



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 21 June–2 July 2021

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 of the sixty-eighth 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. High-level segment.
3. General debate.
4. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
5. *Technology and Innovation Report 2021: Catching Technological Waves – Innovation with Equity*.
6. Report of the Preparatory Committee to the fifteenth session of the Conference.
7. Provisional agenda of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
8. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.
9. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
10. 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.
11. Provisional agenda of the seventy-first executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
12. 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 2020–2021 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) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX);
 - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 5 February 2021, at the closing plenary of the seventieth 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-eighth 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 available conference resources of the United Nations, especially in these fluid times. A detailed programme will be made available in due course, which may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

(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

High-level segment

8. At its seventieth executive session, the Trade and Development Board agreed that there would be a high-level segment at the regular session. The topic of the high-level segment will be subject to the approval of the extended Bureau of the Board.

Item 3

General debate

9. The general debate is expected to take place during the first week of the sixty-eighth session of the Board. 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.

10. In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, speakers may be requested to limit their interventions. Further details on time limits will be provided in due course and in the programme of the Trade and Development Board.

Item 4

Annual report of the Secretary-General

11. Under the agenda 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 5

Technology and Innovation Report 2021: Catching Technological Waves – Innovation with Equity

12. Under this item, the Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider the *Technology and Innovation Report 2021: Catching Technological Waves – Innovation with Equity*. The *Technology and Innovation Report 2021* critically examines the possibility that frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence, robotics and gene editing, may widen existing inequalities and create new ones. The report covers 11 frontier technologies which already represent a \$350-billion market and could grow to over \$3.2 trillion by 2025. The report argues that developing countries cannot afford to miss the new wave of rapid technological change and that policymakers have a responsibility to reduce this risk and make frontier technologies contribute to increasing equality.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TIR/2020 *Technology and Innovation Report 2021: Catching Technological Waves – Innovation with Equity*

Item 6

Report of the Preparatory Committee to the fifteenth session of the Conference

13. It is expected that the Trade and Development Board will hear the report of the Chair of the Preparatory Committee to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Item 7

Provisional agenda of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

14. It is expected that the Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider the draft provisional agenda of the next session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

In-session documentation

Item 8

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

15. The report of the fourth session of Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/EFD/4/3 Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development on its fourth session

Item 9

Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

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

Documentation

TD/B/68/2 Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa
Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 10

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

17. 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.

18. 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”.

19. 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 11**Provisional agenda of the seventy-first executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

20. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider and approve a draft provisional agenda of its seventy-first executive session.

In-session documentation

Item 12**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 2020–2021 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

21. 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 2021, 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**

22. 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**

23. 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/27.

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

24. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2021.

In-session documentation

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

25. 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

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

26. 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 13
Other business

Item 14
Adoption of the report

27. 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.
