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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,  
and Commodities  
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Agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6

EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION, MARKET ACCESS AND COMPETITIVENESS  
TRADE IN SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS  
TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE POST-DOHA FOLLOW-UP

**Agreed recommendations for the UNCTAD secretariat<sup>\*</sup>**

The Commission takes note with appreciation of the high-quality documentation prepared by the secretariat for its seventh session. It recognizes and commends the secretariat's research on and analysis of international trade issues and their development dimension, and the technical cooperation and capacity-building activities. It calls on UNCTAD to continue and to intensify, as required, its work and activities, particularly in the follow-up to the post-Doha work programme, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries. The Commission reiterates its request to the UNCTAD secretariat to regularly monitor the progress on the Doha work programme from the point of view of development issues and, upon request, provide substantive support to various bodies of the World Trade Organization and the members.

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\* As adopted by the Commission at its closing plenary meeting on 6 February 2003.

UNCTAD should also continue its policy-oriented analysis and capacity-building activities, and undertake work on commodities in the following areas:

- Analysing and assessing the impacts of possible outcomes of multilateral negotiations and preferential arrangements, particularly with respect to their implications for the competitiveness of commodities produced and internationally traded by developing countries;
- Analysing the distribution of value added along the supply chain for specific commodities of export interest to developing countries, whenever appropriate in cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and identifying policies for increasing the value added retained in these countries;
- Analysing the opportunities for, and the impact of, the diversification of the commodity sector in developing countries, identifying the local support systems that are lacking and proposing ways of filling these gaps;
- Studying the practicality of policy options for dealing with imbalances in commodity markets, and their negative impact on development and disadvantaged groups;
- Continuing its efforts in assisting developing countries in formulating policies which enable them to diversify their exports and increase their competitiveness.

UNCTAD should also continue its policy-oriented analysis and capacity-building activities, and undertake work on services in the following areas:

- Assessment of the service sectors in developing countries, and continuing the improvement of the statistics and data on services production and trade;
- Sector-specific studies to identify export opportunities in sectors of interest to developing countries, with particular attention to the impact of liberalization and privatization on access to essential services. The analysis should include cross-cutting issues, such as domestic regulation, emergency safeguard mechanisms and subsidies;
- Identification and analysis of modalities and specific measures to effectively operationalize Article IV in the context of the negotiations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS);
- Analysis of ways and means of facilitating exports of labour-intensive services through further commitments in relation to movement of natural persons within GATS Mode 4;
- Assistance to developing countries to strengthen their negotiating capacities in multilateral and regional negotiations, particularly in the GATS requests and offers process.

Furthermore, UNCTAD should continue its policy-oriented analysis and capacity-building activities in the areas of trade, environment and development, and in particular it should:

- Explore the possibility of the creation of a consultative group on environmental requirements and international trade, which should closely coordinate and collaborate with relevant work and initiatives in other bodies and involve the private sector, as a project-based activity;
- Promote the UNCTAD/FAO/IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture as a concrete follow-up to the recommendations of the Commission at its sixth session;
- Facilitate access to scientific and technical advice on issues relating to environmental and sanitary and phytosanitary measures and the impact and applications of new technologies, particularly in the context of the UNCTAD Science and Technology Diplomacy Initiative;
- Strengthen work carried out by the Capacity-Building Task Force UNEP/UNCTAD and projects aimed at building capacity for improved policy-making and negotiation on key trade and environment issues in the post-Doha context;
- Strengthen its work under the BIOTRADE programme, in particular in the follow-up to partnerships launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to promote trade, export diversification and investment in support of the sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Continue work on standard-setting and harmonization of environmental and health regulations, taking into account the development dimension;
- Continue analysis of the trade and investment implications of multilateral environmental agreements.

The Commission encourages member Governments to support UNCTAD's work on commodities and its application in developing countries through the provision of extrabudgetary resources for expanded research, country-level activities and technical cooperation.