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Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
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Agenda item 3

Review of the work programme: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009

Agreed conclusions

The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget,

Having considered Section 12 “Trade and development” of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, as contained in document A/62/6 (Sect. 12),

Noting the need to revisit the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD for the biennium 2008–2009 after the twelfth session of UNCTAD to be held from 22 to 25 April 2008,

Expressing concern that the proposed budget, which represents only a marginal increase of 0.2 per cent over the current biennium, may prove to be insufficient,

Reiterating the importance of bringing benefits of the programme to all regions of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in a geographically balanced and demand-driven manner,

Stressing the need to improve the indicators of achievements and performance measures,

Reiterating the need to translate the main UNCTAD publications and the main pages of the UNCTAD website, including the news items, into all official languages on time,

Reiterating the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries, including the least developed countries, and countries with economies in

transition in UNCTAD intergovernmental expert meetings and their contribution to the intergovernmental process,

Taking note of the proposal of the Secretary-General to consolidate the work on science and technology and development within UNCTAD, and to transfer henceforth the section dealing with Science and Technology for Development from the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development to the Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency,

Expressing appreciation for the secretariat's explanatory note to facilitate reading of the programme aspects of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009 and its briefing of delegates prior to the meeting of the Working Party,

1. *Recommends* the General Assembly and its competent bodies to support the programme contained in the document A/62/6 (Sect. 12) with the following changes:

(a) In paragraphs 12.1 and 12.3,

insert “and countries with economies in transition” after “developing countries”;

(b) In paragraph 12.39 (a)(x), Ad hoc expert groups,

delete “at the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development” and *replace it with* “in the context of UNCTAD XII”;

(c) In paragraph 12.4 in the overview *delete the last sentence* “Integration of cross-cutting issues, such as South–South cooperation, poverty alleviation and gender dimension, will receive the necessary consideration within the context of pursuing the foregoing objectives.”;

(d) In paragraph 12.41 (b) *insert* “developing countries, including” *after* “Governments of” and *insert a comma after* “least developed countries”;

(e) In paragraph 12.8, on the second line after “developing countries,” *add* “including the least developed countries,” and on the third line after “economies in transition” *delete* “most particularly” *and replace it with* “for”;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, in planning for the activities and allocating resources for their implementation, to:

(a) Ensure that activities are planned and implemented in a geographically balanced and demand-driven manner;

(b) Ensure that all subprogrammes receive sufficient resources for the full and effective implementation of their respective work;

(c) Ensure the full implementation of the training courses on key issues on the international economic agenda, so that all developing regions and countries with economies in transition can take full advantage of the courses;

(d) Implement an effective, holistic programme on commodities to ensure sustained economic growth and poverty reduction, particularly in commodity-dependent countries;

(e) Strengthen the work on creative industries and the effort to raise the funding for this work;

(f) Further strengthen the work on new and dynamic sectors, in particular those of special interest to developing countries, with a view to assisting developing countries, including least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in this area of work;

(g) Further strengthen synergy and coherence between programmes for development of Africa and least developed countries, and ensure the effective implementation of special programmes dealing with special needs and priorities of structurally weak, vulnerable, and small economies, small island developing States and landlocked and transit developing countries;

(h) Strengthen its work on insurance to fulfil the provisions of paragraphs 44 and 54 of the São Paulo Consensus and the efforts to raise funding for this work, as well as to provide sufficient staffing;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to begin an informal process, involving representatives of member States, to come up with improved indicators of achievements and performance measures, taking into account outcomes from UNCTAD XII, as a basis for the next discussion of the Strategic Framework, and to provide to member States options of improved indicators and performance measures, and to report back to member States on progress made;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Make the utmost effort to ensure that UNCTAD's main publications, in particular those to be discussed by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies, are translated into the official languages of the United Nations as early as possible;

(b) Ensure that the main pages of the UNCTAD website are translated into all official languages, including the news items, in particular those relating to UNCTAD XII;

5. *Looks forward* to further informal consultations with the secretariat on the proposed transfer of the Science and Technology section, taking into account the comments made by member States during this session of the Working Party;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to urgently find a sustainable solution for the financing of the participation of experts from developing countries, including the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD's intergovernmental expert meetings and report to member States on the progress achieved;

7. *Requests* that the secretariat further improve the quality and clarity of its documents and explanatory note for the Working Party, including by making greater use of figures drawn from the budget fascicle, and that the secretariat organize information sessions on those documents at the time they are issued, in order to facilitate consideration of the documents by the Working Party.