



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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### Trade and Development Board

#### Sixty-third session

Geneva, 5–9 December 2016

Item 1 (b) of the revised provisional agenda

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

## Revised provisional agenda and annotations\*

*Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

The provisional agenda for the sixty-third 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.


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\* The present document is being issued at this time to include an additional item following a request made by member States.

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## 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-fourth session of the Board
2. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
3. Investment for development
4. 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
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fifth progress report
6. Technical cooperation activities:
  - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
  - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
8. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
10. 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 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2017
  - (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 2017
  - (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
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Board held on 23 September 2016.<sup>1</sup>

### 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, the President of the Board for the sixty-third session will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa) and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list C. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); four from list B; one from list C; and two 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.

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

7. 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-fourth session of the Board

8. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 5 was added to the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board, following a request by the Regional Coordinator for the least developed countries made at the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Trade and Development Board, on 28 October 2016, and in agreement with the President of the Trade and Development Board.

## **Item 2**

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

9. Paragraph 38 (m) of the Nairobi Maafikiano states that UNCTAD should “continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective, with particular attention to its potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals”.

10. In response to that mandate, under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will first be presented with a general overview of the recent trends in international trade and trade policy for both goods and services. The Board will discuss the growing significance of services sector in global trade, its capacity to resist economic downturns and its growing competitiveness. The Board will also discuss the increasing importance of the services economy in developing and least developed countries from economic, social welfare and development perspectives. Additionally, the Board will take a closer look at the recent World Trade Organization services waiver and aim at kick-starting a discussion on possibilities for establishing a permanent system of preferences for services trade for least developed countries.

11. The Board will also discuss agricultural commodity value chains and what the effects of market concentration are on farmers and producing countries. It will discuss market concentration patterns and the distribution of values among stakeholders in agricultural commodities global value chains. Most particularly, the Board will examine these issues in the cocoa industry where the situation of small and dispersed farmers is of particular concern, as their already weak position in the value chain continues to be undermined by well-integrated stakeholders, including traders, processors and manufacturers of chocolate products. As a result, the former have very limited room to negotiate realistic prices for their output that would cover their production costs and leave them with a margin for a decent livelihood. The situation, which prevails not only in the cocoa global value chain but also in that of other agricultural commodities such coffee, grains and sugar, could contribute to undermining the sustainability of farming businesses unless concerted actions are taken to address it. The Board will therefore deliberate upon policy options to support small stakeholders in agricultural commodity value chains, especially farmers, in the face of increasing concentration along value chains. This is crucial to achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals with their commitment to “leave no one behind”.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/63/4	Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
TD/B/63/2	Agricultural commodity value chains: The effects of market concentration on farmers and producing countries – the case of cocoa

## **Item 3**

### **Investment for development**

12. There is consensus on the critical role of private investment in contributing to achieving sustainable development objectives. In particular, private investment can have an important impact on economic development by enhancing productive capacity, creating jobs and expertise, contributing to diversification and facilitating the integration of economies into global value chains. The catalytic potential of private investment makes

policy intervention for attracting increased investment a priority. To date, most policy interventions for attracting investment have focused on investment promotion. Hence, about half of the policy measures implemented between 2010 and 2015 to attract investment sought to promote a location as an investment destination. At the international level, the investment facilitation dimension is either absent or weak in the overwhelming majority of international investment agreements. Therefore, for an investment attraction strategy to be effective, investment promotion needs to go hand in hand with investment facilitation efforts, both at the national and international policy levels.

13. To that end, UNCTAD formulated a global action menu for investment facilitation. The menu is based on the organization's experience with investment promotion and facilitation efforts worldwide over decades and on the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, as well as its action plan for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals. The current version incorporates feedback and lessons learned from multi-stakeholder consultations and intergovernmental processes, including strong support from policymakers worldwide, as received at the fifth World Investment Forum, organized as part of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi in July 2016, as well as many other forums.

14. The session will consist of two parts. The global action menu for investment facilitation (updated from chapter 3 of the *World Investment Report 2016*) will be reviewed during the discussion of the first panel. Panellists will discuss the national and international policy dimensions of investment facilitation, including how to fill in the policy gaps. The second panel will then present perspectives on best practice in the area of investment facilitation, as well as elaborate on the nexus between investment facilitation, business linkages and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. The presentations of the panels will be followed by interactive dialogues among participants and panellists on the topic, with national, regional and interregional perspectives.

#### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2016 and Overview *World Investment Report 2016: Investor Nationality – Policy Challenges*

TD/B/63/CRP.2 Global action menu on investment facilitation

#### **Item 4**

### **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**

15. 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.

16. 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.”

17. Similarly, paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano states that “UNCTAD should contribute to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among other relevant international agreements and outcomes.”

18. 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/63/5 Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD contributions

### **Item 5**

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

19. As at previous sessions, the Board at its sixty-third 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 the agenda item will be based on the fifth 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 2015, together with preliminary conclusions and the way forward.

*Documentation*

TD/B/63/6 Activities carried out by UNCTAD from 2011 to 2015 in implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Lessons learned and the way forward

### **Item 6**

#### **Technical cooperation activities:**

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

20. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2015, as well as developments in UNCTAD 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 the item, the Board will have as supporting background documentation the outcome of the seventy-third session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, held from 5 to 7 September 2016, and a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2015.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/279 Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/279/Add.1	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2015 (English only)
TD/B/WP/279/Add.2	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/281	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its seventy-third session

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

21. As in previous years, the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people analyses recent economic developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report draws attention to the continuing blockade on Gaza and the worsening socioeconomic conditions. It highlights the stagnation of per capita income, which is mainly attributed to the decline in foreign aid and the withholding by Israel of Palestinian tax revenue in 2015. It also highlights the adverse effects of the continuing leakage of Palestinian fiscal resources, the expansion of settlements and the inability of Palestinian producers to import essential production inputs. The report analyses the high economic costs of occupation and asserts that, without occupation, gross domestic product of the Occupied Palestinian Territory could be twice its current size. It calls for the establishment of a United Nations framework to assess such costs, and maintains that this would be an essential step for placing the Palestinian economy on a path of sustainable development and achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. Finally, the report updates the Board on recent UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the challenges the secretariat faces in implementing those activities.

*Documentation*

TD/B/63/3	Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory
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**Item 7****Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference**

22. The secretariat will report back on the implementation of the decisions taken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourteenth session in Nairobi. The Board will deliberate and consider ways and means of maximizing the implementation of the outcomes of the fourteenth session of the Conference.

**Item 8****Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

23. The reports of the Working Party on its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/281	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-third session
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*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/283                      Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-fourth session

**Item 9**

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

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

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

*Documentation*

A/71/17                              Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-ninth session

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

25. The Trade and Development Board will consider the report of the fiftieth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

**Item 10**

**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 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2017**

26. 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 2017, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

*Documentation*

TD/B/63/CRP.1                      Report of the Chair of the Advisory Body for the year 2015–2016, established in the context of paragraph 166 of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action

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

27. 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**

28. 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/20.



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

29. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for 2017.

*In-session documentation*

(e) **Membership of the Working Party for 2017**

30. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2017 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)**

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

*Documentation*

TD/B/INF.235                      Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

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

32. 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 11**

**Other business**

**Item 12**

**Adoption of the report**

33. The report of the Board will contain negotiated outcomes on technical cooperation, negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat, the President's summary and procedural matters.

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