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Trade and Development Board

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 11–22 September 2017

Item 1 (b) 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-fourth 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-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board
2. High-level dialogue: Is the world integrating or disintegrating?
3. Interdependence: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda
4. Development strategies in a globalized world
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
 - Building productive capacities in the least developed countries and graduated least developed countries: Lessons learned
6. Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth
7. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
8. Investment for development: Investment and the digital economy
9. Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field
10. Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries
11. 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
12. Technical cooperation activities:
 - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
 - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
13. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Fiftieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
 - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
16. 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 2016–2017 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018
 - (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 2018
 - (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
17. Other business
 18. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the thirty-first special session of the Board on 5 April 2017. The Board approved the provisional agenda on the understanding that: (a) the topic of the high-level segment would be reviewed and approved by the extended Bureau of the Board at a later date; (b) there remained space for the Board to clarify other matters under its consideration; and (c) the 2017 report on agenda item 10 would focus on small island developing States, while the 2018 report on the same item would focus on landlocked developing countries.

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-fourth session will be a representative of one of the States in list D and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Asia). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); four from list B; two 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 5 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 6 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-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board**

9. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth 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 dialogue: Is the world integrating or disintegrating?

10. The Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2) highlights the importance of regional integration to the promotion of inclusive growth and sustainable development via, inter alia, strengthening regional economic cooperation among developing and developed countries. Regional integration can be an important catalyst to reduce trade barriers, implement policy reforms, decrease trade costs and increase developing country participation in regional and global value chains.

11. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under the agenda item will examine regional integration and identify specific policy mechanisms through which regional integration can be strengthened to increase economic growth, maximize development gains and serve as a positive force in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. In the wake of two landmark anniversaries for regional integration, namely the fiftieth anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the sixtieth anniversary of the European Union, the meeting will aim at providing an opportunity to assess the contribution of regional integration to economic growth and to building productive capacities. The high-level segment will facilitate the exchange of experience in the field of regional economic integration through the presentation of best practices in regional trade agreements from various geographical regions. The aim will be to arrive at practical policy recommendations on how regional trade agreements can promote inclusive and sustainable development and to design measures that can meet emerging challenges while supporting structural economic transformation.

Documentation

TD/B/64/10

High-level dialogue: Is the world integrating or disintegrating?

Item 3

Interdependence: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda

13. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under the agenda item will provide an opportunity to review the evolution of the world economy in 2016 and 2017. The review will analyse the factors that are making this recovery the longest and slowest on record, in particular continued slow growth in advanced economies, debt overhang and financial fragility.

14. The debate will consider recent trends in financial markets and flows and address the vulnerabilities faced by developing countries. It will also address rising inequality as one of the fundamental constraints on the faster growth of the global economy. In particular, the session will examine how inequality and financial instability jointly pose structural limits to inclusive growth, and provide a proposed global agenda to address these constraints.

Item 4

Development strategies in a globalized world

15. Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 and 10 define the inclusive growth agenda within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This has begun to receive prominence as part of a perceived need to strengthen the globalization narrative to address the problem of growing inequality. However, the analytical and policy content remains vague, often reduced to addressing the problem of those “left behind” during periods of growth and largely disconnected from the unequalizing systemic forces intrinsic to finance-led (hyper)globalization and its related policy agenda.

16. The debate will introduce the issues around globalization, inequality and lack of inclusive growth linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, it will address the following issues: the fourth industrial revolution and inclusive growth; macroeconomic aspects of gender issues and inclusive growth; and globalization and the rise of rentier capitalism. At the end of the debate, a global policy approach to address these issues will be discussed.

17. As background documentation for the Board’s deliberations on this item, the secretariat will make available the *Trade and Development Report, 2017: Beyond Austerity – Towards a Global New Deal*.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2017 and *Trade and Development Report, 2017: Beyond Austerity – Towards a Global New Deal*
Overview

Item 5

Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

18. Under the item,¹ the Board will consider the sixth progress report of the secretariat on UNCTAD-wide implementation activities under the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. The report provides a brief assessment of recent economic performance of least developed countries together with the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It also includes policy conclusions, lessons learned and, to the extent possible, best practices drawn from implementation of the Programme of Action. The report shows that, while the research and policy analysis work of the secretariat contributed to policy dialogue and building consensus at the national, regional and global levels on issues of trade and development interest to least developed countries, its technical cooperation and capacity-building activities have also greatly assisted in building the institutional and human resources capacities of least developed countries.

Documentation

TD/B/64/7 *Activities carried out in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Sixth progress report*

- **Building productive capacities in the least developed countries and graduated least developed countries: Lessons learned**

19. Under the item, there will be a high-level panel discussion on accelerating progress in building productive capacities in least developed countries and other vulnerable economies. The high level panel will examine the state of productive capacity development in least developed countries and other vulnerable developing countries with a view to identifying action-oriented policy recommendations.

¹ In previous years, this has been the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

Documentation

TD/B/64/8

Accelerating progress in building productive capacities in least developed countries and other vulnerable developing economies

Item 6**Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth**

20. Under the item, the Board will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for Transformative and Inclusive Growth*, which examines the role that tourism can play in Africa's development process. The report aims at identifying key barriers and impediments to unlocking the potential of tourism in Africa to help structurally transform the continent's economy and provides policy recommendations on how these barriers and impediments could be addressed. It argues that tourism can be an engine for inclusive growth and economic development and that it can complement development strategies aimed at fostering economic diversification and structural transformation within an appropriate policy context.

21. The high-level segment will focus on exploiting the potential of tourism for transformative growth in Africa. A panel session will provide an opportunity to discuss how to boost tourism in Africa in light of new insights from recent research and best practices across the sector in Africa and elsewhere, particularly how to strengthen linkages of tourism and reduce leakages out of the domestic economy and how to tap the potential of intra-African tourism, given that it is increasing and offers comparatively stronger linkages than tourism from outside Africa.

Documentation

TD/B/64/2

Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth (overview)

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2017 *Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for Transformative and Inclusive Growth*

TD/B/64/11

Exploiting the potential of tourism for transformative growth in Africa

Item 7**Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective**

22. Paragraph 38 (m) of the Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), the outcome document of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 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". In response to this mandate, under the agenda item the Trade and Development Board will discuss recent trends in international trade in goods and services and trade policy.

23. The Board will deliberate on trends in trade flows, both in goods and services, and various factors affecting patterns in international trade. The discussion will also cover emerging trends and issues in multilateral and regional trading systems and their interlinkages with national policies.

Documentation

TD/B/64/5

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

Item 8

Investment for development: Investment and the digital economy

24. A key challenge in today's global economy is digital development. The digital economy offers many new opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development but also presents serious policy challenges. Policymakers are increasingly confronted with the need to narrow the digital divide and to meet the formidable investment challenges of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

25. The digital economy has important implications for investment. At the same time, investment is crucial for digital development. First, the digital economy has the potential to transform international production and therefore has implications for investment policymaking. Second, digital development in all countries, particularly to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the global digital economy, calls for the development of digital domestic capacity. Targeted investment policies should seek to build connectivity infrastructure, promote digital firms and support digitalization of the wider economy.

26. The session will present the analysis, findings and proposals of the *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*, which examines this topic in depth. In particular, the report investigates internationalization patterns of digital multinational enterprises, as well as the effect of digitalization on global companies across all industries. It provides insights for policymakers on how the digital economy affects investment policies and how investment policy can support digital development, notably with a view to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The report presents an investment policy framework for the digital economy. After a presentation, eminent panellists will present their own perspectives on the topic, followed by an open floor discussion. In addition, the session will provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest foreign direct investment trends and policy developments.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2017 and Overview *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*

Item 9

Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field

27. In many commodity-dependent developing countries, the exploitation of extractive resources has brought in large revenues and created important opportunities for economic growth and sustainable development. According to the UNCTAD *State of Commodity Dependence 2016*,² extractive exports accounted for 93 per cent of total merchandise exports in Chad, 87 per cent in the Congo and 95 per cent in Equatorial Guinea for 2014/15.

28. However, most commodity-dependent developing countries export their extractive resources as raw materials with little value added and therefore have not been able to transform their extractive sector wealth into economic or sustainable development gains that benefit the rest of the economy. The high dependence on extractive resources makes these countries vulnerable to market price fluctuations. Underdeveloped linkages with the broader economy, as a result of the relative isolation from the rest of the economy and the capital-intensive nature of the extractive sector, leads to the sector's limited contribution to job creation and economic diversification.

29. Countries can respond to this challenge by moving away from exports of unrefined or semi-refined commodities to the creation of downstream industries that would spur economic development and diversification. This can be achieved by strengthening linkages of the extractive sector with the broader economy.

² Forthcoming as at the date of the present document.

30. The session will discuss ways in which these countries can leverage linkages (production (backward and forward), horizontal, consumption, fiscal and spatial linkages) to transform the extractive sector and make it to contribute to a more inclusive and diversified economy. Discussions will benefit from field experience gained in the implementation of the UNCTAD project on strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African States to enhance development linkages from the mineral resources sector with the rest of the economy.

Documentation

TD/B/64/3

Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field

Item 10

Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

31. The origin of UNCTAD work on small island developing States (SIDS) goes back to the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi (1976). UNCTAD was the first organ of the United Nations system to recognize the particular challenges these countries faced and to call for special international responses to their problems. The present session is an opportunity for the Board to acknowledge four decades of UNCTAD work in this area and to encourage further relevant action. The essence of the UNCTAD commitment to SIDS, in accordance with the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (Samoa Pathway) of 2014 and the Nairobi Maafikiano of 2016, is its focus on enabling the United Nations system to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS more effectively, in response to an insightful global call by the General Assembly in 2010 (A/RES/65/2) and the Economic and Social Council in 2011 (E/2011/44),³ which Member States echoed in the outcome (Samoa Pathway) of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014.

32. The session will highlight the rationale for UNCTAD action in this area. For most SIDS, the main development challenge is vulnerability to external factors beyond domestic control; the paramount development goal of these countries therefore is building resilience. A majority of SIDS need external financial and/or technical support in their resilience-building efforts. There is a long-standing plea for “SIDS treatment” as the most desirable avenue for answering this need, yet special international support measures for SIDS remain almost entirely non-existent in the absence of genuine SIDS status. Member States implicitly recognized this systemic failure when they urged relevant stakeholders to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS more effectively. UNCTAD has been on the forefront of advocacy for remedial action in this context, while supporting the resilience-building work of SIDS through its advisory services to several of these countries.

Documentation

TD/B/64/9

UNCTAD activities in support of small island developing States

Item 11

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

33. 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,

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 1 (E/2011/99)*, pp. 199–120.

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.

34. The Nairobi Maafikiano, in paragraph 10, calls on UNCTAD to “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”.

35. 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/64/6	Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD contributions
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Item 12

Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

36. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2016, 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-fifth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, to be held from 4 to 6 September 2017, and a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2016.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/285	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
TD/B/WP/285/Add.1	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2016 (English only)
TD/B/WP/285/Add.2	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/WP/288	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its seventy-fifth session

(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

37. 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 stagnation in gross domestic product per capita of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continued expansion of Israeli settlements. It analyses the severe problem of unemployment, the dependence of the Palestinian workforce on employment in Israel and the illegal settlements. It argues that the domestic labour market in the West Bank is no better than in Gaza.

38. The report argues that fiscal sustainability is unlikely under occupation and warns that the combination of declining aid and increasingly restrictive measures by the occupation will have serious socioeconomic and political ramifications. The report also updates the Board on proposed and recent UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the challenges the secretariat faces in implementing these activities.

Documentation

TD/B/64/4

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

Item 13**Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference**

39. 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.

Item 14**Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

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

Documentation

TD/B/WP/288

Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-fifth session

Item 15**Other matters in the field of trade and development:****(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Fiftieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

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

Documentation

A/72/17

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its fiftieth session

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

42. The Trade and Development Board will consider the report of the fifty-first session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

Item 16**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 2016–2017 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018**

43. 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 2018, 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

44. 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

45. The UNCTAD secretariat has received three 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/21.

Documentation

TD/B/64/R.1	Application from International Institute for Regulation and Competition of Consumer Unity and Trust Society Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/64/R.2	Application from Tax Justice Network – Africa Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/64/R.3	Application from Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute Uganda Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

46. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2017 and for 2018.

*In-session documentation***(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2018**

47. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2018 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)**

48. 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
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(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

49. 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 17

Other business

Item 18
Adoption of the report

50. 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 other decisions that the Board may decide to adopt.
