



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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### Trade and Development Board

#### Sixty-second session

Geneva, 14–25 September 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

### Provisional agenda and annotations

#### *Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

The provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.



## I. Provisional agenda

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 sixty-third session of the Board
2. High-level segment: Development strategies in a globalized world:
  - (a) Multilateral processes for managing sovereign external debt
  - (b) Role of women as a catalyst for trade and development
3. Interdependence: Financialization and macroeconomic fragility in the global economy
4. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fourth progress report
5. Economic development in Africa: Unlocking the potential of Africa's services trade for growth and development
6. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective:
  - The role of smallholder farmers in sustainable commodities production and trade
7. Investment for development: Reforming the international investment regime
8. Preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Conference:
  - (a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee
  - (b) Approval of the provisional agenda of the Conference
9. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
10. Technical cooperation activities
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
11. Report of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices
12. Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board
13. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
14. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

- (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-eighth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
15. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
- (a) Report by the Chair 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 2014–2015 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016
  - (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 2016
  - (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
16. Other business
17. Adoption of the report

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the Trade and Development Board was approved by silent procedure on 27 July 2015.

### Item 1

#### Procedural matters:

##### (a) Election of officers

2. The rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board are contained in documents TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.
3. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur, i.e. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.
4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX), the President of the Board for the sixty-second session will be a representative of one of the States in list C and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list D. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: four from list A (Africa/Asia); four from list B; one from list C; and one from list D.

**(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**

*Agenda*

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

*Organization of work*

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings will take place simultaneously. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

*Establishment of sessional committees*

7. In accordance with rule 62 of its rules of procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 4 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 5 to Sessional Committee II.

**(c) Adoption of the report on credentials**

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

*In-session documentation*

**(d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Board**

9. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the consultations of the President of the Board.

**Item 2**

**High-level segment: Development strategies in a globalized world:**

**(a) Multilateral processes for managing sovereign external debt**

10. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will examine the recurrent problem of external debt overhang in developing and transition economies. This has been a core topic in UNCTAD work since 1964 involving the three pillars of its mandate. Among external debt issues, those related to sovereign debt are of particular interest as debt crises, even if they are caused by private agents, usually lead to public overindebtedness. In addition, sovereign debt problems cannot be handled in the same way as private debt: they require specific treatment consistent with the public interest and national sovereignty.

11. The background documentation for the deliberations of the Board under this item is contained in chapter V of the *Trade and Development Report, 2015*. The secretariat will provide a document with a shortened version of that chapter. The document will address the current mechanisms in place for handling sovereign debt crises and examine their shortcomings for providing a rapid solution that would minimize the cost of the crises and re-establish the conditions for economic growth and debt sustainability. It will examine possible actions for modifying this framework, which can be complementary. These include improving debt contracts; establishing a predictable, effective and fair sovereign debt workout mechanism; and adopting a global set of principles (“soft law”) that would take

into account public interests in debt sustainability and set out a procedural route for their defence, including against holdout litigation.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/7

Development strategies in a globalized world: Multilateral processes for managing sovereign external debt

**(b) Role of women as a catalyst for trade and development**

12. Economic development and social and cultural shifts have led to a decrease in many gender-related inequalities across the world. Prominent among those shifts are the rise in female educational enrolment, as compared to that for males, and increases in labour-force participation. These shifts, however, cannot be considered an automatic outcome of development but rather the result of concerted policy action and resource allocation for gender equality. Efforts to mainstream gender equality into policymaking have been critical in this regard.

13. The high-level segment on the role of women as a catalyst for trade and development will provide an opportunity to take the gender issue to a new level of political prominence and yield new insights into the relationship between trade, development and women's economic empowerment. The high-level segment will revolve around a high-profile, interactive round table that will bring together multiple stakeholders ranging from policy leaders to academia, the private sector and civil society, including the media.

**Item 3**

**Interdependence: Financialization and macroeconomic fragility in the global economy**

14. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review the evolution of the world economy in 2014 and 2015, and discuss if it may be entering into a period of "secular stagnation". The review will analyse the factors that are still hindering the recovery of sustained growth, particularly on the demand side, without disregarding the need for expanding and upgrading production and providing the means for financing economic recovery and development.

15. The debate will consider recent trends in financial markets and flows and address the vulnerabilities faced by developing countries. In particular, it will examine how the financialization process actually deepened after the global crisis, and how it has affected macroeconomic dynamics in developing economies, eventually leading to a path of protracted slowdown and heightened risks of financial crises.

16. As background documentation for the Board's deliberations, the secretariat will make available through the Delegates Portal a non-paper with restricted information that will summarize the findings and messages of chapters I and II of the *Trade and Development Report, 2015*. The report will be under embargo until 6 October 2015. The non-paper will review the main trends of the global economy, with a particular focus on recent financial developments and their macroeconomic impact.

**Item 4****Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fourth progress report**

17. As at previous sessions, the Board at its sixty-second session will deliberate on progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) in the areas of the mandates and competence of UNCTAD. The Board's consideration of item 4 of the provisional agenda will be based on the fourth progress report prepared by the secretariat, in accordance with paragraphs 153 and 156 of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The report provides comprehensive information on the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2014, together with preliminary conclusions and the way forward.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/8

Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fourth progress report

**Item 5****Economic development in Africa: Unlocking the potential of Africa's services trade for growth and development**

18. This agenda item will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2015: Unlocking the Potential of Africa's Services Trade for Growth and Development*, which examines some of the major policy issues that underlie Africa's services sector and provides policy guidance on how services could contribute to Africa's regional integration and generate inclusive growth and employment. More broadly, the report discusses how services can contribute to sustainable growth and development continent-wide, especially given the enabling role of services and their capacity to link with other sectors. Africa needs to boost services trade and become better integrated into global value chains. The report makes specific and actionable policy recommendations on how to better leverage Africa's services trade and the related development, employment and growth benefits. The report emphasizes the need for greater policy coherence at the national, regional and international levels to address services sector and trade policy disconnects.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/4

Economic development in Africa: Unlocking the potential of Africa's services trade for growth and development (overview)

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2015 *Economic Development in Africa Report 2015: Unlocking the Potential of Africa's Services Trade for Growth and Development*

## **Item 6**

### **Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective**

19. Paragraph 18 (d) of the Doha Mandate of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII) states that UNCTAD should “continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective”. In response to this mandate, under this agenda item the Trade and Development Board will discuss the recent trends in international trade in goods and services and trade policy. The Board will deliberate upon trends in trade flows, both in goods and services, and issues such as global value chains, food security, energy and environmental sustainability, agriculture trade, trends in commodities and the blue economy. The discussion will also cover emerging trends and issues in the multilateral and regional trading systems and their interlinkages with national policies.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/62/2                                      Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

### **The role of smallholder farmers in sustainable commodities production and trade**

20. Under this sub-item, the Board will consider the role of small holder farmers in sustainable commodities production and trade. The secretariat has prepared a background document which highlights key messages from the forthcoming UNCTAD *Commodities and Development Report 2015: Smallholder Farmers and Sustainable Commodity Development*. The note argues that smallholders are key actors in the quest for a more inclusive and socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural development model. Building on UNCTAD’s integrated approach to trade, finance, investment and technology, it highlights the report’s proposed policy framework and plan of action for smallholders.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/62/9                                      The role of smallholder farms in sustainable commodities production and trade

## **Item 7**

### **Investment for development: Reforming the international investment regime**

21. The current international investment agreement regime is multilayered, multifaceted and highly fragmented. The international investment agreement regime is now undergoing a period of reflection, reviews and revisions. Reform should be systematic and comprehensive and requires coordinated action from all stakeholders. This is crucial at a time when the sustainable development goals will be formally adopted by the United Nations, which will require scaling up existing funding mechanisms.

22. UNCTAD, in its 2012 Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, provided useful guidance for this endeavour. Most recently, it developed an action-oriented road map for reform of international investment agreements.

23. The session will present the analysis, findings and proposals in the *World Investment Report 2015: Reforming International Investment Governance*, which examines the topic in depth. This will be followed by a range of perspectives from eminent panellists and a

subsequent interactive dialogue among participants and panellists on the topic, bringing in national, regional and interregional perspectives. In addition, the session will provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest developments regarding trends in and policies on foreign direct investment.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2015 and Overview *World Investment Report 2015: Reforming International Investment Governance*

## **Item 8**

### **Preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Conference:**

24. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will present his report for the fourteenth session of the Conference.

**(a) Establishment of the Preparatory Committee**

25. In accordance with past practice, the Board will establish a Preparatory Committee to be chaired by the President of the Board in order to prepare, inter alia, the pre-Conference text.

*In-session documentation*

**(b) Approval of the provisional agenda of the Conference**

26. The substantive theme and sub-themes for the Conference are expected to have been approved by the Board at the President's consultations. The Board should therefore have before it a draft provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, comprising the substantive theme and subthemes as approved by member States and other standard items.

*In-session documentation*

## **Item 9**

### **UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

27. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, it invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

28. Paragraph 11 of the Accra Accord states that:

UNCTAD, within its mandate, should make a contribution to the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences. It should continue to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. With all aspects of its work it will help to implement the global development agenda and pave the way to 2015. It should also contribute to the implementation of specific actions requested in the 2005 World Summit, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries



for the Decade 2001–2010, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society. It should also contribute to furthering the implementation of the internationally agreed goals in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and other relevant decisions.

29. Similarly, paragraphs 18 and 18 (n) of the Doha Mandate state that “UNCTAD should continue to work within its mandate – through its three pillars, delivering meaningful results, utilizing available resources, while enhancing synergies and promoting complementarities with the work of other organizations. In this regard, UNCTAD should... implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development”.

30. The Board is expected to respond to the request addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27 (a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/5

Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD contributions

## **Item 10**

### **Technical cooperation activities:**

#### **(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD**

31. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2014, as well as developments in UNCTAD’s technical cooperation – in particular, matters of capacity-building related to trade and investment, and issues related to progress in the implementation of decision 478 (L) of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will have as supporting background documentation the outcome of the seventy-first session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, due to be held from 7 to 9 September 2015, and a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2014.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/272

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

TD/B/WP/272/Add.1

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2014 (English only)

TD/B/WP/272/Add.2

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)

TD/B/WP/275

Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its seventy-first session

#### **(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people**

32. As in previous years, the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people analyses recent economic developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report notes a contraction in 2014 in the gross domestic product and gross domestic product per capita of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and a continued expansion of Israeli

settlements. It analyses the impact of Israel's withholding of Palestinian public clearance revenue in early 2015. It highlights the ramifications of the conflict and military operation in Gaza in July–August 2014 and argues that, as socioeconomic conditions are now at their lowest point since 1967, Gaza's reconstruction has been slow. The report calls on the international community to speed up its support for the rehabilitation of crucial infrastructures and to halt “de-development” in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report updates the Board on recent UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the challenges the secretariat faces in implementing these activities.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/3

Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

### **Item 11**

#### **Report of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices**

33. The report of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, which took place in Geneva from 6 to 10 July 2015, will be before the Trade and Development Board for its consideration and onward submission to the General Assembly.

*Documentation*

TD/RBP/CONF.8/11

Report of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

### **Item 12**

#### **Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board**

34. The Conference at its thirteenth session in 2012 in Doha (UNCTAD XIII) decided that (a) the Trade and Development Board would meet in a special session six weeks after the official circulation of the document entitled “Review of management and administration in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)” (JIU/REP/2012/1), in all official languages of the United Nations, in order to address the report and its contents and decide on ways for follow-up and effective implementation of the Board's decisions; (b) the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Board would consider and evaluate progress on the implementation of decisions in relation to the report and take action, as appropriate; and (c) in that regard, the Trade and Development Board would report on progress to the next Conference.

35. The Trade and Development Board at its fifty-ninth session considered a workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD, which was developed in accordance with the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board held on 6 July 2012. At the fifty-ninth session, the Board requested the secretariat to enhance the management and administration of UNCTAD through the

implementation of the workplan presented at the session, as contained in document TD/B/59/CRP.2, and based on the deliberations of the Board.

36. The Board has considered annual comprehensive progress reports on implementation at its sixtieth session in 2013 and sixty-first session in 2014. At the sixty-first session, the Board was also presented with the Secretary-General's additional initiatives aimed at building a stronger UNCTAD. The secretariat was requested to continue implementation of the workplan and to present the next progress report on implementation at its sixty-second session in September 2015. The secretariat will report on measures that have been implemented or put in place to ensure that the organization is on track towards delivering better results against its mandates.

*Documentation*

TD/B/62/6 UNCTAD: On track for delivering on sustainable development

### **Item 13**

#### **Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

37. The report of the Working Party on its seventy-first session will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/275 Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-first session

### **Item 14**

#### **Other matters in the field of trade and development:**

**(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-eighth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

38. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law will be before the Board.

*Documentation*

A/70/17 Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-eighth session

**(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre**

39. The Trade and Development Board will consider the report of the forty-ninth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

### **Item 15**

#### **Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:**

**(a) Report by the Chair 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 2014–2015 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016**

40. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the Chair of the Advisory Body will inform the Board about the activities of the Advisory Body and about the

implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2016, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

**(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

41. The UNCTAD secretariat has received no applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved intergovernmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/11.

**(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

42. The UNCTAD secretariat has received no applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved non-governmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/19.

**(d) Review of the calendar of meetings**

43. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2015 and for 2016.

*In-session documentation*

**(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2016**

44. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2016 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

*In-session documentation*

**(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)**

45. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

*Documentation*

TD/B/INF.228

Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

**(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

46. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

*In-session documentation, if required*

**Item 16**

**Other business**

**Item 17**  
**Adoption of the report**

47. In accordance with paragraph 195 of the Accra Accord, the report of the Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes on Africa, least developed countries and technical cooperation, as well as Chairs' summaries and negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat.

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