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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development

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Agreed recommendations for the UNCTAD secretariat *

1. The Commission took note of the secretariat documents and activities reports for 2002. It recognized and commended the contributions of the secretariat in research and policy analysis, as well as capacity building, particularly in the areas of international transport and trade facilitation, e-commerce and improving the competitiveness of SMEs. The Commission recognized that these contributions could provide inputs for UNCTAD XI.
2. To improve coherence between macroeconomic and microeconomic policies, the Commission requests UNCTAD to disseminate as widely as possible its findings regarding the main components of proactive competitiveness policies as contained in the issues paper "Improving the Competitiveness of SMEs through Enhancing Productive Capacity" (TD/B/COM.3/51/Add.1) and the panel discussion, through its websites, its publications, its advisory services and its technical assistance programme EMPRETEC.
3. UNCTAD should assess, particularly for technology acquisition and mastery, the competitiveness policies used by developing countries that have widely improved their performance.
4. UNCTAD should assess the linkage between investment, trade and technology transfer and explore measures that promote access to technology by developing countries and build domestic capacities.

* As adopted by the Commission at its closing plenary meeting on 27 February 2003.

5. UNCTAD should further investigate the coherence between competitiveness policies for micro-stimulation and multilateral commitments and requirements, taking into account national development strategies and objectives.

6. Given the need for action also at the practical level, the Commission requests UNCTAD to enhance its efforts to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition promote dynamic and competitive enterprises through the EMPRETEC programme, including, through implementation of the recommendations arising from its evaluation. This programme should be strengthened and expanded, within available resources.

7. UNCTAD should review and monitor developments relating to efficient transport and trade facilitation, including multimodal transport and logistic services, and should analyse their implications for developing countries, taking into account their diverse levels of development.

8. UNCTAD should continue providing guidance and assistance to developing countries in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for international transport services and trade facilitation, in particular through the ACIS and ASYCUDA programmes.

9. UNCTAD should study and analyse the impact of new security initiatives on the international trade and transport of developing countries and should disseminate this information.

10. UNCTAD should study, analyse and, as appropriate, contribute substantively to the work of relevant intergovernmental organizations relating to the development of uniform international legal instruments affecting international transport, including multimodal transport, and should disseminate information on the implications of these instruments for developing countries.

11. UNCTAD, in its work on the follow-up to the Doha Declaration, should continue to analyse developments in the area of trade facilitation and to assist developing countries in establishing their needs and priorities for trade facilitation in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Doha Declaration.

12. UNCTAD should continue to provide negotiating assistance to developing countries in the area of transport services in the context of GATS.

13. UNCTAD should assist developing countries in identifying international best practices regarding policies promoting and facilitating the adoption of ICT and e-business practices. UNCTAD should do this in coordination with other relevant international

organizations, taking into account their respective mandates. In this respect UNCTAD should continue its work to promote the elaboration of national and regional e-commerce strategies for development, including by organizing regional events. Possible issues to be taken into account may include reforms in sectors such as telecommunications and payment services; issues of infrastructure and access; e-business awareness raising and human resources development; trust and security; and legal and regulatory changes to accommodate e-business.

14. UNCTAD should carry out research and analysis work regarding e-commerce on issues relevant to the development dimension of developing countries, taking into account already existing information and studies. These issues should include major trends in technology (such as the use of open-source software); industries and sectors of development and commercial relevance to developing countries; Internet regulation; and the implications of various legislative approaches to e-commerce, with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to formulate adequate strategies to promote the adoption of ICT, e-business and e-commerce practices by their enterprises and to participate in relevant international discussions.

15. UNCTAD should analyse issues related to the measurement and benchmarking of e-commerce and of the use of ICT by enterprises. It should complement its analytical work in this area with assistance to developing countries in their efforts to develop indicators and data on e-commerce.

16. UNCTAD, as the UN focal point for trade and development, should, within its mandate, continue to make a substantive contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as to the outcome of the Summit and its follow-up.

17. UNCTAD should continue to mainstream gender into its work. This mainstreaming should be carried out through divisional focal points on gender, under the overall coordination of the focal point on women designated by the Secretary-General. In this regard, UNCTAD should continue to include the gender dimension in its work, including the LDCs programme.