



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 15–26 September 2008

Draft report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-fifth session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 15 to 26 September 2008

Report to the United Nations General Assembly

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Introduction

1. The fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 15 to 26 September 2008. In the course of the session, the Board held xx plenary meetings, the 1019th to the xxxth.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

[Text to be inserted.]

II. President's summary¹

[Text to be inserted.]

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

2. The fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 15 September 2008 by Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria), the outgoing President of the Board.

B. Election of officers

(agenda item 1 (a))

3. At its 1019th (opening) plenary meeting, on 15 September 2008, the Board elected Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya (Bangladesh) President of the Board at its fifty-fifth session.

4. Also at its opening plenary meeting, the Board completed the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its fifty-fifth session by electing 10 vice-presidents and the Rapporteur. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

President:	Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya (Bangladesh)
Vice-presidents:	Mr. Arcanjo Maria do Nascimento (Angola) Mr. Alberto Dumont (Argentina) Mr. Paulo Estivallet de Mesquita (Brazil) Mr. Tomáš Husák (Czech Republic) Mr. Christophe Guilhou (France) Mr. Kwabena Baah-Duodu (Ghana) Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan) Mr. Vassily Nebenzia (Russian Federation) Mr. Javier Garrigues (Spain) Mr. Otto Van Maerssen (United States of America)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Andriani Falconaki-Sotiropoulos (Greece)

¹ Electronic versions of statements by delegates are available on the UNCTAD website in the form and language in which they are received. Audio files (floor/English) of general statements and statements made at the high-level segment, among others, are also available on the website. To find the speeches and audio files, go to www.unctad.org/meetings, select the intergovernmental body and session, and click on Programme.

5. Following established practice, the Board agreed that the regional coordinators and China, as well as the chairs of the sessional committees, would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(agenda item 1 (b))

6. At its opening plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session contained in TD/B/55/1 (see annex I).

7. The following officers were elected to serve on the Bureau of Sessional Committee I to consider agenda item 4, “Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”:

Chair: Mr. Jean Feyder (Luxembourg)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Ravi Bhattarai (Nepal)

8. The following officers were elected to serve on the Bureau of Sessional Committee II to consider agenda item 5, “Economic development in Africa: trade liberalization and export performance in Africa”:

Chair: Mr. Kwabena Baah-Duodu (Ghana)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung (Indonesia)

Annex I

Agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
 - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
 - (d) Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Board
2. High-level segment: Trade and productive capacities for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
3. Interdependence: Mobilizing resources for development – commodity prices, productive capacity, supply and distribution
4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010:
 - (a) *The Least Developed Countries Report 2008*: Recent economic, social and policy trends
 - (b) Sectors of key interest to the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010: Export competitiveness – policy issues and priorities
5. Economic development in Africa: Trade liberalization and export performance in Africa
6. Evolution of the international trading system and of international trade from a development perspective
7. Development strategies in a globalized world: Financial policies and productive investment related to trade and development
8. Investment for development: Transnational corporations, infrastructure and development
9. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields:
 - UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items, in particular the preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

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10. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (report of the Working Party on its fifty-first session)
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people
 11. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the twelfth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:
 - Hearing with civil society
 12. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-first annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (New York, 16 June–3 July 2008)
 - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its forty-first session (Geneva, 4–5 December 2007)
 13. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:
 - Reports of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget
 14. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
 - (a) Report by the President of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2007–2008 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of the members of the Advisory Body for 2009
 - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
 - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
 - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
 - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2009
 - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
 - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
 15. Other business
 16. Adoption of the report

Annex II

Attendance

[Text to be inserted.]
