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**DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES
AND COMMODITIES ON ITS SIXTH SESSION**

4-8 February 2002

Rapporteur: Ms. Fatima Al-Ghazali (Oman)

Speakers:
United Kingdom
Jamaica
Mauritius

Officer-in-Charge of the Division on
International Trade in Goods and
Services and Commodities
Equatorial Guinea
United States of America

Note for delegations

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.

Requests for amendments to statements by individual delegations should be communicated by **Wednesday, 13 February 2002** at the latest, to:
UNCTAD Editorial Section, Room E.8108, fax no. 907 0056, tel. no. 907 5656/1066.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1. For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documentation:

“Progress report on the implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission (TD/B/COM.1/48)”.

2. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that the mid-term review exercise would be based on the indicators of achievement agreed to in the medium-term plan (2002-2005). One indicator consisted of member States’ views on the practical value and impact on the development prospects of developing countries of policy recommendations, as expressed in the conclusions of the regular review of the work undertaken by intergovernmental bodies. Member States were therefore urged to provide feedback on those matters under the present agenda item.

3. The representative of **Jamaica**, referring to the work carried out in relation to agenda item 3 on major agricultural concerns of developing countries, noted that workshops on horticulture sector diversification were held for both English-speaking and French-speaking countries. That represented a good effort on the part of UNCTAD. She wondered if a workshop could be replicated in the Caribbean subregion or in the Americas region. Her country was benefiting tremendously from UNCTAD’s technical analysis, particularly as regards small island developing States.

4. The representative of **Mauritius**, referring to the progress report, indicated that his delegation welcomed the amount of work that had been done, especially in some areas of crucial concern to his country. With reference to paragraph 9 of the progress report, concerning the agricultural trade environment for small economies, he wondered if the study in question or the contribution made to the Commonwealth secretariat was available for countries like his own for consultation. He hoped that the relevant website provided information on the analysis on small island developing countries.

5. The **Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities**, in response to the representative of Jamaica, indicated that some funds remained under the Development Account which were being devoted to organising national workshops as a follow-up to the regional ones. The secretariat would give very positive consideration to the possibility of organizing a subregional workshop for the Caribbean or for interested countries.

6. In response to the representative of Mauritius, he provided information on the Infocomm portal which had been developed in the past year and which had been very successful, being the second most visited of all UNCTAD websites. The Infocomm portal contained all the studies presented to the workshops on commodities, as well as presentations to and outcomes of the workshops. The study referred to in paragraph 9 of the progress report would be made available.

7. The representative of **Mauritius**, referring to the organization of a workshop on commodities, as requested by the representative of Jamaica, asked that his country’s needs in

this regard be taken care of in a cost-effective manner.

8. The representative of **Equatorial Guinea** commended the secretariat for its activities in African countries. FAO was working with his Government on the implementation of a special food security programme, and it might be useful for UNCTAD to be involved. If seminars were to be organized in his country's region, it would like to be informed in order to be able to participate.

9. The representative of the **United States of America** said that a much more active approach needed to be taken in promoting seminars organized by the secretariat and making people aware of the opportunity that seminars provided for capacity building. Most of the seminar programmes seemed to be quite good, but unless the right audiences of the right size were ensured, the resources were squandered. He mentioned the FFD-related seminar on market access held in New York in January 2002 in this regard. To ensure adequate participation, UNCTAD should do more to avoid any conflict with scheduled events that might attract the same audience.

10. The **Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities** indicated that the secretariat was in contact with the representative of Mauritius regarding his country as a small island developing State with a special situation. With regard to the request from the representative of Equatorial Guinea, given the success of workshops on commodities diversification, the secretariat realized that the lusophone countries must be covered. The secretariat was expecting a contribution from Portugal with a view to extending activities to these countries in the very near future. With reference to the comment by the representative of the United States of America on the attendance at the FFD-related seminar on market access, there had been difficulties in choosing suitable dates for the seminar. However, participation in other seminars had been more than satisfactory (participants were selected very carefully), with many participants from the host countries. Some seminars had had 75 participants. In scheduling events, the secretariat was indeed ensuring that they did not compete with other events with the same audience.