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Agenda item 7

**IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOLLOWING
THE DOHA MINISTERIAL MEETING**

Agreed conclusions^{*}

1. The Commission welcomes the plan for “Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries, especially LDCs, and Economies in Transition in Support of their Participation in the WTO Doha Work Programme” (UNCTAD/RMS/TCS/1), which reflects the specific requirements of the least developed and African countries and which was considered at the sixth session of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities.

2. The Commission recognizes the contribution of UNCTAD's work programme on trade facilitation and electronic commerce to exploring the range of issues that needs to be considered, identifying the interests of developing countries, ensuring that the development dimension is addressed and providing technical assistance. This capacity building work seeks to facilitate the greater participation of developing countries in international trade.

* As adopted at the closing plenary of the Commission on Thursday, 21 February 2002.

3. The Commission calls on UNCTAD to implement, taking into account the special needs of LDCs, a comprehensive work programme in the area of trade facilitation, building on the accumulated experience of the organization without negatively affecting the ongoing activities of UNCTAD. The work programme would provide, in line with paragraph 27 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, enhanced technical assistance and capacity building with long-term sustainable impact to further expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. This programme would identify the major issues and address policy analysis and development, human resources development and institutional development. It would also identify trade facilitation needs and priorities to allow developing countries to better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives.

4. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes the importance of creating and maintaining an environment that is favourable to the future development of electronic commerce, as provided for in paragraph 34 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. Support is required to bridge the digital divide in order to create new opportunities for the expansion of trade. To this end, the Commission stresses the need for strengthened and adequately resourced assistance to respond to these needs, as outlined in document UNCTAD/RMS/TCS/1.

5. To maximize benefits in the fields of competence of this Commission, UNCTAD is encouraged to continue collaboration with other relevant international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UN regional commissions and specialized institutions, as appropriate.

6. The Commission calls on donors and countries in a position to do so to provide the UNCTAD secretariat with the necessary means and assistance to undertake the enhanced programmes in trade facilitation and electronic commerce, as set out in the above-mentioned plan. The practical implementation of the plan should not be at the expense of the resources devoted to the ongoing work, with full use being made of possible synergies.

7. The Commission requests the secretariat to report to its next session about the progress made in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic commerce.