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**Report of the Trade and Development Board
on its sixty-ninth session**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 20 June to 1 July 2022

Report to the United Nations General Assembly



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Introduction

The sixty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 20 June to 1 July 2022. In the course of the session, the Board held 9 plenary meetings, the 1216th to the 1224th, in both virtual and physical formats.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

A. Economic development in Africa: Reaping the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for inclusive growth

Agreed conclusions 572 (LXIX)

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Welcomes* the UNCTAD secretariat's *Economic Development in Africa Report 2021: Reaping the Potential Benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Inclusive Growth*, and commends the report for providing valuable information on specific elements and channels through which complementary interventions and partnerships under the African Continental Free Trade Area can unlock potential economic and social benefits;
2. *Takes note* of the main policy messages of the report, in particular on the significant value of the African Continental Free Trade Area to be achieved through continental cooperation, economic diversification, building greater resilience to global economic shocks and inclusive transformation and development, including by enhancing regional value chains and intraregional trade, fostering trade and industrialization, ensuring increased participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups, as well as locally owned enterprises, and by integrating informal economic actors, including microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises into the formal economy;
3. *Acknowledges* the report's contribution to highlighting the continent's untapped export potential, which can be realized through the implementation of relevant policies, including by strengthening productive capacities, ensuring tariff liberalization under the African Continental Free Trade Area and addressing various intra-African non-tariff barriers, such as unnecessary non-tariff measures, infrastructure gaps and market information gaps; notes furthermore that countries in Africa need to align their trade and investment facilitation policies to ensure consistency between diversification objectives and inclusivity, address overreliance on commodity exports and provide support for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive;
4. *Requests* that UNCTAD continue supporting African countries, regional economic communities and the African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat, through its three pillars of work of research and policy analysis, technical cooperation and consensus-building, in building their capacity and contributing to the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, in order to help unlock the untapped potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, reap its benefits, harness domestic and foreign investment and contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Invites* Africa's development partners to continue supporting the continent, in the spirit of shared responsibility in harnessing the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for inclusive growth.

*1216th plenary meeting
1 July 2022*

B. Technical cooperation strategy

Decision 573 (LXIX)

At its 1224 (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board:

- (a) Approved the technical cooperation strategy, the text of which is annexed to the present report;
- (b) Requested that the UNCTAD secretariat issue the technical cooperation strategy as a formal document, to be translated into all United Nations languages.

C. Other action taken by the Board

Economic development in Africa: Reaping the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for inclusive growth

1. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board adopted the agreed conclusions on agenda item 4 circulated previously to members of the Board (see chapter I, section A, above).

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

2. At the 1222th plenary meeting, on 23 June 2022, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report on the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, as contained in document TD/B/EDE/5/4, and endorsed the agreed policy recommendations contained therein.

3. The representative of one regional group said that the session followed the updated terms of references in its discussion note, addressing the guiding questions and the choice of panellists.

4. One regional group and some delegates called on member States to increase their engagement in the future, as the digital economy was pertinent for inclusive development. Another regional group and one delegate called for continued discussions and strengthening of work on electronic commerce along all three pillars of UNCTAD. Another regional group expressed support for further discussions on the role of cross-border data flows for development.

5. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board, noting that consensus was pending on the topic and guiding questions for the next session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, agreed that consultations would continue with a view to reaching an agreement the following week. Subsequently, formal approval of the agreement would be undertaken through a silence procedure.

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

6. At the 1222th plenary meeting, on 23 June 2022, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report on the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, as contained in document TD/B/EFD/5/3, and endorsed the agreed policy recommendations contained therein.

7. Some regional groups and several delegates expressed firm appreciation for the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development in organizing the session, while another regional group considered there was a lack of engagement from member States and that the guiding questions and topics were not fully followed.

8. Some delegates highlighted the lack of mechanisms to address the debt problems of middle-income countries and called for further improvement and extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, as well as the Common Framework. One delegate also called for a reform of the special drawing rights quota system at the International Monetary Fund

to ensure that unused special drawing rights could be oriented to countries in need. Some regional groups highlighted the need for increased liquidity and renewed financial support to developing countries, including through sovereign debt restructuring, as well as for the fulfilment of official development assistance targets as necessary conditions to tackle the compounded crises developing countries were currently facing.

9. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board, noting that consensus was pending on the topic and guiding questions for the next session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, agreed that consultations would continue with a view to reaching an agreement the following week. Subsequently, formal approval of the agreement would be undertaken through a silence procedure.

Technical cooperation strategy

10. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board approved the technical cooperation strategy, as revised in the course of the session and circulated to all member States on 30 June 2022 (see chapter I, section B, above).¹

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary meeting and general debate

Opening plenary meeting

11. In her opening statement, the outgoing President (United Republic of Tanzania) of the Trade and Development Board recalled that her mandate began when preparations for the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development were under way, and negotiations on the outcome document were advancing. She served as a Friend of the Chair of the Conference and proudly shared in the responsibility for achieving success in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The end of the Conference marked new beginnings, with implementation of the outcome and programme of work and a recommitment towards strengthening multilateralism and undertaking the necessary transformations to build a better world. The new Secretary-General of UNCTAD had also brought new energy and vitality to the institution and, thus, confidence in being able to accomplish the ambitions enshrined in the Bridgetown Covenant. The task of revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, and implementation of the Covenant, put the institution on track for outcomes leading to the sixteenth session of the Conference in 2024, and commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of UNCTAD with a revitalized, reinvigorated and, perhaps, reimagined institution to meet current challenges and future tests.

12. The world faced a multifaceted test of challenges to the global order, looming food, energy and financial crises of possibly historical proportions, and a climate crisis that was not fully recognized and addressed. Thus, she presented observations that could be helpful. First, it was important to build on the commitment to strengthen multilateralism, of which UNCTAD was a part at the service of the world, particularly the weak. UNCTAD was an important think tank for developing countries and a forum for engaging and solving problems within its mandate. Second, the process of reinvigorating and strengthening the intergovernmental machinery was crucial. The relevance of UNCTAD lay in the vitality of its intergovernmental action, which required engaging meaningfully on what the developing world wanted to address, in an atmosphere of genuine mutual respect. Third, the membership needed to do its part for a strong UNCTAD, mobilizing and sustaining the political will to ensure the institution had the necessary resources. In concluding, she expressed support for the incoming President and the Secretary-General in the year ahead.

13. The incoming President (Latvia) of the Trade and Development Board recognized the difficult road ahead. He expressed optimism that, working together, success would be

¹ To be issued as an addendum to the present report, as document TD/B/69/4/Add.1.

attained. UNCTAD was special, and the membership had a common interest in its success. UNCTAD had not been created as a forum for confrontation, despite conflicting ideas and philosophies and bridging differences in how to approach development challenges. In the recent years of consensus-building, UNCTAD had been a place of constructive engagement. Regardless of systemic forces and the wider realities of the United Nations, the essence of UNCTAD remained the same: a safe space for the international community to formulate solutions that could be translated into multilateral action. The core importance of UNCTAD lay in the spectrum, from analysis to action. The international community looked to UNCTAD to generate analysis for a clearer vision and understanding, and to provide technical cooperation to empower all to benefit from the global economy. The UNCTAD membership needed to act with resolve and purpose to revitalize multilateralism as key to a better future for succeeding generations.

14. The only choice, though difficult, was to revive multilateralism and rebuild relations with each other to transcend from conflict to cooperation. The current dangers were existential. The Bridgetown Covenant was prescient in highlighting some of those dangers and identifying the transformations to take. In preparing for the sixtieth anniversary of UNCTAD, the commitments and principles of Bridgetown would need to be melded with a sense of urgency. He thus committed to serving as a facilitator among the membership to help the intergovernmental machinery achieve its full potential. As President, he would be the friend and bridge to all in the membership. He had the expectation of success in restoring the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery's place at the heart of the United Nations development pillar. The energy, vision and commitment of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD inspired confidence in the membership of the continued excellence of the secretariat's work.

15. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD recalled the membership's shared the concern of a fragile and uneven post-2020 recovery in February 2022. Currently, the concern was how to avoid another crisis, in an ongoing pandemic and with a climate change and environmental crisis that hit harder every year. The war in Ukraine had built on already observable trends. UNCTAD had reacted quickly, producing a much-used cross-divisional analysis in mid-March 2022 that warned of a possible food insecurity crisis and the multiplying effects of an increase in energy prices and tightening financial conditions. Trade disruptions would leave supply chains unable to cope; food and energy prices would rise; financial conditions would rapidly deteriorate; and the possibility of social unrest worldwide would increase. Those predictions had played out. The world was thus on the brink of the most severe cost-of-living crisis in a generation. The price of crude oil was at \$120 per barrel and could reach \$150–\$175 per barrel before the fourth quarter of 2022. The Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was at historic heights; hundreds of thousands of people were already facing famine. Developing countries, which were already struggling to pay COVID-19 and climate change-related debts, were at the doorstep of a major debt crisis. Abrupt decoupling and reconfiguration of supply chains, also already impacted by the pandemic, were occurring; major existing trade routes shifted from one day to another. COVID-19 had likewise depleted household and country capacity to respond to the crisis, thereby making it more dangerous. Currently, 60 per cent of workers had lower real incomes than prior to the pandemic; 60 per cent of the poorest countries were in debt distress or at a high risk of it. Developing countries were lacking \$1.2 trillion per year to fill the social protection gap, while \$4.3 trillion was needed yearly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The current cost-of-living crisis was defined by rising food prices, rising energy prices and tightening financial conditions. Together, they created vicious cycles, as they affected countries and families, led to increased poverty and inequality and, in turn, social unrest that led to political instability.

16. As a result of its rapid action, UNCTAD was currently an important part of a United Nations-wide effort. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had convened a Global Crisis Response Group, supported by a champions group he chaired, a steering committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and a task team group with workstreams on energy, finance and food that UNCTAD had been assigned to coordinate. Two briefs had since been produced. Member States had played an important role, being open to calls and proactively asking how they could help. UNCTAD had thus proven to be

a good citizen of multilateralism and fulfilled aspirations of the Bridgetown Covenant, such as increasing United Nations-wide coordination and improving cross-divisional work. Through the Global Crisis Response Group, UNCTAD was advocating for concrete policies that could help developing countries and engaging with the Bretton Woods institutions. It was a difficult time for multilateralism, yet it was necessary to find a way to interact effectively and comprehensively and engage in solutions to the crises, as there was too much on the line. In the Covenant's section on multilateralism, it was underscored that the constructive and cooperative approach to multilateralism based on the Charter of the United Nations should remain paramount. The United Nations Secretary-General had stated that an effective solution to the food crisis was not possible without reintegrating food production in Ukraine, and food and fertilizers from the Russian Federation, into global markets, despite the war. At a time where geopolitics tainted everything, multilateralism should find and defend spaces for cooperation and collaboration, as seen in humanitarian action. The mission entrusted to UNCTAD by the United Nations Secretary-General was a high-stakes endeavour. It was what the United Nations was about and why the capacity of UNCTAD to engage and produce results had to be defended.

General debate

17. The general debate took place on 20 and 22 June 2022. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Barbados, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of the Eurasian Economic Union; the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group; the representative of Mexico, on behalf of the Group of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Malawi, on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of the State of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Viet Nam; the representative of the Pakistan; the representative of China; the representative of the Gambia; the representative of Ukraine; the representative of Zimbabwe; the representative of Angola; the representative of Cambodia; the representative of Egypt; the representative of Thailand; the representative of Belarus; the representative of Uganda; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of Iraq; the representative of Peru; the representative of Lebanon; the representative of Jamaica; the representative of Morocco; the representative of Indonesia; the representative of Jordan; the representative of Nigeria; the representative of the United States of America; the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the representative of the Republic of Korea.

18. Many regional groups and delegates highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated pre-existing global development challenges, and widened inequalities within and among countries, in areas such as the digital divide, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, the financing for development gap, the debt burden and access to vaccines. Many regional groups and delegates expressed concerns that, rather than being able to recover from the economic and social shocks generated by the pandemic, there were looming crises in food and energy security and in financial systems since the start of war in Ukraine. Some regional groups and several delegates noted that the combination of impacts of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the climate change crisis had undone the progress made on some Sustainable Development Goals in the past two decades. Efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needed more support than ever in the limited time remaining. Many regional groups and delegates highlighted that the multilateral system, including UNCTAD, needed strengthening and revitalization in the face of the progress lost. Several regional groups and many delegates observed the disproportionate impact of the war on vulnerable developing countries, particularly in Africa, dependent on grain and fertilizer exports, respectively, from Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Many delegates expressed concern that the limited financial resources of vulnerable countries, including middle-income countries, already exhausted by the pandemic, would hinder the ability to protect their populations against food insecurity.

19. Several delegations announced their commitment to support impacted countries. One regional group announced emergency relief towards alleviating food shortages and

financing for and partnering with 60 countries to increase agricultural outputs and committed to taking the issue of the global food crisis to the multilateral system by engaging with the United Nations system, including the Global Crisis Response Group, and with the Group of Seven, international finance institutions, Rome-based institutions and the World Trade Organization. Many regional groups and delegates recognized the key role UNCTAD could play, including through its leadership role in the Global Crisis Response Group. Many delegates called on UNCTAD to expand its technical assistance to developing countries in the face of current commodity shortages.

20. Several delegates said that the food and energy crises had been dramatically aggravated by the unilateral actions of one country. In exercising the right of reply, one delegate expressed disagreement with those statements and requested the circulation of his country's national report on the implementation of the decision of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. One regional group, also in exercise of the right of reply, disputed the facts and information presented by the delegate.

21. Some delegates recalled the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures, which prevented the countries targeted from progressing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and impacted negatively on the livelihoods of their populations.

22. Many regional groups and delegates highlighted the crucial role of UNCTAD in implementing the Bridgetown Covenant through its three pillars of research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance. They emphasized various issues in the Covenant, such as technology transfers and the digital economy, and the need to grow electronic commerce and capture value from data. Several delegates highlighted trade issues, including tackling illicit financial flows and curtailing illicit trade, while some other delegates noted reaping the benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement and strengthening the creative economy. Several delegations discussed enterprise and investment issues, which included supporting microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and reforming international investment agreements and investment promotion agencies.

B. Annual report of the Secretary-General

(Agenda item 3)

23. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD highlighted that, in 2021, UNCTAD undertook 204 projects in 70 countries, helped by 461 staff members and 195 member States, with a regular budget of \$73 million and a technical cooperation expenditure of \$46 million. UNCTAD released six flagship reports and organized three key events. In addition, the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was held, with five forums hosted on the margins.

24. Several delegates expressed appreciation for a range of UNCTAD technical assistance work, including assistance on procedures and alignment of systems with international standards and best practices through the Automated System for Customs Data programme; technical inputs on intellectual property rights in relation to the African Continental Free Trade Area; eTrade for Women; competition law; electronic trade assessment; and policy advice on investment promotion, investment agreements and investment promotion agencies to adapt to the "new normal". One regional group expressed readiness on the enhancement and implementation of the draft technical cooperation strategy.

25. Another regional group requested consideration, in technical cooperation activities, of the special and unique challenges countries faced, including desertification, drought, floods and hurricanes, conflicts, post-conflict situations, large refugee populations, wars, blockades and unilateral coercive measures. Those situations should be studied to find solutions to assist countries in undertaking adaptive measures and ensure no one was left behind.

26. One delegate noted the holistic global policy approach of UNCTAD research and analysis that supported inclusive and sustainable development with the full involvement of countries, to recover better from the pandemic and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegate highlighted the leading role of UNCTAD in identifying developing country needs through research and analysis. He encouraged UNCTAD to continue to provide timely research and policy options to mitigate the effects of the crisis and targeted assistance and capacity-building programmes tailored to countries' needs, and to work on critical issues, including debt, illicit financial flows and the digital economy. He noted bold policy proposals, such as a trade Marshall Plan and the creation of a global debt authority and an independent credit-rating agency. One regional group underlined the importance of ensuring that publications were objective and consistent, noting the importance of peer reviews. He also said that the establishment of the stand-alone statistics unit would enhance coherence and quality in research and data across activities.

27. Regarding intergovernmental consensus-building, another regional group noted that the fifteenth session of the Conference had been held successfully, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Member States had endorsed the Bridgetown Covenant for continued work through the three pillars of UNCTAD, as a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Another regional group expressed appreciation for the Intergovernmental Group Experts on Financing for Development and the Intergovernmental Group Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

C. Economic development in Africa: Reaping the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for inclusive growth

(Agenda item 4)

28. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD presented the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2021: Reaping the Potential Benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Inclusive Growth*, highlighting the measurement and definition of inclusive growth; the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Africa's trade and development; the key challenges to transform trade opportunities into inclusive growth and operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area. A representative of the UNCTAD secretariat outlined the three key priorities for a sustainable and inclusive future of the African Continental Free Trade Area: prosperity, partnership and people.

29. Regarding the analysis and recommendations in the report, the representative of one regional group urged acceleration of South–South cooperation by reducing intra-African tariff and non-tariff barriers and highlighted links between some report conclusions and UNCTAD technical assistance, including digitalization, competition, gender and investment. She proposed further integration of UNCTAD cross-divisional analysis of the issues in the report. Another regional group proposed the simplification of business rules and practices, creation of an information mechanism, monitoring and larger investments in infrastructure components, hardware and development.

30. One delegate agreed with the report's recommendations and looked forward to seeing practical implementation of the recommendations, as the African Continental Free Trade Area had great potential to increase resilience and reverse current trends in poverty, inequality and growth. Implementation would help enhance trade linkages with African markets. Another delegate encouraged companies to invest in African financial institutions and described a series of appropriate measures. Another transformational ambition of the free trade area was the need for a level playing field for African business and workers, which included building skills and addressing disparities, such as inequality and poverty, creating a conducive environment, enhancing cooperation and promoting growth. One regional group emphasizes the importance of such a comprehensive road map not only for the African continent but also for developing countries. Another regional group pointed out that inclusive growth meant not only income growth but also multidimensional growth.

Another regional group said that, as there were several recommendations, it would be necessary to choose which ones to implement.

31. In the face of the health crisis, several delegates mentioned respectively debt reduction or debt cancellation for African countries to help in their development efforts, promotion of value chains, putting in place of coherent strategies and reduction of trade barriers (in relation to customs) and non-tariff barriers (in relation to quotas and technical and health standards).

32. The UNCTAD secretariat representative stated that the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes would continue to support African countries through analytical research and technical assistance in areas such as rules of origin and building of productive capacities.

D. *Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-Border Data Flows and Development – For Whom the Data Flow*

(Agenda item 5)

33. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD presented the *Digital Economy Report 2021*, emphasizing that cross-border data flows had recently gained in importance in various global and regional policy debates. Huge digital and data divides, and unequal distribution of benefits, affected the sustainability of digitalization processes. Given the fragmentation in data governance, global solutions that harnessed opportunities and mitigated the risks of fast-evolving digital societies were increasingly important. She called on member States to collaborate on effective global data governance to support sustainable development objectives. A representative of the UNCTAD secretariat discussed the report's main findings, including data's multidimensional character and development implications, and different approaches to governing data flows. The report argued for a balanced and inclusive global approach to data governance that worked for people and planet and was multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary, with the United Nations in a coordinating role.

34. One panellist highlighted that responsible technology had positive societal impact, with equitable outcomes for all data economy stakeholders. What data meant and fair distribution of risks and benefits should be rethought, including new ideas and evidence, a new narrative and global coordination. The United Nations had a role in setting a broader vision and in inclusive rule-making and innovation. Another panellist presented his country's data policy approach, focusing on digital self-determination and trustworthy data spaces. International data flows and federated and connected data spaces could allow for greater data availability, use and generation. Another panellist presented the African Union Continental Data Policy Framework, with a common vision aimed at enabling African countries to leverage the data created and stimulate data and value creation. Cooperation within and between countries, and regions, to harness data to address development challenges was important.

35. Many regional groups and delegates agreed on the importance of the report's focus on cross-border data flows and data governance for addressing global development challenges, such as climate change, health and poverty. Data had become a key resource for development, and more so with the pandemic, and had a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Many delegations raised concerns about the digital divide and asymmetries, compounded by data divides. To properly handle data and data flows, it was important to put appropriate public policies in place, to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risks, while ensuring all countries could benefit from the data-driven digital economy. Many delegations expressed concerns about fragmentation trends in the data-driven digital economy, leading to inefficiencies and negative impacts on developing countries. Many delegations highlighted data's multidimensional nature and development implications, and adoption of a holistic approach to data governance.

36. Several delegates highlighted the need for innovative governance systems, for greater international cooperation. Many delegations agreed on a United Nations role in dialogue on and coordination of global data governance and ensuring full country

participation in a multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary way. One delegation highlighted that a multistakeholder approach should not imply capture of the process by big companies. Several delegations stated the need to ensure developing country policy space, reflecting diverse conditions and ensuring sovereignty. Many delegations emphasized limited country capacity to harness the value of data. Many delegates called for increased capacity-building support in the data-driven digital economy, including through UNCTAD.

37. Many delegations expressed willingness to explore how UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations system, could foster dialogue, cooperation and coordination for a shared vision towards effective global data governance.

38. Many delegations commended the report's analysis and insights, which helped to increase understanding on complex issues related to data and data flows and their implications for development and provided useful policy recommendations. Several delegations also expressed appreciation for UNCTAD work on electronic commerce and the digital economy, through the three pillars. Several delegations called for strengthening UNCTAD work in the area, as reflected in the Bridgetown Covenant.

E. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

(Agenda item 6)

39. A representative of the UNCTAD secretariat presented the main UNCTAD programmes in support of Africa, in the areas of transforming economies; tackling vulnerabilities and building resilience; improving competitiveness; enhancing regionalism and multilateralism; and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance for the Least Developed Countries. He outlined each programme's main objectives and expected results, particularly for African least developed countries. The numerous current challenges required the mobilization of the international community.

40. One regional group called on the international community to step up support for developing countries, including for African countries and least developed countries, particularly in view of the pandemic and the additional financial, energy and food security burdens created by recent geopolitical factors. The financing gap between developing country requests and activities funded was evidence that, while much was being done, the needs continued to be significantly greater.

41. One delegate said that investment flows had declined for Africa and called for better debt management and coordination of programmes and policies, as well as better structuring and transformation of the African economy.

42. Another delegate stressed the importance of the holistic UNCTAD approach to technical assistance and research, considering the many challenges. He noted that the *Digital Economy Report 2021* examined the implications of growing cross-border data flows, particularly for developing countries. The current fragmented data landscape risked getting in the way of capturing the benefits that could arise from digital technologies, which could lead to substantial damages related to privacy breaches, cyberattacks and other risks.

43. Another delegate recalled the importance of climate change and ensuring that developing economies, particularly the most vulnerable least developed countries, were protected by a political option to achieve development goals and aspirations. He stated the urgency, given the multiple needs for African least developed countries, of taking measures to eradicate hunger and poverty, without which achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could prove elusive. One regional group raised the issue of synergy and cooperation to help African least developed countries, underscoring the worrying relative decrease in expenditure for Africa.

44. Different delegates referred to a partnership with Africa, a fundraising request to support the continent, combating illicit flows, development constraints created by unilateral coercive measures and development under the African Continental Free Trade Area. Another delegate called for strengthening African economies by diversifying them to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development.

45. One regional group suggested that UNCTAD could be a useful forum for dialogue on regional integration issues. In response, the UNCTAD secretariat representative explained that UNCTAD maintained regular consultations with coordinators of regional institutions to improve the economic integration of the least developed countries. Furthermore, 26 requests for support had been received from African countries, and every effort was being made to respond to them. Budgetary difficulties did not allow provision of technical assistance in all cases. Several countries had provided support for the trust fund for the least developed countries, while UNCTAD was considering expansion of the European Union–UNCTAD joint programme for Angola to other countries, though budgetary resources were lacking. The programme was in line with the UNCTAD approach of equipping African countries with the knowledge and policy tools to overcome shocks and helping African stakeholders to achieve their development and regional integration objectives and initiatives.

F. Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(Agenda item 7)

46. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD outlined the progress made in the four areas of transformation envisaged in the Bridgetown Covenant adopted at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in October 2021, as well as progress in implementing the secretariat's 10-point plan of internal structural changes and the steps taken in response to requests made by member States at the seventy-first executive session of the Board in February 2022.

47. The representatives of many regional groups and one delegate commended the Secretary-General's work on implementing the transformations outlined in the Bridgetown Covenant, as well as the internal structural changes, and highlighted the diligent, detailed and transparent manner in which she and the UNCTAD secretariat were carrying out the work.

48. One regional group stressed the importance of planning, documenting and making regular presentations to member States on advances made in the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant. Another regional group communicated the expectation that the annual report should contain a set of indicators to enable an assessment of the results achieved against the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference.

49. Another regional group emphasized the interlinked nature of the Bridgetown Covenant, connecting its successful implementation to other United Nations objectives, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He highlighted technical assistance, among the internal structural changes, as a particularly important means of providing support to developing countries.

50. One regional group requested that the practice of a written report, on UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits, published in ahead of sessions of the Board should be respected.

51. The representative of another regional group called for UNCTAD to strengthen the focus on the needs of the least developed countries and invited the institution to strengthen work on the digital economy. He also raised concerns regarding specific UNCTAD publications that, in his view, strayed from what the institutional focus of work should be.

52. Some regional groups highlighted and commended the critical work being carried out by the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the secretariat within the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.

53. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD presented the report, *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Lessons Learned*, which outlined the shifts that the COVID-19 crisis triggered in economies, societies and cooperation in relation to core UNCTAD areas of work, as well as the lessons learned for building a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

54. Many regional groups and some delegates commended the insights and analysis in the report. Several regional groups and one delegate welcomed the integration of different fields of expertise of UNCTAD into one report and encouraged such interdivisional initiatives in the future.

55. Many delegations underscored the key role of the UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General with regard to the report, as well as more broadly in her work on furthering the development goals of member States, particularly in the challenging context of the pandemic.

G. Technical cooperation strategy

(Agenda item 10)

56. In her introductory remarks, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General stressed the importance that member States gave to technical cooperation during the general debate of the Trade and Development Board. She introduced the revised version of the draft technical cooperation strategy and thanked delegations for their fruitful collaboration in revising the document. The overall purpose of the strategy was to deliver on the main outcomes of fifteenth session of the Conference. She highlighted the main features of the technical cooperation strategy. The strategy was designed to address the specific development needs of particularly the least developed countries and highly vulnerable countries. In the strategy, regular updates of tools (for example, *UNCTAD Toolbox*) were proposed. There was also an aim of establishing a fruitful dialogue between beneficiaries and donors. Interaction with the local, regional and international partners, with a view to promoting multi-year and interdivisional programmes on key themes, was also encouraged. Finally, embedded in the reform of the United Nations, coherence and impact at the country level was sought through the strategy, by strengthening coordination with the resident coordinator system. The strategy aimed at building constructive partnerships within the United Nations system, such as that of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity led by UNCTAD.

57. Some regional groups and delegations expressed appreciation for the preparation of the draft technical cooperation strategy and for incorporating comments from previous informal consultations with regional groups. One regional group and some delegations recalled the importance of technical cooperation as a pillar of UNCTAD work.

58. One regional group noted that the outcome of evaluations of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network should be aligned with the overall orientation of the technical cooperation strategy. Another regional group said that elements from preparatory discussions had not yet been incorporated into the draft strategy. One delegate stressed that financial contributions would be important for the success of the strategy. Some delegates noted the necessity of aligning the technical cooperation strategy with national strategies for policy coherence and of engaging with non-State actors during implementation.

59. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD underlined that the strategy would allow UNCTAD to deliver technical cooperation in a strategic manner. The secretariat counted on constant dialogue and support from member States for implementation.

H. 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

(Agenda item 11)

60. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD highlighted the need to revitalize the intergovernmental machinery, starting with strengthening the Trade and Development Board, by prioritizing transparency and promoting consultation and debate. She added that UNCTAD put significant efforts into coordinating with the General Assembly, including on relevant agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris

Agreement on climate change, the Accra Accord and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which were all key asks in the Bridgetown Covenant.

61. One regional group recalled that, by nature, the Bridgetown Covenant and the Nairobi Maafikiano were interlinked with the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Another regional group underlined the privileged position of UNCTAD to contribute to global United Nations processes on economic and social fields, while noting that, at times, the role of UNCTAD had been absent from visible outputs. The regional group encouraged UNCTAD to engage in consensus-building, putting forward the Global Crisis Response Group as a perfect example to be replicated. One delegate recalled that UNCTAD should, within its mandate, implement the outcomes of the major United Nations summits and conference in the social and economic arenas.

I. Closing plenary meeting

62. In her closing remarks, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the President and Vice-President (Kenya) of the Board, regional coordinators and delegations and UNCTAD secretariat staff that had made the current session a place of dialogue, hard work and dynamism. She had taken note of what delegates had asked of the institution and committed to following through on requests and issues: releasing UNCTAD division-level plans for the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant; producing detailed annual reports for forthcoming annual sessions of the Board; advancing, with the membership, to the degree possible the release of all documents ahead of Board sessions; ensuring that UNCTAD can follow through in a formal manner on the outcomes of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization; developing clearer strategic UNCTAD engagement plans for the institution's participation at other United Nations-wide events, such as the Conference of the Parties, the Oceans Conference and the United Nations General Assembly; and countering any "business-as-usual" attitudes at the secretariat. She underscored that that attitude contrasted with the current renewed dynamism; while change did not take place overnight, she would not tolerate that approach, as there was far too much on the line.

63. With regard to the significant agreements reached at the Board, she noted that the process of adopting an UNCTAD technical cooperation strategy had been a decade-long effort under the Board. She acknowledged the commitment, flexibility and vote of confidence that the approval reflected in her and the secretariat. She committed to implementing the strategy in line with the revitalization mandate of the Bridgetown Covenant. While the topics and guiding questions for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy had not been agreed, a significant effort had taken place. She noted that the topics were difficult, which was why the subsidiary bodies had been created to address them. There was, though, a time element, particularly for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, due to the applicable deadlines for the relevant parliamentary documentation, and she extended full support to the continued consultations following the session and looked forward to the outcome. She took due note of the agreed conclusions on the *Economic Development in Africa 2021* and pledged the secretariat's full support in implementing the relevant elements. Finally, she noted the full agenda for the executive session of the Board in October 2022, including the postponed high-level segment, the *Trade and Development Board 2022*, the *World Investment Report 2022*, the report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people and other issues. She looked forward to further sharing the progress made at the next session of the Board and reminded the membership of the Board that her office was always open for consultations.

64. The representatives of several regional groups recognized the successful outcomes of the sixty-ninth session of the Board. They noted the approval of the technical cooperation strategy, as an element of the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant. They expressed appreciation for the implementation update that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had provided to the Board, particularly noting the significant steps already taken

and in view of the engagement and cooperation required to continue that implementation. Progress on the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery was critical in that regard. They also expressed a commitment to achieving consensus on the outstanding issue of topics and guiding questions for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

65. The representative of one regional group underscored the need for funding of capital-based experts, from developing countries, to participate in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, while recognizing that that would require amending the terms of reference of the trust fund for financing the participation of experts in UNCTAD meetings, and thus would engage with other members ahead of the upcoming Board session. Another regional group recognized that, considering the global challenges, including the global food and energy crisis, UNCTAD needed to continue work also in its core functions of research and analytical activities, as well as technical cooperation, and stressed the need to reinforce the efforts to proceed with revitalization. The representative of another regional group noted the key role of the (outgoing) Deputy Secretary-General in the technical cooperation strategy and that the strategy would put into practice the Bridgetown Covenant and address the few challenges in the assessment by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network of the UNCTAD technical cooperation pillar. He also said his regional group would share a non-paper on food security and actions taken through the UNCTAD secretariat after the current session.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

66. The sixty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 20 June 2022 by Ms. Maimuna Kibenga Tarishi (United Republic of Tanzania), outgoing President of the Board at its sixty-eighth session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1 (a))

67. At its 1216th (opening) plenary meeting, on 20 June 2022, the Trade and Development Board elected Mr. Bahtijors Hasans (Latvia) President of the Board at its sixty-ninth session.

68. At the same plenary meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that his country would not object to the consensus on the election of the President of the Board of the sixty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board. He further stated that, while not blocking that consensus, the Russian Federation would disassociate from it and expressed deep concern that the longstanding practice of UNCTAD to make nominations to the Bureau of the Board on the basis of consensus among States members of the relevant list of States referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) had not been followed on that occasion. He said that a note verbale to that effect would be submitted and requested that the content of the note verbale be included in an annex of the report of the current session of the Board (annex I).

69. The representative of Belarus also stated that her country would not be breaking the consensus on the election of the new President of the Trade and Development Board. It was hoped that the President would ensure high standards for UNCTAD, safeguard all of its gains, particularly in relation to interstate dialogue and cooperation, and not introduce a politicized approach into activities, which would be devastating for international trade and economic development and had been regretfully seen in bilateral relations.

70. The (incoming) President of the Board expressed his gratitude to the membership. Latvia, as a small country, fully supported a rules-based international order and, thus, multilateralism, in relation to trade and development, particularly in the ongoing turbulent

times. He affirmed his complete impartiality in leading the work of the Board, keeping in mind the interests of developing countries, including the least developed countries, and those of developed countries. With the dramatic increase in inequality globally, and in social protection, education, gender equality and nutrition, he was fully in the hands of the membership, as UNCTAD was a member-driven institution.

71. Also at its 1216th (opening) plenary meeting, on 20 June 2022, the Board undertook the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its sixty-ninth session. Outstanding nominations would be addressed afterwards. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Board also undertook the election of the Rapporteur. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Bahtijors Hasans (Latvia)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia)
	Mr. Hans-Peter Jugel (Germany)
	Mr. Cleopa Mailu (Kenya)
	Mr. Rui Macieira (Portugal)
	Ms. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak (Thailand)
	Ms. Anna Vitie (Finland)
	Ms. Carolyn MacLeod (Canada)
	Mr. Álvaro Alejandro Gómez Ocampo (Colombia)
	Ms. Alison Urquizo Olazábal (Peru)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mr. Rizwan Siddique (Pakistan)

72. Following established practice, the Board agreed that the coordinators of regional groups and other recognized groups of UNCTAD would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(Agenda item 1 (b))

73. At the 1216th (opening) plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, on 20 June 2022, the President of the Board recalled that, in accordance with the silence procedure concluded on 16 June 2022, the Board had decided that the high-level segment would be postponed until the seventy-second executive session of the Board in October 2022. The topic of the high-level segment, “Getting the global economy back on track and addressing the most pressing challenges”, was approved through a silence procedure concluded on 10 June 2022. Furthermore, as recommended by the UNCTAD secretariat, the original item 14 (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 2021–2022 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body, would also be postponed until the seventy-second executive session of the Board.²

74. Consequently, at its 1216th (opening) plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document TD/B/69/1, but amended to reflect postponement of discussion on the original item 2 and item 14 (a) (see annex II).

D. Adoption of the report on credentials

(Agenda item 1 (c))

75. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board adopted the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-ninth session of the Board, as contained in document TD/B/69/L.2.

² The relevant agenda items have been renumbered to reflect this change.

E. Provisional agenda of the seventy-second executive session of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 12)

76. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board approved the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the Board (see annex III).

F. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(Agenda item 13)

Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

77. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration. A list of the 115 intergovernmental bodies currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/11.

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

78. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the President of the Board informed the Board that the two non-governmental organizations that had previously applied for observer status had withdrawn their respective applications. There were thus no new applications before the Board for its consideration. A list of the 242 non-governmental organizations currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/27.

Review of the calendar of meetings

79. Also at its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board approved the calendar of meetings for the second half of 2022 and the tentative calendar of meetings for 2023, as contained in a non-paper dated 30 June 2022.³

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

80. There was no action to be taken with regard to the membership list. The current membership list is contained in document TD/B/INF.250.

Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

81. Also at its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board was informed that the actions taken at its sixty-ninth session had no additional financial implications.

G. Other business

(Agenda item 14)

Provisional agenda of the Trade and Development Commission, thirteenth session

82. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board approved the provisional agenda of the thirteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission, as contained in a non-paper dated 30 June 2022 (see annex IV).

³ The official calendar will be issued as document TD/B/INF.253.

Provisional agenda of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, thirteenth session

83. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board approved the provisional agenda of the thirteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, as contained in a non-paper dated 30 June 2022 (see annex V).

Topics for the multi-year and single-year expert meetings in 2022

84. Also at its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board decided to annex to the present report the topics for the five multi-year and one single-year expert meetings to be held in 2022. The topics for the expert meetings were approved through a silence procedure, conducted between 22 and 28 February 2022, which was not broken (see annex VI).

H. Adoption of the report

(Agenda item 15)

85. At its 1224th (closing) plenary meeting, on 1 July 2022, the Trade and Development Board adopted its report, which would contain the agreed conclusions under item 4, the provisional agenda of the seventy-second executive session of the Board, the provisional agendas of the Trade and Development Commission and of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, the topics for the expert meetings, other action taken by the Board and the President's summary on all substantive items and the technical cooperation strategy, as well as procedural and related matters.

86. The Board further authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to finalize the report to the General Assembly as appropriate, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex I

Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva*

[English/Russian only]

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ
ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ ООН И ДРУГИХ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

No. 2582

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and has the honor to inform the Secretariat of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) that the Russian Federation will join the consensus on the election of the President of the TDB at the 69th session of the Trade and Development Board.

However, while not blocking the consensus, the Russian Federation would like to state that it will dissociate from it and express its deep concern that UNCTAD' long-established practice to make nominations to the Bureau of the TDB through consensus of States members of the relevant List of States referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) was not followed this time.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation would appreciate that the content of this note verbale is included in an annex of the report of the 69th session of the Trade and Development Board.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 June 2022

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ
ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ ООН И ДРУГИХ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ

United Nations Conference on
Trade and Development

Geneva

* The present annex reproduces the note verbale in the languages in which it was received and without formal editing.

Annex II

Agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board

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. General debate.
3. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
4. Economic development in Africa: Reaping the potential benefits of the Afric21an Continental Free Trade Area for inclusive growth.
5. *Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-Border Data Flows and Development – For Whom the Data Flow.*
6. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
7. Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
8. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
9. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.
10. Technical cooperation strategy.
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. Provisional agenda of the seventy-second executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
13. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
 - (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
 - (b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
 - (c) Review of the calendar of meetings;
 - (d) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX);
 - (e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.
14. Other business.
15. Adoption of the report.

Annex III

Provisional agenda of the seventy-second executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. High-level segment: Getting the global economy back on track and addressing the most pressing challenges.
3. Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world.
4. Investment for development: International tax reforms and sustainable investment.
5. Economic development in Africa: Rethinking the foundations of export diversification in Africa – The catalytic role of business and financial services.
6. Activities carried out in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.
7. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people.
8. Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance.
9. Provisional agenda of the seventy-third executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
10. 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 2021–2022 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body.
11. Other business.
12. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventy-second executive session.

Annex IV

Provisional agenda of the Trade and Development Commission, thirteenth session

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reports of expert meetings:
 - (a) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development;
 - (b) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development;
 - (c) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation;
 - (d) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation.
4. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.
5. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
6. The role of trade in a development-led global energy transition.
7. The geography of trade and supply chain reconfiguration: Implications for trade, global value chains and maritime transport.
8. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.

Annex V

Provisional agenda of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, thirteenth session

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:
 - (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Expert meeting on revisiting development strategies for small island developing States in the post-pandemic competitive landscape.
4. Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.
5. Leveraging new technologies' impact through technology assessments.
6. Scaling up the mobilization of public and private finance towards investing for the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.

Annex VI

Topics for the multi-year and single-year expert meetings in 2022

Expert meeting	Topics	Lead division
1. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development	- Pathways to economic diversification in commodity dependent developing countries - Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets	Division on International Trade and Commodities
2. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development	The evolving landscape of digital trade in services	Division on International Trade and Commodities
3. Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation	Sustainable and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: key challenges and opportunities	Division on Technology and Logistics
4. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development	Investment and climate change	Division on Investment and Enterprise
5. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation	Regional solutions for inclusive and sustainable development	Division on Globalization and Development Strategies
6. Single-year expert meeting	Revisiting development strategies for small island developing States in the post-pandemic competitive landscape	Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programme

Annex VII

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania	India
Algeria	Indonesia
Angola	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Argentina	Iraq
Australia	Ireland
Austria	Israel
Bahrain	Italy
Bangladesh	Jamaica
Barbados	Japan
Belarus	Jordan
Belgium	Kazakhstan
Bhutan	Kenya
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Korea, Republic of
Brazil	Kuwait
Bulgaria	Latvia
Burkina Faso	Lebanon
Cambodia	Lithuania
Canada	Luxembourg
Chile	Madagascar
China	Malta
Colombia	Mauritius
Congo	Mexico
Costa Rica	Montenegro
Croatia	Morocco
Cuba	Mozambique
Cyprus	Namibia
Czech Republic	Nepal
Denmark	Netherlands
Djibouti	Nicaragua
Dominican Republic	Nigeria
Ecuador	Pakistan
Egypt	Panama
Estonia	Peru
Finland	Philippines
France	Poland
Gabon	Portugal
Germany	Romania
Greece	Russian Federation
Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
Guyana	Serbia
Honduras	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia

* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/69/INF.1.

South Africa	Uganda
Spain	Ukraine
Sri Lanka	United Arab Emirates
State of Palestine	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Sudan	United States of America
Sweden	Uruguay
Switzerland	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Tanzania, United Republic of	Viet Nam
Thailand	Yemen
Togo	Zambia
Trinidad and Tobago	Zimbabwe
Tunisia	
Türkiye	

2. The following members of the Conference not members of the Board attended the session:

Cabo Verde
Eswatini
Gambia
Holy See
Malawi
Niger
Samoa

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African Union
Common Fund for Commodities
European Union
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

4. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the session:

Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United
Nations Secretariat

5. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Bank Group
World Trade Organization

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Network for Standardization of Higher Education Degrees
Society for International Development
Village Suisse ONG
