



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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## Trade and Development Board

Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 2–3 July, 7–9 September and 28 September–2 October 2020

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-seventh 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.
2. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
3. Actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support member States in the recovery of trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic.
4. Preparatory process for the fifteenth session of the Conference:
  - Approval of the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Conference.
5. Investment for development: International production beyond the pandemic.
6. Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world.
7. Economic development in Africa: Tackling illicit financial flows for sustainable development in Africa.
8. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
9. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020
10. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people.
11. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget.
12. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.
13. 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.
14. Provisional agenda of the seventieth executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
15. Provisional agenda of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, twelfth session
16. Provisional agenda of the Trade and Development Commission, twelfth session
17. 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 2019–2020 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.
- 18. Other business.
- 19. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 6 April 2020, through a silent procedure undertaken for the closing plenary of the sixty-ninth 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-seventh 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. 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*

### Item 2

#### Annual report of the Secretary-General

8. Under this item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide highlights for the Board on the activities of UNCTAD, as well as on other issues, as necessary.

### **Item 3**

#### **Actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support member States in the recovery of trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic**

9. With regard to the agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board, member States proposed that a panel discussion be organized to discuss the economic implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, specifically, considering the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having and will have on the world economy and trade; for example, the effects already analysed by UNCTAD in different publications. Thus, inclusion in the agenda of an item on actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support member States in the recovery of trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic is suggested. It may also be important, depending on the information available, to discuss the economic global impact and ultimately eventual changes in trade relations (protectionism, export restriction, food security, among others).

10. UNCTAD publications and materials on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will serve as background information for the agenda item.

### **Item 4**

#### **Preparatory process for the fifteenth session of the Conference**

##### **Approval of the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Conference**

11. The secretariat will report on the preparations for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Board will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Conference.

### **Item 5**

#### **Investment for development: International production beyond the pandemic**

12. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a global crisis, compounding recent challenges for development and investment for development. These challenges arose from fundamental changes in global economic governance, the new industrial revolution and the sustainable development imperative. Beyond the immediate impact of the crisis on investment flows, the long-term structural transformation of international production, which underpins the economic growth and development prospects of most countries around the world, is likely to be deeply affected by these trends. It is therefore critical to review and analyse their development impact, particularly for the most vulnerable economies, and design investment and development strategies for a changing international production landscape.

13. The discussion will be informed by the latest UNCTAD research and policy analysis, which examines the evolution of international production and global value chains, analyses the latest developments in new policy measures for investment promotion, facilitation and regulation around the world, and provides an update on investment treaties and their reform. At the request of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in this research, investment in the Sustainable Development Goals is also discussed, to review global progress and propose possible courses of action.

14. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest developments regarding trends and prospects in and policies on international investment.

##### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2020 and Overview *World Investment Report 2020: International Production beyond the Pandemic*

## **Item 6**

### **Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world**

15. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under the agenda item will provide an opportunity to consider the *Trade and Development Report 2020*.<sup>1</sup>

16. In the *Trade and Development Report 2020*, the state of the world economy in the midst of the ongoing shock will be examined. An assessment will be provided of the longstanding structural vulnerabilities which make the world economy less able to absorb shocks and are likely to act as obstacles to a swift and broad-based recovery. A road map will also be proposed for a global reform needed to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/TDR/2020 and Overview *Trade and Development Report 2020*

## **Item 7**

### **Economic development in Africa: Tackling illicit financial flows for sustainable development in Africa**

17. Under the item, the Board will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2020: Tackling Illicit Financial Flows for Sustainable Development in Africa*. In the aftermath of COVID-19, African countries will need to intensify their resource mobilization efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The *Economic Development in Africa Report 2020* adopts a multidisciplinary methodology to tackle the relationship between illicit financial flows and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in Africa. Its inclusive approach integrates a gender lens and gives voice to multiple vantage points, from civil society to firms doing business in Africa. Building on established measures of illicit financial flows, new insights are provided on country estimates of export misinvoicing on the continent and specific characteristics of mineral commodities are highlighted. Some of the motivations and root causes of illicit financial flows are also underlined. Furthermore, in the report, key priority actions are identified that can be taken at the national and multilateral levels. As part of these recommendations, African Governments are urged to define an agenda for Africa in the reform of the international taxation system. Finally, it is argued that combating illicit financial flows through tangible and coordinated actions at the global level, and within Africa, is an opportunity for rekindling confidence in the effectiveness of multilateralism.

#### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2020 *Economic Development in Africa Report 2020: Tackling Illicit Financial Flows for Sustainable Development in Africa*

TD/B/67/3 Economic development in Africa: Tackling illicit financial flows for sustainable development in Africa Overview

## **Item 8**

### **Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa**

18. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will consider a report on UNCTAD activities in support of Africa, which is prepared every year and presented to a session of the Board. The report provides an overview of the research and analysis being undertaken by UNCTAD with regard to African development, as well as a summary of

<sup>1</sup> Full title to be determined.

specific activities, including advisory services and technical cooperation, in each sector that falls under the mandate of UNCTAD.

*Documentation*

TD/B/67/2                      Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa  
Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

**Item 9**  
**Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020**

19. 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/67/4                      Activities carried out in the implementation  
of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries  
for the Decade 2011–2020

**Item 10**  
**Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people**

20. As in previous years, the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people analyses key issues and recent developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and stresses that socioeconomic conditions were dismal before its outbreak. The report draws attention to the fact that the Palestinian Government lacks the resources and policy space to respond adequately. The international community should therefore take on its responsibility by ending occupation and reversing the trend of declining aid.

21. 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/67/5                      Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people:  
Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian  
Territory

**Item 11**  
**Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**

22. The report of the Working Party on its eightieth session will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/WP/306                      Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and  
the Programme budget on its eightieth session

**Item 12****Other matters in the field of trade and development:****(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

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

*Documentation*

A/75/17

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its fifty-third session

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

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

**Item 13****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**

25. 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.

26. In paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), UNCTAD is called upon 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”.

27. 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 based on a report by the UNCTAD secretariat.

*In-session documentation***Item 14****Provisional agenda of the seventieth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

28. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda of its seventieth executive session.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 15**  
**Provisional agenda of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, twelfth session**

29. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda of the twelfth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 16**  
**Provisional agenda of the Trade and Development Commission, twelfth session**

30. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda of the twelfth session of the Trade and Development Commission.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 17**  
**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 2019–2020 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

31. 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 2020, based on 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**

32. 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**

33. The UNCTAD secretariat has received two 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/26.

*Documentation*

TD/B/67/R.1	Application from the China Chamber of International Commerce Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/67/R.2	Application from the Centre for International Maritime Affairs, Ghana Note by the UNCTAD secretariat



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

34. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021.

*In-session documentation*

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

35. 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)**

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

*Documentation*

TD/B/INF.245                      Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

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

37. 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 18  
Other business**

**Item 19  
Adoption of the report**

38. 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.

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**Trade and Development Board**

Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 2–3 July, 7–9 September and 28 September–2 October 2020

Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

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

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

**Corrigendum**

**Paragraph 9**

For the existing text *substitute*

9. With regard to the provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board, member States will discuss, based on presentations by the UNCTAD secretariat, actions carried out and actions planned to support member States in response to the pandemic. The debate on this agenda item will continue as necessary in the second and/or third segment of this session to be held in September (7 to 9 September and 28 September to 2 October), as decided by the extended Bureau.

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