



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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## Trade and Development Board

Sixty-sixth session

Geneva, 24–28 June 2019

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



## 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-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board.
2. High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals
  - (a) Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10;
  - (b) Trade policies and their impact on inequalities;
  - (c) Digital development: Opportunities and challenges;
  - (d) South–South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation.
3. General debate.
4. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
5. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
6. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.
7. Fifteenth session of the Conference.
8. 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.
9. 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 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body;
  - (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;
  - (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.
10. Provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 6 February 2019, at the sixty-seventh executive session of the Board. The provisional agenda was further modified by the extended Bureau of the Board on 9 April 2019, having reached an agreement on the topics for the high-level segment and agreeing to postpone the consideration of two items, namely (a) economic development in Africa and (b) capturing value in the digital economy, to the sixty-eighth executive session of the Board.

### 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-sixth session will be a representative of one of the States in list B and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two 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. A detailed programme will be made available in due course.

##### (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-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board

8. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to a subsequent executive session of the Board.

## Item 2

### High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

9. There has been growing recognition in recent years of the need to address inequality as one of the impediments to achieving the global development agenda. Of special significance is the focus on leaving no one behind that underlies the Sustainable Development Goals, which represent a new impetus towards fighting poverty, the universalization of the global development agenda and the accomplishment of the development aspirations and aims of the global community, especially for developing countries. Developing countries face constraints in putting in place adequate policies and securing the diverse means required for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 10, which includes effective taxation policies, domestic resource mobilization, dealing with the challenges of attracting official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, all in support of inclusive economic advancement and poverty reduction.

10. At the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV), through the Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), the international community mandated the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. Member States called for deeper thinking and more constructive engagement to strengthen consensus-building on key issues on the UNCTAD agenda.

11. The Trade and Development Board will thus examine what is needed, from different policy angles, to redress the disturbing inequality, which has long-lasting and potentially profound negative implications for global growth and the eradication of poverty by 2030.

12. On the eve of preparations for UNCTAD XV, the high-level segment should stimulate discussion and reflection to contribute to making the forthcoming quadrennial conference as meaningful and impactful as possible.

13. The forthcoming high-level segment of the Trade and Development Board will therefore focus on inequality as a drag on reducing poverty in developing countries through the lens of the mandate of UNCTAD, as the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues of finance, investment, technology and sustainable development. The discussions will address the following facets of this multidimensional challenge:

- (a) **Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10**
- (b) **Trade policies and their impact on inequalities**
- (c) **Digital development: Opportunities and challenges**
- (d) **South–South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation**

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/66/3	Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10
TD/B/66/4	Trade policies and their impact on inequalities
TD/B/66/5	Digital development: Opportunities and challenges
TD/B/66/6	South–South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation

### **Item 3**

#### **General debate**

14. The general debate is expected to take place on 26 June 2019. The texts of statements that are remitted to the secretariat will be reproduced and uploaded on the UNCTAD website in the language version(s) in which they are received.

15. In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, speakers will be requested to limit their interventions as follows: 10 minutes for regional groups of member States, 7 minutes for representatives from member States and 3 minutes for other speakers. To this end, delegations might wish to consider making available the full text of their statements and concentrating on salient features during interventions in the general debate.

### **Item 4**

#### **Annual report of the Secretary-General**

16. Under this item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide information to the Board on the activities of UNCTAD, as well as on other issues, as necessary.

### **Item 5**

#### **Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

17. The report of the third session of Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be before the Board for its consideration.

##### *Documentation*

TD/B/EDE/3/3

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its third session

### **Item 6**

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

18. Under the item, the Board will consider a 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 the recent economic performance of the least developed countries, together with the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It also includes policy conclusions and lessons learned.

##### *Documentation*

TD/B/66/2

Activities carried out in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

### **Item 7**

#### **Fifteenth session of the Conference**

19. The secretariat will report on the preparations for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**Item 8****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**

20. 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, the General Assembly invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, 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.

21. The Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), 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”.

22. 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 report by the UNCTAD secretariat.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 9****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 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

23. In accordance with Trade and Development Board decision 466 (XLVII), the Chair of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2019, 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**

24. 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**

25. The UNCTAD secretariat has received four 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/24.

*Documentation*

TD/B/66/R.1

Application from the Shipyards and Maritime Equipment  
Association of Europe

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

*Documentation*

TD/B/66/R.2	Application from the Latin American Steel Association Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/66/R.3	Application from Development Wheel Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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

26. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2019 and for 2020.

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

27. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party 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)**

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

*Documentation*

TD/B/INF.243	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**

29. 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 10****Provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

30. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth executive session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat.

*In-session documentation***Item 11****Other business****Item 12****Adoption of the report**

31. The report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes, as well as other decisions that the Board may decide to adopt.