



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

Seventieth session

Geneva, 19–30 June 2023

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 seventieth 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 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-Carbon World.*
6. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
7. Productive capacities index for evidence-based policymaking.
8. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective.
9. Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
10. Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
11. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
12. 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.
13. Provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
14. 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 2022–2023 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.
15. Other business.
16. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the seventieth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the closing plenary meeting, on 15 February 2023, of the seventy-third 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 document 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 seventieth session will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Asia) and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list B. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two from list C; and two from list D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

Organization of work

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings will take place simultaneously. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the available conference resources of the United Nations, particularly in the current changing 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 seventy-third 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 would be agreed by the extended Bureau of the Board, subject to the Board's approval.

Item 3

General debate

9. The general debate is expected to take place during the first week of the seventieth session of the Board. The texts of statements that are submitted 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 to the Board on the activities of UNCTAD, as well as on other issues, as necessary.

Item 5

Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-Carbon World

12. Under the agenda item, the Board is invited to consider the findings of the UNCTAD *Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-Carbon World*.

13. The opportunities that innovation in goods and services with smaller carbon footprints offers for developing countries to spur economic growth and enhance their technological capacities are highlighted in the *Technology and Innovation Report 2023*. Developing countries have an opportunity to capture value in this new wave of technological change and set a course for sustainable development that considers social, economic and environmental dimensions. A fair system and an enabling environment are needed, though, to pave the way for this. The market size is analysed for 17 green and frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the “Internet of things” and electric vehicles, as is their potential to create jobs. In the report, the most promising sectors for developing countries are highlighted. The report also includes an update of frontier technology readiness, which provides an assessment of countries’ preparedness to equitably use frontier technologies that take advantage of digitalization and connectivity. Noting that the time to grow industries around clean technologies in developing countries is now, Governments are called on to align a range of policies, to invest in more complex and greener sectors and to urgently boost technical skills and scale up investments in technology infrastructure. To support this evolution, a call is also made for greater cooperation through international trade by ensuring consistency between international trade regimes, including related intellectual property rights, and international agreements in the field of climate change.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TIR/2022 and Overview *Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-Carbon World*

Item 6

Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa

14. 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 capacity-building activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.

Documentation

TD/B/70/2

Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa
Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 7

Productive capacities index for evidence-based policymaking

15. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will consider a report on productive capacities and the productive capacities index. In the report, the concept of productive capacities is explained and the performance of developing countries on the index, examined. The need to reorient domestic policies is advocated, from the current practice of isolated, project-based and short-term interventions towards a programme-based, coordinated, sustained and economy-wide interventions, in the context of the imperative to restructure the national economies, diversify export and build resilience among developing countries. This is particularly the case for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. For that purpose, use of the productive capacities index is proposed for evidence-based policymaking and for the benchmarking of performances to assess gaps in productive capacities and to identify necessary policy responses through national productive gap assessments. Such assessments comprise multidimensional diagnostic analyses that aim at responding to the question of how developing countries can best address the gaps and limitations to their productive capacities, which are essential for their capacities to respond to external shocks and to plan for their long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

Documentation

TD/B/70/3

Productive capacities index for evidence-based policymaking

Item 8

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

16. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will consider the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective.

17. In the context of the upcoming occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of UNCTAD and of preparations for the sixteenth session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, member States will discuss how a forward-looking trade and development policy agenda can be designed to address both new and persistent challenges. Broadly speaking, these challenges will be addressed under three main policy areas: climate change and the energy transition; asymmetries across the trade and development landscape; and resilience of the international trading system.

18. Discussions on these issues will also be addressed with the involvement the UNCTAD secretariat and representatives from trade-related divisions of each of the United Nations regional commissions will participate in a dedicated session to highlight the specific opportunities and challenges in advancing a new trade and development agenda from regional perspectives.

In-session documentation

Item 9**Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

19. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide the Board with highlights on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Item 10**Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

20. Under the agenda item, the secretariat will bring to the attention of member States for their consideration elements in connection with the preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Item 11**Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

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

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/6/4

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

Item 12**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**

22. 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.

23. In paragraph 5 of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/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”.

24. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide the Board with highlights on the contribution made to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences.

Item 13**Provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

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

In-session documentation

Item 14**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 2022–2023 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

26. 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 2023, 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**

27. The UNCTAD secretariat has received one application 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.

Documentation

TD/B/70/R.2	Application from the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
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- (c) **Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

28. 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. The current list of approved non-governmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/27.

Documentation

TD/B/70/R.1	Application from the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/70/R.3	Application from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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

29. The Board will have before it a tentative calendar of meetings for 2024.

In-session documentation

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

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

Documentation

TD/B/INF.255

Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

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

31. 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 15

Other business

Item 16

Adoption of the report

32. 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.
