prepared by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.191/6).

8. At its 1st meeting, on 15 May 2001, the Committee of the Whole decided to establish two clusters to consider the draft Programme of Action. Cluster I would take up commitments 4-7, while cluster II would take up the introductory sections and commitments 1-3. The Committee elected Ms. Inga Magistad (Norway) as Chairperson of Cluster I and Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic) as Chairperson of Cluster II. It decided that, in its work on the draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.191/6), it would take into account a revised text of the draft Programme submitted by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee subsequent to informal consultations (UNLDC/BRU/1 and 2). It would conduct its work in informal meetings and conclude on Saturday, 19 May, in order to report back to the Conference on 20 May.

F. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 6)

At the 1st and 2nd plenary meetings, on 15 May, the Conference elected the following officers:

Vice-Presidents:

Benin
Burkina Faso

Cuba
Ethiopia
Grenada
Haiti
Hungary
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Mexico
Norway
Romania
United States of America
Nepal
Yemen

Chairman, Committee of the Whole: Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)

Rapporteur: United Republic of Tanzania

9. At the same meeting, the Conference decided that the *ex officio* members of the bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee would be associated with the work of the Bureau of the Conference. The *ex officio* members were: the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD; the Coordinator of the LDCs; the Chairman of the Group of 77; the European Union; and the regional coordinators.

G. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference

(a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

10. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 15 May, the Conference decided that the composition of the Credentials Committee would be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-fifth session. It thus appointed the following States as members of the Committee: Bahamas; China; Ecuador; Gabon; Ireland; Mauritius; Russian Federation; Thailand; and United States of America. The Committee would be chaired by Gabon. The Conference further decided that, if any of those States were not represented at the Conference, the regional group concerned would be requested to nominate a replacement.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

H. Special event

11. On 14 May, a special event was held on "The challenge of eradicating poverty: The international community's response".¹

¹ For the participants in the event, see annex

I. Interactive thematic sessions

12. In the course of the Conference, a series of interactive events were held on the following topics:¹

Governance, peace and social stability;
Enhancing productive capacities: The agricultural sector and food security;
Intellectual property and development: An instrument for wealth creation;
Enhancing productive capacities: The role of health;
Education;
International trade, commodities and services/tourism;
Energy;
Enhancing productive capacities: The role of investment and enterprise development;
Human resources development and employment;
Infrastructure development;
Transport;
Financing growth and development.

J. Parallel events

13. In the course of the Conference, the following parallel events took place:¹

High-level Parliamentarians' Round Table;
Meeting of Mayors: City-to-City Cooperation;
Migration/Refugees Round Table;
Business Sector Round Table;
Young Entrepreneurs;
The Digital Economy;
Youth Forum;
Women Entrepreneurs Forum.

K. Other events

14. The following other events were held:¹

Ministerial Panel on Gender in LDCs (UNDP/UNCTAD);

WAFUNIF Workshop;

Capacity Building for Trade, Environment and Development in LDCs
(UNEP/UNCTAD);

Impact of HIV/AIDS on Sustainable Development (UNFPA);

Joint Presentation on Investment (UNCTAD/UNIDO/World Bank).

15. In conjunction with the Conference, an NGO Forum was held from 10 to 20 May.

L. General debate

16. In the course of the general debate, statements were made by ... Member States, ... international organizations, ... specialized agencies and ... non-governmental organizations.